

Superintendent Carter announces retirement

Superintendent **Dr. Rich Carter** announced during last night's school board meeting he plans to retire at the end of the 2009-2010 school year culminating a 37 year career.

Carter started his tenure in Walla Walla July 1, 2000. His last day will be June 30, 2010.

"When the end of the year arrives, it is my greatest hope that the legacy I leave in the Walla Walla Public Schools is a stronger organization than when I arrived," Carter said. "I want all the school board members, administrators, teachers and staff to know that my success has always been based on their success. Together, with a caring and committed staff and guidance by parents and community and business leaders, we have shaped one of the highest quality educational institutions in the state; one that we can all be proud of."

Carter received his BA from California State University at Chico, a Master's in Adaptive PE from Arizona State University, a Master's in Educational Administration from Pacific Lutheran University, and his Doctorate in Educational Leadership from Seattle University. During his career in education, Carter also worked as a classroom teacher and principal.

"Dr. Carter's contribution to Walla Walla Public Schools is greatly appreciated," School Board President Mary Jo Geidl said. "His vision for the future has led to many positive changes in the district, such as instituting all day kindergarten and teacher collaboration, overseeing construction of Sharpstein and Edison Elementary Schools, and establishing a Transportation Co-op with 90 percent funding by the state. It will be a challenging task to find a replacement for him."

School board members will begin discussions about superintendent search options. No plans have been made at this time. Carter says in retirement he and his wife Nancy plan to travel, play golf and spend more time with their two daughters, Robyn Lynn, 29 and Amy Jean, 27.

Highlights during Carter's tenure

- Improved state test scores
- All day kindergarten
- Increased teacher professional development opportunities, including Wednesday collaboration time
- Successful school elections: Edison bond and three M&O levies
- Development of S.E. Washington Transportation cooperative and Support Services facility

Ag-Issues team debates Wallula "Clean Coal" plant

Members of the Walla Walla High School FFA Agriculture Issues team, advised by teacher **Arch McHie**, reported to school board members last night on their state championship presentation. This year's issue debates whether a "clean coal" plant should be constructed near Wallula.

The team is tuning up for the national competition in Indianapolis, Indiana. McHie thanked the community for allowing the Ag Issues team to make public presentations in preparation for their competitions. FFA students reported they have learned a lot through this experience and are excited for nationals.

Albertsons supports Campbell's Labels for Education program

Sharpstein Elementary Principal **Laure Quaresma** thanked Albertsons for its support of the Campbell's *Labels for Education* program. *Labels for Education* rewards schools with cash-like points anytime Campbell's soup or other product labels are collected and submitted to the company.

Quaresma said Albertsons' contributed to the program which generated thousands of dollars for schools to use for supplies and/or equipment.

In other School Board meeting business...

Board members:

- approved the Personnel Report, Out-of-State travel, Extra-Curricular Contracts, Co-Curricular Contracts, Resolution 13-2009 - Tri-Tech Skills Center/Pre-design, Resolution 14-2009 - Tri-Tech Skills Center/Authorization of Signatures, and minutes of the September 15, 2009 board minutes.

Personnel Report

• New Hires

(Classified)

Elisabeth Entrena, ESL Teacher (temporary), Edison

(Classified)

Jodi Guttromson, Para-Educator (temporary), Blue Ridge

Paula Merson, Food Service Assistant, Pioneer

Cassie Sears, Assistant Secretary for ASB/Athletics, Wa-Hi

• RESIGNATION

(Classified)

Jeannie Sullivan, Cook, Edison, 11 years

• OUT-OF-STATE TRAVEL

Maria Garcia to attend National Positive Behavior Intervention Support Conference in Chicago, IL. (Funding: OSPI funding through RTI)

Cresencia Gutierrez-Duran and **Maggie Miranda** to attend Love & Logic Training in Denver, CO (Funding: Head Start/ECEAP)

Anne Swant to attend ETS - Teacher Leadership Standards in Princeton, NJ (Funding: ETS - No cost to the district)

Mell Gribnau to attend History, Smithsonian, Capitol in Washington, DC (Funding: Staff Achievement Grant)

Superintendent Carter to provide progress report to district's Community Facilities Task Force

The district's Community Facilities Task Force will receive a facilities update from Superintendent Rich Carter Thursday, October 15 from 5:30 to 7:00 p.m. at the WWPS Board Room.

Facilities update topics:

- Edison construction project
- Southeast Washington Transportation Cooperative
- Support Services project
- Sale of Support Services complex and land to YMCA
- High School Skills Center study and pre-designs
- Bridge Street sidewalk improvements near Pioneer Middle School
- Traffic flashing signs near Sharpstein and Garrison
- Crosswalk improvement near Garrison
- County sidewalk installation grant proposal near Prospect Point
- Prospect Point school bus lane on Howard Street

WWPS Community Facilities Task Force

Dan Reid, Chair

Kathy Covey

Jim Dumont

Darcy Fugman-Small

Dan Johnson

Mary Koch

Mary Meeker

Jim Peterson

Ken Seibold

Pat Johnston

Lowell Schneider

Quote of the Week

"Upon the subject of education, not presuming to dictate any plan or system respecting it, I can only say that I view it as the most important subject which we as a people may be engaged in."

Abraham Lincoln

Enrollment counts hold steady

Deputy Superintendent **Dr. Bill Jordan** reported to school board members the district's enrollment figures for October are similar to September's count.

The district is reporting 5818.75 FTEs in October, up slightly from the 5808.27 count in September. These figures do not include AEP and Running Start programs. The district remains above its budget target of 5650 FTE.

Parent conferences Thursday night

Walla Walla High School is conducting Parent/Teacher Conferences Thursday, Oct. 8 from 4:30 to 8 p.m. All parents need to report to the Commons to pick up conference maps, grades, WASL scores and additional information. Conferences will be held in the Commons and locker lobbies.

Breast Cancer Awareness volleyball game Thursday at Wa-Hi main gym

The Walla Walla High School Volleyball team Breast Cancer Awareness game is Thursday, October 8 at 7 p.m. in Wa-Hi's gym.

"Last year we donated nearly \$4,000 to St. Mary's Cancer Center. So put on your pink and come support the volleyball program and breast cancer research," Wa-Hi Volleyball Coach **Audra Cummings** said.