

February 19 • School Board Meeting Recap

Levy Passing

Auditor to count remaining ballots Friday



WW County Auditor **Karen Martin** (L) reviews levy results on election night with School Board Member **Mary Jo Geidl**, Superintendent **Rich Carter** and Citizens for Schools Chairs **Katie Christianson** and **Jennifer Northam**.

The district's Replacement Levy was passing with a 54 percent approval rate. Martin said remaining ballots will be counted Friday afternoon, but said she did not expect the levy percentage to dip below the simple majority requirement of 50% plus one vote.

As of Tuesday night, 3016 voters said yes to the replacement levy while 2,521 voted no.

Touchet, Dixie, Waitsburg and Prescott School Districts were also passing replacement levies as of election night.

Board approves bond refunding

Move expected to save taxpayers nearly \$400,000

Board members last night took another step to saving taxpayers nearly \$400,000 by refinancing existing district bonds with a lower interest rate.

Senior Vice President **Trevor Carlson** of Seattle Northwest Securities said interest rates are at near all-time lows and make it attractive for the school district to refund the bonds at a lower rate.

He said all of the approximately \$380,000 will go back to Walla Walla taxpayers. The process is expected to be completed by March 20.

Art Regier Outstanding Volunteer of the Year Award nomination announcement

Nominations for the annual *Art Regier Outstanding Volunteer Award* are now being accepted. This award was instituted in 1991 as a memorial to "Grandpa Art" Regier. Regier, a retiree who devoted years of service to elementary schools in Walla Walla, epitomized the spirit of volunteerism in education.

Send completed nomination forms to the Communications Department (364 South Park Street, Walla Walla, WA 99362) through **Friday, March 28**.

Each nomination may be accompanied by no more than three letters of recommendation. Recipients will be recognized at the April 15 school board meeting.

In other School Board meeting business...

Board members:

- approved minutes of the board meetings of February 5, 2008, Personnel Report, Out of State travel, Revision of Policy No. 6213, Reimbursement for Travel Expenses, Middle School Enrollment Caps and Business Office Stamp Fund Increase and Approval of February Bills and Payroll.
- approved Resolution # 2-2008, Bond Refinancing.
- approved the adoption of new Policy No. 2163 -- Special Education Response to Intervention.
- received a report from School Board President Anne Golden on her trip to Washington D.C. as part of the *Federal Relations Network* to talk with lawmakers. Golden said the group of 35 representing several educational groups want changes to No Child Left Behind and additional money to support Title One programs and Special Education.

Our Core Values
are more than mere words;
they're our business!

Quality | Integrity | Accountability | Respect | Courtesy

Personnel Report

• **New Hires** - None to report

• **Resignations/Retirements**

(*Certificated*) **Evie Dutton**, First Grade, Prospect Point, 26 years

Karie Hickerson, Special Education, Pioneer, 12 years

Jack O'Brien, Third Grade, Berney, 18 years

Kathryn Rudell, Second Grade, Green Park, 10 years

Jani Kay Smith, Second Grade, Prospect Point, 35 years

Patricia Verdun, Marketing, Walla Walla High School, 2 years

Mary Ann Zapata, Bilingual Second Grade, Blue Ridge, 30 years

(*Classified*) **Don Carlyle**, Bus Driver, Transportation, one month

• **Out of State Travel**

Kirk Jameson to attend Distinguished Education Tour -- US Air Force in San Antonio, TX (Funding: Principal's Travel, US Air Force)

Rick Pummel to attend BrainShare 2008 Conference in Salt Lake City, UT (Funding: Technology)

Quote of the Week

"It may be those who do most, dream most."

Stephen Leacock

Inspectors give bus fleet thumbs up



Last night Superintendent **Rich Carter** presented Transportation Director **Steve Olson** with a Certificate of Achievement for recent Washington State Patrol school bus inspections.

"The Washington State Patrol school bus inspection team and I wish to commend your district and those persons responsible for the maintenance of your buses and for the outstanding bus inspections of winter and summer 2007," said **Jan Clarence**, Regional Transportation Coordinator from ESD 105.

Superintendent Carter thanked the Transportation Department staff for their hard work and efforts to keep the equipment in good working order and safe for transporting students and staff.

District leaders meet with area lawmakers

Superintendent Rich Carter and School Board President Anne Golden traveled to Olympia last week to meet with area legislators.

Carter said funding for public schools continues to be a topic of discussion. He said Washington state public schools are in a financial crisis due to state funding formulas that have not been changed for years.

Carter asked lawmakers to not approve any legislation that is under-funded or unfunded. He said schools can not take on the additional burden without adequate funding.

District seeks Graduates of Distinction nominations

Walla Walla Public Schools graduates who have distinguished themselves in their communities, professions, or careers will be formally recognized this spring through the Graduates of Distinction program. Nominations for inductees to this special program are now being accepted.

ELIGIBILITY FOR NOMINATION

- Must have graduated from high school in the Walla Walla Public Schools at least 10 years prior to nomination.
- Need not be a current resident of Walla Walla.
- Need not be present to accept the award, but will make a concerted effort to be present or send a representative to accept the award.

HOW TO NOMINATE

Complete an application form (available at the district office, 364 South Park Street and online at www.wwps.org), and return it by April 15, 2008. For more information, please contact Kay Schisler at 526-6735.