

## *Staff development key to district technology plan*

School board members approved the district's 2010-2013 Technology and Learning Plan last night after Technology Director **Janis Barton** presented a report on the process used to develop the state required plan.

Barton organized a Technology Advisory Committee to assist in the process. This year Barton scheduled two Technology and Learning Plan forums to develop, refine and finalize school and district level plans.

Barton reported staff development is essential to ensuring technology is being integrated into lesson plans and daily work in the classroom.

She said the 2010-2013 technology plan will have more emphasis on training staff.

Pocket iNet Owner **Todd Brandenburg** also presented during last night's school board meeting. He said he has a new perspective on what technology can do to support learning.

Brandenburg said a visit to the new Edison Elementary to watch a kindergarten and 5th grade class in action had an impact on him.

He said the school's technology helped keep the students engaged and excited about learning. He said he will help the district in its efforts to bring even more technology to the classroom.

### **Community and business partners who participated in the Technology & Learning Plan Forums**

- **Punkey Adams**, WW County Library Director
- **Terry Atchison**, Corps of Engineers, IT consultant
- **Todd Brandenburg**, Pocket iNet, Owner
- **Bob Branscum**, VP, American West Bank
- **Kelly Hartley**, Prospect Point Parent
- **Tom McMakin**, Doyle Telecom, Owner
- **Keiko Pitter**, Whitman, Chief Technology Officer
- **Jeff Rask**, Qwest, Global Account Manager
- **Bill Storms**, WWCC, IT Manager
- **Jack Morris**, ESD 123, IT Manager & Forum facilitator

## **Blue Ridge takes steps to improve student academic achievement**

Last night Blue Ridge Elementary Principal **Kim Doepker** reported to school board members on efforts underway this year at Blue Ridge to improve the school's achievement rates. She said Blue Ridge is making the changes necessary to improve.

Doepker said last year 4th grade students scored 29% on their MAP scores and are at 64% this year. Math scores are up this year nearly 40% from 27% last year to 66% this year.

Doepker said Blue Ridge has a great staff, wonderful students and a bright future.

### Goals for 2009-2010

- Raise test scores by 10%
- Implement GLAD strategies
- Teach bell to bell

### Current Blue Ridge Initiatives

- SWAT Team (Daily Reading Block)
- Math Coach (Jeremy Hubbard)
- Data Carousel (drives decisions)
- Student Leadership (school pride)
- Re-focus Discipline Plan
- 3R's After School Program

### 2011-2012 Plans

- Dual Language Program – K-1
- "Platooning" Instruction
- Waterford Early Reading Program
- Additional Math Coaching

## In other School Board meeting business...

### **Board members:**

- approved minutes of the February 2, 2010 school board meeting, personnel and out-of-state travel reports, approval of February bills and payroll, January financial report, imprest account changes and Head Start/ECEAP Policy Council By-Laws.

## Personnel Report

### • Employment

(Classified)

**Karene Gonzalez**, Para-Educator (temporary) , Green Park  
**Karene Gonzalez**, Assistant Secretary (temporary), Special Programs  
**Monique Morris**, Para-Educator (temporary), Sharpstein

### • Resignations/Retirements

(Administrative)

**Nancy Withycombe**, Principal, Edison, 13 years

(Classified)

**Lorelie Moothart**, Health Clinician, Edison, 1.5 years

### • Out-of-State Travel

**Kerri Coffman** and **Samantha Morales** to attend WIPELI in Las Vegas, NV (Funding: Head Start)

**Peder Fretheim**, **Maria Garcia**, and **Casey Monahan** to attend RTI Summit as presenters in Charleston, SC (Funding: No Cost to District)

### Quote of the Week

“The whole purpose of education is to turn mirrors into windows.”

**Sydney J. Harris**

### Staff Transfer

Gracie Cortez is transferring from Green Park as assistant secretary to Blue Ridge as Head Secretary.

## Edison Elementary Principal announces retirement

Edison Elementary Principal **Nancy Withycombe** announced during Tuesday’s school board meeting she is retiring at the end of the school year after nearly 40 years of educational service.

Withycombe has been employed by Walla Walla Public Schools for 18 years. She taught for two years in Prescott, WA and 19 years in Oregon in the Salem and Milton Freewater School Districts.

Prior to taking the head position at Edison, Withycombe was the Principal at Paine Alternative High School. She said being a part of the planning, building and opening the new Edison has been one of the highlights of her career.

“Our staff had a wonderful experience of working with an architect who valued our perceptions of what the new Edison would include,” Withycombe said. “The new school has been a great success.”

Withycombe thanked her staff, the district and school board for their support over the years.



## Health Services Department supports learning

Health Services Director **Jennifer Douglas** provided a department update to school board members last night. She said the health clinics have been busy again this year with nearly 15,000 documented visits to school health clinicians since August. Nearly 500 students in the district have health plans on file and regularly receive medications from health clinicians.

The H1N1 virus and mitigation plan has caused additional work this year for health clinicians. The district has teamed with the Walla Walla County Health Department to organize vaccination clinics at all district schools. To date, 1600 students received H1N1 vaccines at district schools.

Douglas said they continue to use the student records system to improve data collection on students to provide better service. She also extended a thank you to Dr. Ron Will for providing free dental service to 28 students last week. Dr. Will closed his office last Friday to his regular clients so he could provide this day of service to the community. Thousands of dollars of dental work was donated as a result of this effort.

Douglas encouraged people to visit the district website to learn more about the Health Services Department: <http://www.wbps.org/support/healthservices/default.htm>

## Kindergarten and Open Enrollment Registration period is March 15 - 26

Kindergarten registration will be conducted at the student’s attendance area elementary school. Parents wishing to pick up the kindergarten registration information may do so at your child’s school beginning March 8. However, the completed registration forms will not be accepted until March 15.

## Legislative visit leaves many questions unanswered

Superintendent **Rich Carter** reported to school board members on his recent trip to Olympia to talk with area elected officials. Carter said he sensed an uneasy feeling from legislators as they struggle to balance the budget which faces up to a \$2.8 billion deficit.

He said there appears to be a better understanding from legislators about education funding shortfalls, but there are no plans in place to correct it.

Carter stressed public education cannot afford additional cuts. He also presented information about the proposed high school skills center and is requesting \$1.2 million for architectural design funds.