

## District names Graduates of Distinction

**Dr. Richard K Knuth** – Class of 1969

Professor, University of Washington and long-time educator

Inspirational Staff: Dick Neher



**Mary Jane Towner Glaser** – Class of 1971

Free-lance graphic artist and community activist

Inspirational Staff: Mary Frances Towner



**Tim Donaldson** – Class of 1979

City Attorney, City of Walla Walla and community activist

Inspirational Staff: Mary Koch



### Selection Committee

- Doug Bayne
- Anne Golden
- Peggy Sanderson
- Mark Higgins
- Ned Shafer
- Art Griff
- Abe Roberts

### 2009 Graduates of Distinction

**R.F. "Dick" Monahan** - Class of 1958

**Daniel DeSiga** - Class of 1967

**Greg Ralston Pepin** - Class of 1968

**Dr. Philip Phillips** - Class of 1975

## School board votes to spend some of Edison excess bond funds

Last night the Walla Walla Public Schools Board of Directors voted to spend up to \$500,000 of the Edison Elementary excess bond funds to pay for a radon mitigation plan at Blue Ridge Elementary.

The school board voted to freeze spending on the remaining \$1.1 million until another public meeting can be scheduled in the near future to discuss the district's options.

Options include reinvesting the excess dollars in other district capital projects or buying down the bond balance. If the district returned the excess \$1.6 million bond money, the average savings to a taxpayer who owns a home valued at \$325,000 would be approximately \$2.17 per month for a seven-year period.

Superintendent Carter has recommended the district make energy efficiency and air quality improvements with some of the excess dollars. This effort could also land the district additional dollars through state grants.

Carter has also called for telecommunication improvements at four schools (Berney, Green Park, Pioneer and Garrison) and possibly other technology enhancements across the district. School board members also said they want another report on Edison to determine if it is in fact completed and functioning at an acceptable level to ensure excess Edison dollars would be available at the new school should they be needed to do additional work. The school board expects to announce the date and time of the public meeting soon.

## In other School Board meeting business...

### Board members:

- approved minutes of May 18, 2010 school board meeting, personnel report, out-of-state travel, 2010-11 dairy bid, and request to issue administrative contracts.
- received a report from Deputy Superintendent **Dr. Bill Jordan** on personnel changes for 2010-11.

## Personnel Report

### • Employment

(Certificated) **Andrew Blumel**, Social Studies, Walla Walla High School

**Elisabeth Entrena**, .5 FTE ESL, Edison

**Alberto Granados**, Fifth Grade, Edison

**Julie Maney**, Life Skills, Green Park

**Keith Michels**, Social Studies, Walla Walla High School

**Donna Morris**, Resource Room, Pioneer

(.6 FTE is continuing/.4 FTE is temporary)

**Elaina Renius**, Counselor, Walla Walla High School

(Classified) **Claircy Boggess**, Career Information Specialist, Walla Walla High School

**David Locken**, Plumber, Facilities and Operations

### • Resignations/Retirements

(Certificated) **Matt Hamlin**, Math, Walla Walla High School

**Andy Maheras**, Social Studies, Walla Walla High School, 7 years

**Nancy Kessler**, Occupational Therapist, Special Programs, 30.5 years

(Nancy will retire effective January 31, 2011)

(Classified) **Justin Hampton**, Para-Educator, Walla Walla High School, 1 year

**Sarah Spiess**, Para-Educator, Walla Walla High School, 1 year

### Quote of the Week

“Obstacles cannot crush me. Every obstacle yields to stern resolve. He who is fixed to a star does not change his mind.”

**Leonardo da Vinci**

### All Staff Breakfast

Friday, June 11

Breakfast - 7:15 a.m.

Program - 8 a.m.

Wa-Hi Commons

### Staff Transfer

**Ben Ugaldea** will transfer to Wa-Hi as the Library Media Specialist for the 2010-2011 school year.

## Changes making difference at Blue Ridge

Last night Blue Ridge Elementary Principal **Kim Doepker** reported to school board members on end-of-the-year student achievement gains recorded since the school year began in August.

She said better use of data, instructional practices, professional development and working as a team have led to the significant improvements.

Earlier this school year, Blue Ridge Elementary was placed the state's list of low-achieving schools based on federal performance criteria linked to state assessment scores over the past three years. The list of lowest-achieving schools is connected to the Washington State Board of Education Accountability Framework which is designed to turn around persistently low performing schools.

Schools on the list of low-achieving schools have two options. Blue Ridge opted for Option 1, which includes volunteering to participate in a third-party Academic Performance Review and then have the local school board use the results to develop a Required Action Plan in collaboration with staff and the community to improve achievement.

Blue Ridge teachers **Jeremy Hubbard** and **Tina Holbrook** also presented to the school board on elements to be put in place next year as part of the school's improvement plan.

Changes for next year include, a dual language program beginning in kindergarten only and advancing one grade per year through 5th grade. Students in grades 3-5 will participate in “platooning” for subject-based instruction. Students in these grades will no longer have one teacher who teaches all academic subjects. Teachers will now work as a team in a “platooning” model. Students will have different teachers for math, science, writing/social studies. Each of the teachers will also teach reading. Students will rotate to the different classrooms for their instruction.

Doepker says they are committed to meeting the required academic gains per the low-achieving school criteria.



*Kim Doepker*

### Revised school board policy to promote more parent involvement

Principal on Special Assignment **Connie Taylor-Randall** reported to school board members on progress witnessed this year with the district's Title I program which provides for additional resources in America's most impoverished schools.

Taylor-Randall, who oversees the district's Federal Title I program, mentors new teachers and supports professional development efforts, recommended the district include the six national standards for parent involvement in School Board Policy 2108. Per Title I requirements, the district must have a board policy detailing the federal requirements for the Title I program -- including parent involvement. Taylor-Randall says putting a greater emphasis on parent involvement in the policy will lead to improved academic achievement and support. The school board will consider the policy change recommendations in future meetings.

### Homelink continues to serve needs

Berney Elementary Principal **Donna Painter** provided school board members an annual report of the Homelink program last night. Homelink serves 157 students and continues to meet the needs of home-school families.