

Wa-Hi enrollment picture brightens

Districtwide student counts up slightly from last year

Students continued to trickle in at Walla Walla High School the first two weeks of school improving the enrollment outlook significantly by the time the district logged its first official count of the school year last Friday.

Two weeks ago the Deputy Superintendent **Dr. Bill Jordan** briefed school board members with preliminary enrollment figures that revealed student "head count" (hc) numbers were down 127 from this time last year at Walla Walla High School.

Last night Jordan's report to the school board was brighter as he reported Walla Walla High School's "head count" numbers are now at 1850, just 20 students below last year's numbers.

"The kids just kept showing up," Jordan said. "Our counselors and staff did a great job contacting families and locating students."

Elementary enrollment numbers remain slightly higher than last year while middle school counts are about the same.

Jordan noted the district's 2008-09 general fund budget was based on 5700 Full-time Equivalent (FTE) students, which is the same number used to develop last year's budget. The district's FTE count currently rests at 5801.74.

| | 9/7/07 | 9/7/07 | 8/27/08 | 9/2/08 | 9/5/08 | 9/5/08 | 9/15/08 | 9/15/08 |
|-------------------|-------------------|--------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|--------------------|-------------------|--------------------|
| School | 2007/2008 (hc) | 2007/2008 (fte) | 2008/2009 (hc) | 2008/2009 (hc) | 2008/2009 (hc) | 2008/2009 (fte) | 2008/2009 (hc) | 2008-2009 (fte) |
| Berney/Homelink | 532 | 485.77 | 588 | 587 | 577 | 532.15 | 577 | 532.15 |
| Blue Ridge | 272 | 272 | 307 | 302 | 308 | 308 | 308 | 308 |
| Edison | 272 | 245.6 | 255 | 273 | 274 | 247.47 | 274 | 247.47 |
| Green Park | 457 | 417.5 | 467 | 458 | 459 | 459 | 459 | 459 |
| Prospect Point | 544 | 494.5 | 553 | 551 | 542 | 510.6 | 542 | 510.6 |
| Sharpstein | 457 | 415.85 | 477 | 469 | 474 | 432.98 | 474 | 432.98 |
| Garrison | 623 | 621.14 | 639 | 641 | 645 | 643.94 | 644 | 642.94 |
| Pioneer/Creekside | 639 | 638.17 | 628 | 619 | 616 | 616.2 | 616 | 616.2 |
| WaHi | 1870 | 1827 | 1726 | 1743 | 1850 | 1816.4 | 1848 | 1814.4 |
| Lincoln/Contract | 268 | 235.8 | 239 | 267 | 257 | 257 | 240 | 238 |
| AEP | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a | 77 | 77 | | |
| Running Start n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a | | | | |
| Total | 5934 | 5653.33 | 5879 | 5910 | 6079 | 5900.74 | 5982 | 5801.74 |

Area superintendents meet to discuss Transportation Co-Op

Last week Superintendent **Rich Carter** met with regional school district superintendents to discuss options for joining a Walla Walla coordinated Transportation Cooperative for bus maintenance and service.

Carter said several superintendents expressed interest in the concept designed to save their districts thousands of dollars on bus repairs and upkeep.

Carter organized a similar operation in his last school district in White Salmon, WA. In addition to lower costs for service and parts for Walla Walla buses, Carter said our community gets the added benefit of having state dollars pay for 90 percent of the facility and equipment needed to run the operation.

"This is a win-win situation for our community and the other districts in the cooperative," Carter said. "We all save on maintenance and Walla Walla gets a quality facility without seeking additional taxpayer dollars."

Carter said he will meet with each superintendent one-on-one in the coming days to solidify their support. He hopes to have a commitment by the end of the month.

A complete proposal is due to the Office of the State Superintendent of Public Instruction in November.

In other School Board meeting business...

Board members:

- approved minutes of the board meeting of September 2, 2008, Personnel Report, September bills and payroll, PSE Negotiated Agreement 2008-09, Board meeting schedule (January-June 2009), Financial Advisory Services, and the 2008-09 I-728 Spending Plan.

Personnel Report

• New Hires

(Classified) **Thomas Arland**, Custodian, Wa-Hi

Trevor Nix, Para-Educator, Wa-Hi

• Resignation

(Certificated) **Cindy Rosselle**, Special Ed Teacher, Wa-Hi, 1 year

Quote of the Week

"When a man comes to me for advice, I find out the kind of advice he wants and I give it to him."

Josh Billings

Induction program helps teachers new to Walla Walla find success

Talk to many veteran teachers about their early days in the profession and many will tell you how they were pointed to their classroom and given a firm pat on the back and few words of encouragement.

Those days are long gone in Walla Walla thanks to the New Teacher Induction Program coordinated by longtime educator **Judy Peasley**. Currently there are 33 first and second year teachers employed in our district. Peasley works closely with this group to ensure they have the training and support necessary to succeed in education.

Peasley reported to school board members last night the district's program is a combination of nationally defined best practices and local elements Tracy Williams established years ago to mentor teachers new to the district.

Assistant Superintendent **Linda Boggs** was also quick to recognize Peasley's positive influence on the program the past two years that has helped make it one of the best programs in the nation in her opinion.



Induction Program Support includes:

- Two years inclusion in the program (sustained support)
- Communication/networking
- Hot topics discussions
- Monthly meetings
- Visits from Judy Peasley
- Mentoring with veteran teachers
- Planning, organizational skills

School Board meeting dates (January-June 2009)

Tuesday, Jan. 20

Tuesday, April 21

Tuesday, February 3
Tuesday, February 17

Tuesday, May 5
Tuesday, May 19

Tuesday, March 3
Tuesday, March 17

Tuesday, June 2
Tuesday, June 16

District News Briefs

No school September 18-19

(Learning Improvement Days)

There is no school September 18 and 19. These are state required Learning Improvement Days.

District teachers will be participating in various professional development activities during these two days. Classes resume Monday, Sept. 22.

Boundary review meetings continue

Remaining Public Meetings

• Wednesday, Oct. 1 - 7 p.m.
Blue Ridge Elementary

• Wednesday, Oct. 15 - 7 p.m.
Prospect Point Elementary

Learn more about the Boundary Review study process and the committee's recommendations online at www.wwps.org (A to Z section - Boundary Study).

Fall Choral concert date changed

The Wa-Hi Fall Choral Concert has been changed from Thursday, October 23 to Wednesday, October 22.

This concert begins at 7 p.m. in the Walla Walla High School Performing Arts Auditorium.

Afterschool art class offered

Vicki Shafer will be offering an Afterschool "JUST CLAY" class for 1st and 2nd grade students each Wednesday for the entire month of October.

Classes begin Oct. 1 through Oct. 29 and will meet in the Homelink Art room at Berney School. Cost is \$10 per student on a first come, first served basis. E-mail Shafer at vshafer@wwps.org to reserve your spot.