

March 20 • School Board Meeting Recap

High school study focus of work session

Superintendent recommends Community Task Force

Last night during a public work session school board members began what is expected to be a lengthy process to develop a common vision for Walla Walla's high school experience.

School board President **Anne Golden** began the meeting explaining how post-election feedback following the rejected May 2006 bond issue pushed for this study. She said input called for more information on options for high school programs, facilities and concepts.

Numerous common themes surfaced from the school board's "Listening Campaign" including:

- Replace vs. remodel existing Wa-Hi buildings
- Second high school option
- College Place High School (future potential)
- Alternative Education (including Vocational Tech Center)
- Athletic facility options

Golden said it will be important from the outset to identify what outcomes this study is expected to produce and to develop parameters to help ensure the work is done efficiently.

Superintendent **Rich Carter** detailed an organization plan for creating a community led Task Force to oversee and manage the study. His plan includes a school board led process for identifying task force leaders and members.

Carter recommended a third-party facilitator to help maintain objectivity and provide support to the task force. His plan also calls on district administrators and staff to serve as technical advisors.

Golden said the next step is to develop a timeline for the next several months to keep the process moving along.

Energy program continues to save

The district continues to save money and support strategies to conserve energy, according to a report last night from Energy Manager **John Butenhoff**.

The district began the program in 1999 and Year Seven tallies reported last night reveal nearly a \$2 million savings to the district. This represents a 26 percent "Total Energy Cost Avoidance," according to Butenhoff's report.

Education of staff regarding conservation strategies has been a key factor in the success of the program, according to Butenhoff.

"We have established an energy ethic with each teacher, employee, and administrator," Butenhoff said. "People determine and control the use of energy. I want to recognize our staff's efforts."

Management and detailed accounting make up the other components of the program.

School Retirees Appreciation Week

March 19-25

School board member and Walla Walla/Columbia School Retirees Association member **Mary Jo Geidl** read a proclamation from Governor Gregoire recognizing School Retirees Appreciation Week.

Geidl then presented current association president **Joan Helm** with the proclamation and thanked her for her efforts to advance public education and the teaching profession.

In other School Board meeting business...

Board members:

- approved minutes of the board meeting of March 6, 2007, Personnel Report and Out of State Travel, and approval of March Bills and Payroll
- heard a report from Wa-Hi Principal **Darcy Weisner** regarding possible adjustments to the school's schedule next year to more accurately account for Full-Time Equivalent students for state apportionment funding requirements.
- approved Resolution #1-2007, Sale of Bonds for Edison School. The public sale of the bonds is April 17.

Personnel Report

• New Hires

(Classified) **Linda Joshlin**, Para-Educator, Paine

• Resignations/Retirements

(Certificated) **Tricia Sobottka**, Science, Pioneer (6 years)

• Tricia was on a leave of absence for the 2006-07 school year

Allison Peck, English, Opportunity Program, 17 years

• Allison is resigning .325 FTE and will continue as a .375 FTE English teacher

Ann Wallace, English, Paine (3 years)

(Classified)

Susan Pearson, Para-Educator, Garrison (16 years)

• Susan was on leave of absence for the 2006-07 school year

• Leave of Absences

(Certificated) **James Hill**, Math, Wa-Hi (5 years)

• James was on a leave of absence for 2006-07 school year

• Out of State Travel

Janis Barton to attend 2007 ACPE Conference in Welches, OR (Funding: Director's travel)

Barbara Buttice to attend Art Institute - Level III Summer Institute in Atlanta, GA (Funding: Vocational)

John Golden to attend Basketball Coaching Clinic in Las Vegas, NV (Funding: Coaches Professional Growth)

Robert Griffith, Terry Morgan, and Carolyn Rittenhouse to attend Spanish Language School at Jungapeo, MX (Funding: Administrative Match)

Quote of the Week

"I like the dreams of the future better than the history of the past."

Thomas Jefferson

'Picture Ladies' link art to education



Photo: (L-R) **Marilyn Miller, Shirley Rodenberg, Stacy McPherson** and **Joan McPherson** show off some of the artwork scheduled to be on display throughout May at the Carnegie Art Center as part of the 2007 Family Show.

Last night the "Picture Ladies" reported to school board members on this year's event -- *Wind, Water and Weather*.

The goal of this program, established in 1980, is to introduce art and history to school-aged children.

This year's show features Edward Hopper, Winslow Homer and Claude Monet.

Additional information will be sent out to schools later this spring. For more information on this event, contact the Carnegie Art Center at 525-4270.

Walla Walla Reads Community Event

THURSDAY, MARCH 22

7 to 9 p.m. (FREE!)

Sharpstein Elementary School

Schedule of Events:

7 to 8 p.m.

- Walter Wick and Rodman Philbrick will autograph books. Come early - first come, first serve - the authors will only sign for one hour.
- View student essays and "I Spy" entries on display.

8 to 8:45 p.m.

- A moderated discussion with Walter Wick and Rodman Philbrick! Bring your questions for a lively and engaging conversation with two great authors.

Art Regier Outstanding Volunteer Award

2006-2007 Nomination Announcement

Nominations for the annual *Art Regier Outstanding Volunteer Award* are now being accepted. Forms are available at all schools.

Send completed nomination forms to the Communications Department (364 South Park Street, Walla Walla, WA 99362) through **Friday, March 30**.

Each nomination may be accompanied by no more than three letters of recommendation. Recipients will be recognized at the April 18 school board meeting. Contact Communications Director **Mark Higgins** for more information, 526-6716.