

May 6 • School Board Meeting Recap

Three options surface from boundary study

Boundary Committee Chairs **Chris Gardea** and **Dana Jones** presented a progress report to the school board last night during a special public work session.

This broad-based committee has been meeting throughout the school year to prepare for a new, larger Edison Elementary and to address concerns of overcrowding at some district elementary schools.

The Boundary Review Committee has narrowed its scope of study to three options. All three options change Prospect Point from a four section school to a three section school and keep enrollment at district elementary schools similar. Blue Ridge is the exception. It would remain a two section school due to sharing space with Head Start/ECEAP preschool students.

No changes to boundaries for middle school are included in the three options. The Boundary Committee is expected to begin sharing options with the community and staff soon. Changes are expected to be in effect in the Fall of 2009. The last boundary adjustment was made in 1995.

Federal and state auditors give district clean reports

The district received good news from recent state and federal audit reports.

No findings were reported in either the Accountability Audit Report and Report on Financial Statements and Federal Single Audit according to a report to school board members last night from Business Manager **Pat Johnston**.

“The Audit Summary concluded the district complied with state laws and regulations and its own policies and procedures in the areas examined,” Johnston said. “Internal controls to safeguard public assets were found to be in place and operating efficiently.”

Superintendent Carter thanks teachers

Teachers in Walla Walla and in communities across the nation will be in the spotlight this week to celebrate Teacher Appreciation Week. Few other professionals touch as many people as teachers do.

When parents in Walla Walla drop their children off for school they know they are in good hands. Our teachers care for our students as if they were their own children. Teachers work to open students' minds to ideas, knowledge and dreams. Our teachers use research based teaching strategies to improve achievement and collaborate with their peers to understand each child's specific needs.

But the relationship of teachers goes well beyond the curriculum. Teachers also serve as role models and mentors to Walla Walla youth. They take time to learn their students' passions and interests. They listen and care.

Teachers continue to influence us long after our school days are only memories. This week especially take time to reach out and thank a teacher for all they do for Walla Walla children.

No School • Friday, May 9
Spring Professional Day

In other School Board meeting business...

Board members:

- approved minutes from school board meetings: March, 18, April 14, April 15 and April 22, Personnel Report and Out of State travel, Issuance of Certificated Contracts for 2008-2009, and Business Office Stamp Fund Increase.

- received for first reading Policy No. 5285 -- Social Security Number Mismatch. Deputy Superintendent **Dr. Bill Jordan** said a policy is needed due to an increase in inconsistencies in Social Security numbers for employees.

Personnel Report

• New Hires

(Administrative) **Liz Campeau**, Assistant Director of Personnel, District Office

(Certificated) **Dan Calzaretta**, Explorers Teacher, Pioneer
Olga Velazquez, Bilingual Kindergarten Teacher, Prospect Point

(Classified) - **Elizabeth Adkins**, Administrative Assistant to the Superintendent, District Office
Alfredo Avalos, Para-Educator, Lincoln Alternative H.S.
Martha Burroughs, Food Service Assistant, Walla Walla High School
Russell Kinsfather, Ground Worker, Facilities Support
Megan Murray, Personnel Secretary, District Office

• Resignations/Retirements

(Certificated) **Edward Eckles**, Math Teacher, Lincoln Alternative H.S., 3 years
Megan Poulson, Physical Education Specialist, Pioneer Middle School, 3 years
• Megan was on a leave of absence for the 2007-2008 school year

(Classified) - **Brad Erdman**, Grounds Worker, Facilities Support
Jill Gentry, Para-Educator, Garrison Middle School, 1.5 years
Rayleen Hicks, Head Secretary, Special Programs, 7 years
Toby McCandless, Para-Educator, Blue Ridge, 1 year
Kristine Nowak, Para-Educator, Pioneer Middle School, 1 year

• Leave of Absences

(Certificated) **Peggy Willcuts**, District Science Coordinator, Lincoln Alternative H.S., 18 years
• Peggy will be a LASER Facilitator for SE LASER Alliance
Karen Scott, Special Education Teacher, Wa-Hi, 18 years

• Out of State Travel

Diana Cox, Cynthia Diaz, Maggie Gutierrez, Elia Jimenez, and Lorena Lucero to attend Social Service Competency Based Training in Lincoln City, OR (Funding: Head Start/ECEAP)

Quote of the Week

"I have found the best way to give advice to your children is to find out what they want and then advise them to do it."

Harry S. Truman

NOTE

Maryelyn Hebel will be relocating from the Business Office to take the position of Administrative Assistant in the Curriculum Department.

Creative exercise helps Blue Ridge students learn

Blue Ridge Elementary Physical Education Teacher **Sue Hansen** and several students demonstrated their new exercise regiment known as "Bal-a-Vis" or Balance Auditory Visual Exercise.

Students use rubber raquetballs and bean bags to complete a number of activities designed to help improve hand and eye coordination, balance and thinking skills.

Hansen said the students often work in teams or groups so it also promotes team building and friendships. Most of all, Hansen said it's just plain fun and the kids love it.

School Nurse Day is a time to say thanks

Wednesday is National School Nurse Day. This is an excellent opportunity to thank district health clinicians for all they do to support Walla Walla children and their learning.

"We are very fortunate that Walla Walla Public Schools support having a nurse in every school," Health Services Director Jennifer Douglas said. "Our school nurses advance the well-being, academic success, and life-long achievement of students."

Learn more about School Nurse Day online: www.nasn.org:

District to study Transportation Co-Op

Superintendent **Rich Carter** reported the district is beginning to study the possibility of having a Transportation "Co-Op" in Walla Walla to provide bus maintenance for regional school districts. Carter helped develop one in White Salmon prior to coming to Walla Walla.

State funding is available for facility development for these types of operations. The primary advantage to regional school districts is lower bus maintenance and parts fees. Carter said this is in the preliminary stages of planning but is targeting a November timeline to put together a funding proposal for state legislators to consider.

Three Tier Model Update

Special Programs Director **Laura Droke** said data is showing the Three Tier program which provides varying levels of intervention is helping improve achievement.