



Miller's message to teachers: Thank You

Superintendent Mick Miller reminds teachers of the important role they have in our society and expressed his personal thank you for the work they do.

Miller's presentation was part of a college course nearly 40 area educators are taking this summer. Miller stressed the importance of building positive relationships with students and reaching out to learn their passions and dreams.

Miller said you never know when a connection will have lasting effects.

District to apply for state energy efficiency grants

Walla Walla Public Schools is working with Quantum Engineering and Development, Inc. to apply for more than \$1 million in state energy efficiency grants.

The district's approach will be a three phase process over the next three months which could net nearly a 1.5 (state) to 1 (district) match.

Using this model, the district would receive \$0.91 in state grants and incentives for every \$1 of district funds invested. The proposed plan calls for \$2.5 million in total project costs of which approximately \$1 million would be funded through state grants.

Schools to see improvements include: Blue Ridge, Prospect Point, Pioneer, Berney, Garrison, Green Park, District Office, and Walla Walla High School. Grant applications will begin in August and continue through October.

Bond refinancing to save taxpayers \$200,000

Walla Walla taxpayers stand to save \$200,000 thanks to the district refinancing \$3,000,000 in existing school bonds to a lower interest rate.

The district is working with bond experts to watch the market for the best time to lock in a new interest rate.

The district will not refinance unless it can guarantee a \$200,000 savings above and beyond all associated fees. The district hopes to close the sale of the bonds by September.

In other School Board meeting business...

Board members:

- approved minutes of June 25, 2010 special school board meeting, personnel report, out-of-state travel, July bills and payroll, June financial report, surplus equipment and materials, 2010-11 out-of-state tuition, minutes of June 15, 2010 board meeting, revision to Board Policy 2410 - High School Graduation Requirements, WWVEA Extracurricular contract.

Personnel Report

• Employment

(Administrative) Pete Peterson, Principal, Walla Walla High School

(Certificated) **Esther Angotti**, Life Skills, Green Park
Geogiann Delgadillo, Title I Specialist (.6 FTE), Green Park
Carrie LaRoy, Library Media Specialist (.5 FTE), Edison

(Classified) **Sean Day**, Para-Educator, Walla Walla High School
Lynette Echevarria, Assistant Secretary, Garrison
Anita Suarez, Assistant Secretary, Garrison
Yasmin Torres, Para-Educator (temporary), Blue Ridge
Amanda Zagal, Para-Educator (temporary), Blue Ridge

Quote of the Week

"Time is a great teacher, but unfortunately it kills all its pupils."

(Louis) Hector Berlioz

New Parent Involvement policy approved

Policy revision stresses the importance of parents in schools

Principal on Special Assignment **Connie Taylor-Randall** helped the district update and revise its Parent Involvement policy this school year to include information supporting more parent involvement in Walla Walla schools.



Connie Taylor-Randall

Taylor-Randall, who oversees the district's federal Title I program, mentors new teachers and supports professional development efforts, advised the district to include the six national standards (http://www.pta.org/national_standards.asp) for parent involvement in School Board Policy 4130 (2108) - District Parent/Family Involvement.

Taylor-Randall says putting a greater emphasis on parent involvement in the policy will lead to improved academic achievement and support.

The Title I program provides for additional resources in America's most impoverished schools. Per Title I requirements, the district must have a board policy detailing the federal requirements for the Title I program — including parent involvement.

The school board approved the policy revisions during the July 20, 2010 school board meeting. See the District Parent/Family Involvement - Policy No. 4130 in its entirety on the district web site: www.wwps.org.

Back to School All Staff Meeting

Monday, August 23

7 a.m. (Refreshments)

8 a.m. (Program begins)

Walla Walla High School gym

District develops Facebook page

Check the district out on Facebook! Walla Walla Public Schools has created this page as another vehicle for two-way communications.

Look for the link on the district website later this week. Send story ideas to Communications Director Mark Higgins at mhiggins@wwps.org.

Blue Ridge now officially district property

The district recently received notice from the United States Department of Education it successfully completed the 30 year period of restrictions set forth in a June 1980 Quitclaim Deed regarding the acquisition of land for Blue Ridge. The district will no longer need to do further report to the federal government as it has for the past 30 years.

Local 4-H Club donates book bags to Head Start Preschool program

The Barnyard Champs 4-H Club in Walla Walla continues to help promote literacy in the valley by donating books to the Head Start/ECEAP Preschool program.

Over the past 7 years the group has sewn over 1700 book bags for the Head Start/ECEAP program at Blue Ridge School.

In June, the 4-H group personally delivered 242 bags to the children at Head Start and were greeted by many smiling faces.

The 13 members of the club who helped sew bags this year during group sewing sessions were Anthony Neal, Annie Ladderud, Chris Neal, Liz Wood, Kyle Jameson, Mary Neal, Sarah Jameson, Seth and Garred Guttromsen, Ashley Bennett, Evan Jameson, John Neal, and Jerry Ladderud.