

District names *Volunteers of the Year*

In celebration of *Volunteer Appreciation Month*, last night Superintendent Rich Carter announced **Peggy Cox, Jim and Judi Armstrong, Holly Howard** and **Dr. Alison Kirby** as the district's 2009-10 *Art Regier Volunteers of the Year*.

Peggy Cox - Green Park and Pioneer Middle School

Nominators - Jean Tobin, Dana Jones, Elissa Stites, Mike Lambert, Michelle Carpenter, and Missy Johnson

- Past Green Park PTA President and longtime active PTA member
- Green Park and Pioneer Math Teams assistant
- 5th Grade Novel Groups assistant to help improve literacy skills

Jim & Judi Armstrong - Blue Ridge Elementary

Nominators: Paula Nichols, Tina Holbrook and Lucy Gregoire

- Weekly volunteer (no children in school)
- Provides special holiday treats for students
- Adopts a family in need for Christmas

Holly Howard - Lincoln Health Center, Citizens for Schools

Nominators: Cindy Meyer and Missy Peterson

- Organized feasibility study for Lincoln Health Center
- Helped get the Lincoln Center funded and operational
- Longtime Citizens for Schools and district volunteer

Dr. Alison Kirby - Lincoln Health Center

Nominators: Jim Sporleder and Dan Calzaretta

- Had the vision to make the Lincoln Health Center a reality
- Wrote grants to secure the Lincoln Health Center funding
- Helped develop an operational plan for the center
- Volunteers twice a week at the Lincoln Health Center

Community group reports high school facilities needs as top priority

The district's Community Facilities Task Force, chaired by **Dan Reid**, shared its preliminary findings with school board members Tuesday evening during a public work session.

Reid reviewed the facilities priorities the group has identified during its work over the past two months.

Preliminary priorities reported to school board:

Priority #1: Grades 9 to 12 facilities improvements - Major improvements needed at both Walla Walla High School and Lincoln Alternative High School

Priority #2: Pioneer Middle School improvements - Second gym, additional classroom space, HVAC

Priority #3: Alternative space for preschool program to allow more room for Blue Ridge K-5 program

Priority #4: Develop and manage a comprehensive plan for ongoing maintenance and repairs

The Community Facilities Task Force expects to finalize its report and deliver its recommendations to the school board by the end of the school year.

In other School Board meeting business...

Board members:

- approved minutes of March 13, 15, 16, and 26, 2010 school board meetings, personnel report, out-of-state travel, April bills and payroll, February and March Financial Reports, issuance of certificated and extra-curricular contracts and notifications of reasonable assurance and closure of Yamate Trust Fund.
- approved a *Facilities Technical Study and Survey (No cost to district: state funded program to help the district better utilize the state matching funds program for bond measures.)*. School board members also approved Architects West to conduct the study and survey. John Evans said they plan to have the work completed by August.

Personnel Report

• Employment

(Administrative)

Laure Quaresma, Executive Director of Personnel, District Office

Josh Wolcott, Principal, Edison Elementary

(Classified) **Wes Polley**, Mechanic, Transportation

• Resignations/Retirements

(Certificated) **Amy Ford**, Title 1, Edison Elementary, 7 years

* *Amy is resigning .2 FTE - she will continue as a .8 FTE Title I teacher*

Diana McNamara, Resource, Green Park, 9 years

Carolyn Pemberton, Math, Walla Walla High School, 5 years

* *Carolyn is resigning .6 FTE - She will continue as a .4 FTE math teacher*

(Classified) **Mikaelyn Cottier Swayne**, Family Services & Mental Health Counselor, Blue Ridge Head Start/ECEAP, 1 year

John Delaney, Custodian, Green Park, 18 years

Jamesette Rukavina, Para-Educator, Green Park, 2.5 years

Out of State Travel

Sue Parrish to attend Natural History Class in Grand Canyon (Funding: Staff Achievement Grant / Professional Growth)

Karen Dazell, **Dennis DeBroeck**, **Kathi DeBroeck**, and **Keven Peck** to attend Photoshop World in Las Vegas, NV (Funding: Vocational)

Quote of the Week

“To penetrate and dissipate these clouds of darkness, the general mind must be strengthened by education.”

Thomas Jefferson

Staff Transfer: Ginger Heiser will transfer from Secretary to the Director of Plant Facilities to Walla Walla High School as Secretary to the Principal effective July 1.

District considers partnership with Greenways of Washington

Virtual school would offer online courses for grades 6-12

Walla Walla Public Schools continues to study the option of offering a virtual online school for students in grades 6-12 in conjunction with *Greenways Academy of Washington*.

Last night Assistant Superintendent **Dr. Linda Boggs** briefed school board members on this fully accredited virtual academy. She reported this virtual program would offer a full range of middle and high school core subjects and electives. This new partnership would also make courses available to other local and regional students with Walla Walla serving as the host district. Each interactive online course would have a highly qualified certified instructor which allows the students to complete the course work on their own schedules. *Greenways Academy of Washington* Marketing Director **Jerry Boomer** shared some of the potential benefits for students.

“Students can earn a high school diploma, recover credits or simply take elective courses to pursue an interest,” Boomer said. “We offer core subjects, plus foreign languages, fine arts, computer science, career planning and electives.”

These courses are able to be taken by students at home, in a learning center within a school or at an established off campus learning center.

“There are many students in Walla Walla, for a variety of reasons, who would benefit from having access to their education via a virtual experience,” said Dr. Linda Boggs, Assistant Superintendent of Curriculum, Instruction and Assessment. “We are still working through some of the details to get the program here, but are hopeful we can offer *Greenways Academy of Washington* as a learning option for students in our district and other areas in the near future.”

Boggs said the district will continue meeting with *Greenways Academy of Washington* in an effort to finalize a partnership agreement.

Learn more about Greenways at: info@greenwaysacademy.com

Lincoln Health Center provides vital medical services to Lincoln students

Last night **Holly Howard** and **Dr. Alison Kirby** provided a progress report to the school board on the Lincoln Health Center’s first year of operation.

They reported approximately 70 percent of the student-body has used the center for various issues, including medical care, mental health counseling, well checks, sports physicals and immunizations.

The Lincoln Health Center’s primary funding source is Providence St. Mary Medical Center. The facility will be open during the summer Wednesdays from 9:30 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Latino Club Volunteer Service Award

District Bilingual Coordinator **Diana Erickson**, and her husband **Bill**, reported to school board members on the recent awarding of the President’s Volunteer Service Award to the Walla Walla High School Latino Club. Club members have logged more than 1600 hours of volunteer service this school year.

Pioneer Tier II Intervention Program

Pioneer Middle School Principal **Dana Jones** reported to school board members on the school’s intensive instruction model. This year the focus has been on math. Next year they will move to reading. Jones said the program has led to improved student achievement.