

Board approves bid for Support Services project

School board members last night named T.W. Clark Construction, LLC, to serve as general contractor for the new Support Services construction project. Construction is expected to begin in March and be completed by December 2010.

Scope of Project

The development of a new Support Services facility represents the second phase of a project to relocate the Support Services and the Transportation Department from 325 S. Park Street to 1162 Entley Street near Koncrete Industries. This facility will house the warehouse, maintenance, grounds services, print shop, and food services.

Support Services building size:

- 21,636 square feet (main floor)
- 6904 square feet (mezzanine)

Construction Bid Terms

Base Bid & alternates \$2,641,300

(Alternates include: shop offices, test kitchen, mezzanines, overhead doors, motorized door, wall lights, compressor, and miscellaneous electrical and casework)

Sales Tax - 8.3% \$219,228

Other project expenses & fees \$372,849

Total Cost \$3,233,377

State Matching dollars to fund project

The district is using the approximately \$4 million state matching money from the Transportation Cooperative construction project to fund the new Support Services facility.

Finalist interviews continue

Superintendent finalist interviews continue today. Richland School District Assistant Superintendent **John Steach** will be in the district today for meet and greet sessions with staff and the community at the district office board room. He will then conduct follow-up interviews with the school board later this evening.

Tomorrow, Deer Park School District Superintendent **Mick Miller** will be in Walla Walla.

Staff are encouraged to come to the district office from 3:30 to 5 p.m. both days to learn more about the candidates and ask questions.

Employees are also invited to the public forums from 5 to 6:30 p.m. both evenings at the district office board room.

School board members are expected to name a new superintendent Thursday, March 18 at 9:30 p.m. during a special public school board meeting at the district office board room. The new superintendent will assume the duties of the position July 1, 2010.

Tumwater School District Assistant Superintendent **Bob Kuehl** was in the district Monday to meet with staff, community members and the school board.

For more information, contact Communications Director Mark Higgins at 526.6716 or e-mail at: mhiggins@wwps.org or School Board President Cindy Meyer at cindymeyer@charter.net

In other School Board meeting business...

Board members:

- approved minutes of March 2, 2010 school board meeting, March 9, 2010 special school board meeting, personnel report, March bills and payroll, and Work Place Diversity Plan - 5 year renewal.
- received second reading of Board Policy 6220/Bid Requirement and then approved policy change.
- approved the 2010-2011 and 2011-2012 school year calendars. Calendars posted on the district website: www.wwps.org

Personnel Report

• Employment

(Classified) **Estella Edson**, Bus Assistant, Transportation

Janette Polley, Health Services, Edison

• Resignations/Retirements

(Classified) **Mary Lou Whalen**, Food Services Assistant, Prospect Point Elementary, 1.5 years

• Leave of Absence

(Certificated) **Maria Garcia**, Psychologist, Special Programs, 14 years

(Maria is requesting a leave of absence to serve as RTI Coordinator)

Quote of the Week

"The important thing is not to stop questioning."

Albert Einstein

Meeting scheduled on middle school dual language program

Last night Assistant Superintendent **Dr. Linda Boggs** reported she is organizing a meeting Tuesday, March 23 at 6:30 p.m. in the district board room to discuss the district's dual language program.

Boggs reported to school board members last night on the concerns the district is fielding in relation to a decision to not create a new program by extending the dual language program to students in grades 7th and 8th.

Boggs said the district's dual language program has always been a K-5 program, but this year the district was able to offer a component of a dual language program for Garrison 6th grade students.

She said 6th grade service will continue next year at Garrison, but shrinking budget revenue, limited qualified staff, and other middle school course demands will not allow the district to offer the program beyond 6th grade. She said afterschool programs, online offerings and other options for students to maintain and develop their language skills may be a possibility. Boggs said she understands the frustration from parents.

"We know this is a great program and share the disappointment parents are feeling," Boggs said. "This has been a two year planning process with a lot of thought and discussion."

School Retirees' Appreciation Week

School Board President **Cindy Meyer** honored Washington State School Retiree's Association during last night's school board meeting.

Meyer read a proclamation from Governor **Christine Gregoire** which declared the week of March 15-21 as School Retirees' Appreciation Week.

Transportation Department honored

Superintendent **Dr. Rich Carter** presented Transportation Director **Steve Olson** with a Certificate of Achievement from the Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction and the Washington State Patrol for outstanding bus inspections for the period of winter and summer 2009.

"The criteria used for recognizing districts is 10 percent or fewer buses placed out of service and your district did an exceptionally good job in achieving this goal," said **Jan Clarence**, Regional Transportation Coordinator. "The Washington State Patrol school bus inspection team and I wish to commend your district and those persons responsible for the maintenance of your buses for the outstanding bus inspections of winter and summer 2009."

High School Skills Center update

Superintendent **Rich Carter** briefed school board members on the High School Skills Center funding process. Carter said he received confirmation from the Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction Walla Walla is in line for architectural design funding during the next legislative session in 2011. Carter said the district would then be on the list and stand to receive construction funding in 2013.

"The new Walla Walla superintendent will need to travel to Olympia and continue to push for this funding," Carter said. "We have put the district in a position to make this project a reality."

Construction to begin soon on new Support Services Facility



This project is funded by state matching dollars and will not increase Walla Walla bond tax rates.