

National teaching certifications awarded

Walla Walla teachers **Susan Bauer** (Garrison), **Susan Schulz** (Garrison), **Shannon Ahrens** (Garrison), **Kim Kelsay** (Pioneer) and **Charlene Maib** (Pioneer) have received certification through the National Board for Professional Teaching Standards.

Tuesday night Superintendent **Rich Carter** and School Board **President Mary Jo Geidl** presented the recipients with special pins recognizing their achievements. Carter said these educators bring honor to the district through their high level of professionalism and dedication.

Certification requirements include: authoring a detailed professional portfolio, video taping classroom instruction and passing a challenging assessment to test subject knowledge.

These teachers earn a 10-year certificate. The district now has a total of 29 teachers with national professional teaching certificates. Fellow Walla Walla educators **Gayle See** and **Cindy Nass** mentored these teachers. There are currently 1,807 teaching in the state.



**Shannon
Ahrens**



Susan Bauer



Kim Kelsay



Charlene Maib



Susan Schulz

Berney Elementary principal resigns

Walla Walla Public Schools Board of Directors accepted the resignation of Berney Elementary Principal **David Talley** last night.

The resignation is effective at the end of the 2008-2009 school year. He was hired by Walla Walla Public Schools May 15, 2001. Talley says he's ready to pursue other professional opportunities -- most notably online education.

District continues to cut energy usage and expenses

Last night District Energy Management Program Director **John Butenhoff** reported the district has cut energy usage 21 percent and saved \$2.4 million since the program started nine years ago. This year alone the

district has saved more than \$250,000 to offset constant rate increases for electricity, water, and natural gas.

Butenhoff says staff diligence makes the difference by monitoring and adjusting energy use.

In other School Board meeting business...

Board members:

- approved minutes of the Dec. 20, 2008 board meeting, Personnel Report, Out of State Travel, January Bills and Payroll, December Financial Reports and Resolution #01-2009/Deferred Compensation Baker-Boyer Bank, Food Service Imprest Increase, Surplus Property/3 buses, Out-of-Endorsement Assignments, and Revision of Policy 2108/District Parent Involvement.
- approved a contract with Architects West for the SE Washington Transportation Co-Op.
- approved a contract with Dax Logsdon of ESD 112.123 for construction management work on the SE Washington Transportation Co-Op. The district's Transportation Co-Op proposal was recently approved by OSPI. It now goes to Olympia for funding consideration. Superintendent Carter said he is optimistic the project will be state funded at 90%.

Personnel Report

• New Hires

(Classified) **Mikaelyn Cottier Swayne**, Mental Health Coordinator, Head Start
Valerie Vicari, Custodian, Wa-Hi
William Van Dyke, Para-Educator, Sharpstein

• Resignations/retirements

(Administrative) **David Talley**, Principal, Berney (8 years)
• *Talley's resignation is effective at the end of the 2008-09 school year*

(Certificated) **Charleen Kaaen**, Second Grade, Edison (33 years)
Laura Watson, ESL, Walla Walla High School, 2 years
• *Watson was on a leave of absence for the 2008-09 school year*

(Classified) **Trevor Nix**, Para-Educator, Walla Walla High School (7 months)
Armin Schulz, Bus Driver, Transportation Department, 3 years

• Leave of Absences

(Certificated) **Andy Maheras**, Social Studies, Walla Walla High School (5 years)
• Maheras will serve as acting building principal at Edison Elementary for the remainder of the 2008-09 school year

• Out of State Travel

Rich Carter and **Linda Boggs** to attend National School Board Association Annual Conference in San Diego, CA (Funding: Superintendent and Curriculum Travel)

Laure Quaresma to attend Association for Supervision and Curriculum Development Annual Conference in Orlando, FL (Funding: Professional Growth and Ad Match)

Gerald Taylor to attend National Championships - Army JROTC at Camp Perry, Ohio (Funding: JROTC)

Nancy Withycombe to attend National Elementary Principals' Conference in New Orleans, LA (Funding: Principal Travel, Ad Match)

Marc Yonts to attend LSU and J.T. Curtis High School Curriculum Study in New Orleans, LA (Funding: Professional Growth, personal)

Quote of the Week

"I have a dream that my four little children will one day live in a nation where they will not be judged by the color of their skin, but by the content of their character."

Martin Luther King, Jr.

School Board Recognition Month • January 2009

Thanks for all you do!



Mary Jo Geidl
(Position #1)



Cindy Meyer
(Position #2)



Dr. Jim Lehmann
(Position #3)



Max Carrera
(Position #4)



Anne Golden
(Position #5)

Wa-Hi principal to study facilities improvement options

Don't be surprised if you get a call from Walla Walla High School Principal **Darcy Weisner** this winter as he leads a project to further study high school facilities improvement options.

Weisner plans to schedule weekly meetings with business leaders, meet with parent associations, visit district schools and speak to service groups about their thoughts on recommendations developed last year by the High School Facilities Task Force.

To view the High School Facilities Task Force recommendations online, visit: http://www.wwps.org/schools/hs_taskforce.htm

District spending linked to goals

Last night district Chief Financial Officer **Pat Johnston** provided the school board with the 07-08 year end financial report.

Johnston highlighted how district finances are prioritized and linked to the district's strategic plan goals. The district remains fiscally sound. She said conservative budgeting, including not spending more than we have, will help as the district faces more state cuts.