

Board approves “Feeder School” model

Last night school board members approved middle school boundary revisions to incorporate a “feeder school” model. All Edison, Berney and Green Park Elementary students will transition to and attend Pioneer Middle School. All Blue Ridge, Prospect Point and Sharpstein Elementary students will transition to and attend Garrison Middle School.

- Pioneer Middle School = Edison, Berney, Green Park
- Garrison Middle School = Blue Ridge, Prospect Point, Sharpstein

Although the new boundaries will take affect Fall 2009, current 6th and 7th grade students will continue to attend the middle school they are enrolled in for their 7th and 8th grade years — unless they choose to attend the new school. Since only incoming 6th grade students will attend next year according to the new boundaries, it will take three years to complete the transition to the feeder school model.

Edison Elementary to offer Dual Language Program

Edison Elementary will begin a dual language program in Spanish and English beginning in Fall 2009. The program will be offered to kindergarten and first grade students next school year.

One additional grade level will be added each year to incorporate a K-5 dual language program similar to the program currently offered at Sharpstein Elementary.

Key boundary change highlights:

- Boundary changes take effect Fall 2009
- “Feeder School” model takes effect Fall 2009 (*only 6th grade next year -- unless they choose the new school*)
- Grandfather options exist for 4th and 5th grade students
- New boundary maps posted on the district website
- Elementary principals will be in contact with families

District recognizes Golden’s leadership



Tuesday night Superintendent **Rich Carter** honored School Board Member **Anne Golden** for her leadership and accomplishments while serving two consecutive terms as board president.

Current School Board President **Mary Jo Geidl** joined Carter in presenting Golden with a gift basket prepared privately from district administrators and board members.

During Golden’s tenure as president in 2007 and 2008 the district passed the Edison bond, secured levy funding, purchased property for a new Support Services complex and revised boundaries.

Winter Break Schedule

Friday, December 19 is the last day of school prior to the winter holiday break. Classes resume Monday, January 5. Happy Holidays!

In other School Board meeting business...

Board members:

- approved minutes of the Nov. 18, 2008 board meeting and minutes from the special board meeting Nov. 26, 2008, Personnel Report, Out of State Travel, December Bills and Payroll, Oct./Nov. Financial Reports and Resolution #18-2008 - 403 (b) Plan Document.
- approved an agreement with the City of Walla Walla to make improvements on Hobson Street as part of the Edison construction project. The district will fund curb and sidewalk improvements on Hobson Street per the agreement.

Personnel Report

• New Hires

(Classified) **Monica Castillo**, Para-Educator, Green Park

Kimberly Conde, Para-Educator, Wa-Hi

Renee Pritchard, Occupational Therapy Assistant, Special Programs

• Resignations/retirements

(Classified) **Heidi York**, Food Services Assistant, Garrison (2 years)

• Leave of Absences

(Classified) **Cresencia Gutierrez-Duran**, Para-Educator, Sharpstein (2 years)

- For remainder of the 2008-09 school year to pursue education

Jennifer Lee, Para-Educator, Green Park (4.5 years)

- For remainder of the 2008-09 school year. Jennifer will continue as para-educator three days a week. The two-day a week leave is to pursue her teaching degree

Cresencia Gutierrez-Duran, Para-Educator, Sharpstein (2 years)

- For remainder of the 2008-09 school year to pursue education

• Out of State Travel

Margi Ault to attend Excel Workshops in Tempe, AZ & Austin TX (Funding: Staff Achievement Grant, Prof. Growth, Personal)

Quote of the Week

“Computers can figure out all kinds of problems, except the things in the world that just don’t add up.”

James Magary

Custodian Transfers

Steve Stimmel is now head custodian at Prospect Point (he was assistant custodian at Prospect Point)

John Pemberton is now assistant custodian at Prospect Point (he was custodian at Wa-Hi)

Blue Ridge principal to represent district during local Community Council study

Superintendent Rich Carter has named Blue Ridge Principal Connie Taylor-Randall to represent the district on a local study being organized by the Community Council.

The group is trying to answer the following question during its study. How can the region best coordinate its educational, mental health, and housing stability services to improve educational attainment of the region’s children?

Carter said Taylor-Randall will bring a lot of experience in this area to the group. Her appointment also helps with a scheduling conflict Carter was facing as the Community Council meets every Tuesday evening from 5:30 to 7 p.m. This time is in direct conflict with school board meetings and special work sessions.

Last night incoming Community Council Board President Greg Forge and project facilitator Roger Bairstow joined Taylor-Randall in providing an update to the school board.

Study Highlights include:

- **Study Region:** Walla Walla County, Columbia County, and the Milton-Freewater area of Umatilla County (Preschool through post-secondary age)
- **Educational Attainment:** A preschool to post-secondary student’s ability to succeed.
- **Educational Services:** Educational services and activities
- **Mental Health:** How this issue impacts people.
- **Housing Stability:** Ability to secure and retain affordable and safe living accommodations.

Kudos to support staff during winter storms

Special thanks to the district’s support staff, especially grounds and maintenance crews, during the past few days during the winter storms.

“They have been moving non-stop to take care of weather related issues the past few days.” said Plant Facilities Director Lowell Schneider.

Special thanks to:

- David Webber, Billy Watson, and Mark Harvey- They worked 12 hours last Sunday to plow and remove snow at all the WWPS parking lots.
 - Bill Heiser, Bill Beckmeyer, Art Davila, David Webber- Daily snow removal and ice melt duties.
 - Mark Harvey, Kevin French, Tony Ongers- They are working on roof leaks.
 - Jim Trump and David Barnett- HVAC issues.
 - Billy Watson and David Webber- They are working on plumbing issues and frozen pipes.
 - Larry McCauley and Ed Nakonieczny- They continue to work on lighting and leak issues.
 - Larry McCauley- He is keeping snow removal equipment running and operational.
- Jerry Poirier- He is still making all deliveries regardless of weather conditions and is always willing to lend a helping hand.

Several of the crew have been called out to help with frozen doors. All custodians have been assisting with snow removal, putting down ice melt and other precautions for weather related hazards.