

## School Board Appreciation Month



School Board members show off some of the tokens of appreciation they received in honor of January's School Board Appreciation Month.

Posters, cards, flowers, school t-shirts and more filled the board room from the outpouring of staff support. Superintendent **Rich Carter** thanked school board members for their volunteer service and commitment to helping children learn.

January 15 • School Board Meeting Recap

## Energy program earns national award

Tuesday night the district received a national *Energy Pacesetter Award* for recording \$2,200,136 in cost savings since the district initiated the program eight years ago.

This 26 percent savings is a direct reflection of the energy-efficient behavior teachers and staff have bought in to across the district according to Energy Education, Inc.

"The superintendent and school board, along with other administration, faculty and staff members are to be commended for clearly fulfilling their commitment to being good stewards of the taxpayers' money and the environment," said **Ed Graff** of Energy Education, Inc. during his report to the school board.

District Energy Manager **John Butenhoff** tracks energy consumption — including electricity, water, sewer, natural gas and fuel oil — using energy-accounting software. By tracking consumption and analyzing energy use, he can quickly identify and correct areas that need immediate attention.

## Community experts weigh in on growth as boundary committee studies projections

With 1000 residential lots on the books and commercial building permits coming in at rates never seen before, City of Walla Walla Development Director **Kim Lonnais** believes Walla Walla will continue to grow.

"Projecting where that growth will produce students is where it gets tough," Lonnais said to school board members last night during a special

work session linked to the district's boundary adjustment study.

Lonnais said approximately \$200 million in construction projects are in the works for our area and strategic steps are being taken to introduce more affordable housing to Walla Walla.

Lonnais said areas south of Prospect Point continue to witness development which could support families.

He said the Myra Road extension west of Blue Ridge is being developed with residential planning in mind and land north of Highway 12 in the current Green Park boundary could produce future residential neighborhoods.

Boundary Review Co-Chairs **Dana Jones** and **Chris Gardea** are leading this study as the district prepares for a new, larger capacity Edison Elementary.

## In other School Board meeting business...

### Board members:

- approved minutes of the board meetings of December 18, 2007 and January 2, 2008, Personnel Report, Out of State travel, Carl Perkins Vocational Grant Application, Revision of Policies 1731, 4260 and 2410 (Board member expenses, Use of School Facilities and Equipment, and Graduation Requirements), Sale of Edison House (to expand campus site) and January Bills and Payroll.

## Personnel Report

### • New Hires

(Classified) **Donald Carlyle**, Bus Driver, Transportation

**Willard Fairbanks**, Bus Driver, Transportation

**Rosa Flores**, Migrant Records Clerk, Special Programs

### • Resignations/Retirements

(Administrative) **Rick Nebeker**, Principal, Prospect Point, 30.5 years

(Classified) **Russ Slack**, Head Custodian, Lincoln, 22 years

**Meghan Wysong**, Para-Educator, Wa-Hi, 4 months

### • Out of State Travel

**Leah Crudup**, **Chris Gardea**, and **Judy Peasley** to attend New Teacher Symposium in San Jose, CA (Funding: Professional Growth and Curriculum)

### Quote of the Week

"We act as though comfort and luxury were the chief requirements in life, when all that we need to make us really happy is something to be enthusiastic about."

**Charles Kingsley**

## Replacement levy on February ballot

- Replaces levy funding nearly 68 percent of voters approved in 2004
- Provides 14 percent of district's operating budget
- Helps maintain existing programs and activities
- Pays for 30 teachers and 50 support staff members
- Funds all extra-curricular activities
- Ballots mail to homes February 1
- Ballots must be postmarked by midnight February 19

## Big Blue Weekend promotes school unity

This fall Walla Walla High School Leadership and ASB teacher **Jillian DeBritz** and students involved in ASB organized a weekend adventure students are still talking about today.

With a goal of helping students connect to their school, more than 200 students participated in the *Big Blue Weekend* event. Next year DeBritz hopes to bring 300 students to the weekend get away which will continue to be marketed school-wide.

ASB students will continue to organize fund-raising efforts to keep the cost to \$50 so all students will have opportunities to go.



*Students played games, listened to guest speakers, performed skits and worked in small groups during Big Blue Weekend at Wildhorse Canyon in Central Oregon.*

## Graduation requirements policy revised

Last night school board members approved a revision of Policy 2410 which pertains to *Graduation Requirements*.

This move aligns local requirements to new state graduation targets this year's Class of 2008 will be responsible for meeting, according to a report from Wa-Hi Assistant Principal **Mira Gobel**.

*The four steps to graduation for the Class of 2008 and beyond:*

1. High School and Beyond Plan
2. Earn required credit
3. Earn Certificate of Academic Achievement (WASL)
4. Culminating Project

Soon Wa-Hi seniors will be presenting their Culminating Project. The students are creating PowerPoint presentations, professional binders, video productions, visual aids, and/or combinations of various modes of presentation.

Students will tell their stories via their accomplishments in music, visual arts, academics, athletics, community involvements and/or challenges they had to overcome.

Gobel is actively seeking community members to participate on evaluation panels.

"We believe that this event will be a celebration of our collective efforts and will provide each senior a moment to reflect on their past, present, and the future."

Those interested in serving on an evaluation panel are asked to contact and RSVP to Mira Gobel @ 526-8661 or [mkgobel@wwps.org](mailto:mkgobel@wwps.org).

More information regarding new state graduation requirements is available on the Wa-Hi website.