

Pioneer P.O.W.E.R team promotes school pride

Pioneer Principal Dana Jones, Assistant Principal Kim Doepker and Counselor Angie Gardea were joined by several students last night to explain the school's P.O.W.E.R. team.

Students are selected by teachers for the program and then must complete an application process to join the team.

Doepker reported discipline referrals have dropped 17 percent since the program's inception..

The program promotes the core principles of:

Pride: Students take pride in themselves and others.

Ownership: Students take ownership in their actions.

Warmth: Students create a warm school community

Encouragements: Students encouraged to set goals

Respect: Students respect themselves and others

School board authorizes district application for snow days waiver

School board members last night authorized the district to submit an application to the state for a waiver to excuse the four snow days missed as a result of this winter's record storms.

This school board action provides the district more options. No decisions were made last night on how or if the waiver would be used if approved.

The district could excuse all four days, some of the days or none of the days at all. The waiver will be reviewed by the Office of the State Superintendent of Public Instruction. The district hopes to have an answer within the next week.

School board members are expected to make a decision at the next school board meeting -- Tuesday, February 17.

Extending the school year provides challenges for the district, most notably the possibility of changing the Walla Walla High School graduation date.

Collaborative Academic Support Team helps Prospect Point students succeed

Prospect Point Principal **Chris Gardea**, Learning Specialist **Becky Rausch** and Psychologist **Kim Butenhoff** reported to school board members on the school's Collaborative Academic Support Team.

The team is committed to personalizing learning through the development and monitoring of individual student plans. Grade level meetings are held twice a month to discuss students needs and progress.

C.A.S.T. Purpose

Provide high quality instruction and interventions that match to student need.

Use data to:

- make accurate decisions
- identify student needs
- determine program support

C.A.S.T. Team

- Classroom Teachers
- Learning Specialist
- Intervention Specialist
- Psychologist
- Special Education teacher
- LAP Teacher
- ESL Teacher
- Dean of Students
- Principal

In other School Board meeting business...

Board members:

- approved minutes of the Jan. 20, 2009 board meeting, Personnel Report, Out of State Travel, Surplus Property, Extracurricular Contracts, and Co-Curricular Contracts.
- received for first reading Policy 6102 -- District Fundraising Activities (per recommendation from state auditor)
- received for first reading Policy 6300 -- Recognition (per recommendation from state auditor)
- heard an update on the recent Boundary revisions from Assistant Superintendent **Dr. Linda Boggs**. Boggs reported revisions are being made to the Sharpstein boundary to maintain the school's Dual Language program.

Personnel Report

• New Hires

NONE TO REPORT

• Resignations/retirements

(*Certificated*) **Debora Rossi**, Second Grade, Edison, 4 years

Mary Jo Fontenot, Title I, Green Park Elementary School, 31 years

(*Classified*) **Jacqueline Richerzhagen**, Intervention Specialist, Edison Elementary School, 11 years

• Leave of Absences

(*Classified*) **Cathy Rasley**, Para-Educator, Walla Walla High School (20 years)

- For the remainder of the 2008-09 school year

Maria Remington, Para-Educator, Prospect Point Elementary (5 years)

- For the remainder of the 2008-09 school year

• Out of State Travel

Donna Hernandez, Kellie Humbert, Angelica Martinez, Terry Morgan, Luz Phillips, Carolyn Rittenhouse, and Nilda Williams to attend CABE Conference in Long Beach, CA (Funding: Professional Growth, Title 3 and Personal)

Gina Yonts, to attend 2009 NCCEP/Gear Up Workshop in New Orleans, LA (Funding: Gear Up)

Staffing transfers for 2009-2010 school year

Nilda Williams: Transfers from Prospect Point to Edison Elementary - 2nd Grade Bilingual

Luz Phillips: Transfers from Prospect Point to Edison -- 2nd Grade Dual Language

Erin Moreno: Transfers from Prospect Point to Edison -- 3rd Grade Bilingual

Olga Velazquez: Transfers from Blue Ridge to Edison -- Kindergarten Dual Language

Lisa Braddock: Transfers from Berney to Edison -- 1st Grade Dual Language

Quote of the Week

"Intelligence is knowing what to do when you don't know what to do."

Art Costa

KAPP/KVEW (ABC) television to showcase district

KAPP/KVEW (ABC) is featuring Walla Walla Public Schools as part of the station's "School Scene Magazine" series highlighting regional school districts.

Prosser School District Superintendent Dr. Ray Tolcacher is the show's host. The program will feature student and staff interviews showcasing district programs and activities. The program will be aired on KAPP/KVEW later this spring.

The School Scene Magazine program will also be posted on the district website and used for recruiting and local presentations.

Reforestation project teams Walla Walla Public Schools with City and Rotary Club to plant trees in our community

Walla Walla Public Schools has teamed with the City of Walla Walla and Rotary Club of Walla Walla to plant trees on school grounds and for families to plant at their residence sidewalk "right of ways." Trees may also be planted in the county.

Approximately 300 to 400 trees will be available for planting beginning mid-March. The trees will be used for science lessons featuring students planting trees at school or at home. The project will serve as a way for students to learn more about trees in the Walla Walla Valley. School parent nights will also be held to offer give away activities for families to plant trees at their homes near sidewalk "right of ways." Some of the trees will also be used to improve school campuses.

Special thanks to City of Walla Walla Parks and Recreation Director Jim Dumont and Rotary Club of Walla Walla member Ned Shafer for bringing this project to the school district.

Board Ongoing Committee Assignments

Max Carrera

- Safe Schools
- Career/Technical Education
- Classified Negotiations (with Cindy Meyer)

Mary Jo Geidl

- Head Start Policy Council
- Extracurricular Supervisors Negotiations
- Administrative Negotiations
- School-Based Health Center

Anne Golden

- Curriculum Advisory and Instructional Materials
- Certificated Negotiations (with Jim Lehmann)
- Legislative Representative
- Facilities

Jim Lehmann

- WIAA Liaison
- Certificated Negotiations (with Anne Golden)
- Technology/Telecommunications

Cindy Meyer

- Explorer Advisory Committee
- PTA Council
- Classified Negotiations (with Max Carrera)