

Board approves budget savings plan

Plan protects classroom and saves jobs

Last night school board members held a public work session to discuss the district's 2009-2010 Budget Savings Plan. During the regular meeting, school board members approved the district's plan which calls for trimming the general fund budget \$3.5 million for the 2009-10 school year.

Washington state's unprecedented financial crisis has sent a shockwave across the state as K-12 education is taking a substantial hit. The district has worked in collaboration with staff, parents, students and community members to make tough budget decisions in light of the economic recession. The district's budget savings plan protects class size, limits the impact on student learning and extra-curricular programs and saves jobs.

"No permanent staff will lose their jobs as a result of our plan. We've made reductions through attrition and transfers to eliminate 16 positions. Other districts around the state cannot make this claim. We appreciate the support and cooperation of our staff through this difficult process."

Superintendent Rich Carter

Budget Savings Plan Highlights

- Budget reduced by \$3.5 million for the 2009-2010
- Plan focuses on protecting current class size
- Plan has limited impact on student programs
- No layoffs for permanent staff
- Transfers and service reductions eliminated 16 positions
- Four Dean of Student positions have been eliminated
- Athletic Department budget reduced 10 percent (\$115,000)
- Teacher and learning support programs reduced
- Out-of-State travel suspended

Budget Savings Plan online: www.wwps.org

Take time to thank a teacher

By Superintendent Rich Carter

Teachers in Walla Walla and in communities across the nation were in the spotlight on National Teacher Day, Tuesday, May 5.

Students, parents, school administrators and the public are encouraged to take notice of how teachers continue to make Walla Walla Public Schools a premiere school district for every student.

Few other professionals touch as many people as teachers do. Teachers have a unique role in society and in the lives of children. They provide students skills they will rely on for life. In addition to instruction, teachers act as cheerleaders, brighten the day and provide the gentle push needed to help students realize their true potential.

Reflect back on your own childhood and I guarantee a teacher will come to mind as having had a positive impact on your life.

Our teachers do the little things to make the school experience meaningful. They take time to get to know their students as people. They take an interest in their passions, hopes and dreams.

Reflect back on your own childhood and I guarantee a teacher will come to mind as having had a positive impact on your life.

Public schools are at the heart of any community and teachers are at the heart of any school district.

Please take time to reach out and thank a teacher for all they do for Walla Walla children.

In other School Board meeting business...

Board members:

- approved minutes of the April 21 board meeting, minutes from the April 29 special board meeting, Personnel Report, Out-of-State Travel, March Financial Report, and Issuance of Certificated Contracts for 2009-10.
- approved Revision of Policy 2125/Health, Family Life, and Sex Education (Revised Policy 2125 - Sexual Health Ed.)
- approved the district's 2009-2010 Budget Savings Plan which calls for a \$3.5 million reduction next year.

Personnel Report

• New Hires

(Certificated)

Missy Newcom, Speech Language Pathologist, Special Programs

• Resignations/retirements

NONE TO REPORT

• Leave of Absence

(Certificated)

Kellie Humbert, ESL Teacher, Prospect Point, 1 year

(• For the 2009-10 school year)

• Out of State Travel

Lori Dohe to score AP English exams for the College Board in Daytona Beach, FL (Funding: District sub budget. No other expense to the district)

Conor Fish and **Jill Meliah** to attend Nike Championship Basketball Clinic in Las Vegas, NV (Funding: Coaches' Professional Growth)

Mike Gobel to attend NSCD's Going the Distance with School-Based Professional Learning in Boston, MA (Funding: Staff Achievement Grant)

Quote of the Week

"The only person who is educated is the one who has learned how to learn and change."

Carl Rogers

ATTENTION STAFF:

Staff transfers as a result of the 2009-2010 Budget Savings Plan are now posted on the district's website:

<http://www.wwps.org/atoz/budgetsavingsplan.cfm>

Youth Health Fair features low cost sports physicals

Walla Walla General Hospital and Walla Walla Public Schools have teamed to host a Youth Health Fair Sunday, May 31 from 10:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. at Walla Walla General Hospital.

Last night District Event Coordinator **Dan Calzaretta** and Walla Walla General Hospital representative **Sharryl Toews** briefed the school board on the event.

Event Fact Sheet:

• Walla Walla General Hospital and Walla Walla Public Schools partner to provide a Youth Health Fair featuring low cost sports physicals - \$10 each. *NOTE: (All proceeds will be donated to the district's Athletic Department to pay for student sports fees and equipment.)

• Sunday, May 31 from 10:30 a.m. to 3 p.m.

• Walla Walla General Hospital

• This event provides low cost sports physicals and health information to all families. The Health Fair also features health screenings, immunizations, health information and educational activities for the entire family

• Pre-register for sports physicals; walk-ins also welcomed

For more information contact:

Sharryl Toews: ToewsSL@ah.org

Dan Calzaretta: dcalzaretta@wwps.org

Green Park KGPS TV features live newscast

For 15 years students and staff at Green Park Elementary have received live video news every Wednesday and Friday mornings from the KGPS TV broadcast program.

Fifth grade teachers **Jim Lux**, **Michelle Carpenter** and **Elissa Stites** supervise the program. Fifth grades students serve as news anchors. Fifth grade students **Romey Drabek** and **Abby Van De Rostyne** were present and said they love the program. Teachers say the news show allows everyone to get the same information, limits interruptions and promotes school spirit.

Response to Intervention program proactive

Response to Intervention (RTI) Grant Coordinator **Maria Garcia** briefed school board members on the district's program. The district is in year one of a three year grant to fund the program.

Garcia said the program is proactive and is helping students make academic gains. She said another benefit has been less discipline referrals. RTI is used to identify students needs, determine necessary support and monitor progress.

The district's RTI program was featured in a regional magazine this fall and a national magazine this spring. Educators from Tacoma are visiting Walla Walla High School Friday to get more information on the district's program. Learn more online: <http://www.wwps.org/community/rti.htm>

National Nurses Day Wednesday

Today is National Nurses Day. Thanks for all you do!