

## District budget maintains healthy reserve

### *Staff praised for commitment to trimming costs*

As some school districts in the state teeter on the verge of insolvency by witnessing their cash reserves fade away, Walla Walla Public Schools is on solid financial footing this school year following last night's adoption of the 2010-2011 Annual Budget.

This year's \$62,116,176 general fund maintains approximately an 8% unrestricted reserve. Chief Financial Officer **Pat Johnston** says a larger cash reserve is needed in these uncertain economic times.

"It has been a cooperative effort from everyone to be in this positive financial position," Johnston said.

"There are many district's in the state struggling to make payroll and pay all of the bills. Thanks to our district's team approach to developing the budget we have put ourselves in a position to survive during this recession."

District administrators, with the input and assistance of staff, developed a nearly \$1 million Budget Savings Plan for 2010-11. Despite the funding reductions, class size levels will remain the same this year, there will be limited impact on student programs, and there were no layoffs for permanent staff. Three administrative positions were cut representing a 7.5% reduction to administration. School supplies budgets were reduced by 5%, staff professional development funds were reduced \$60,000 and custodian overtime was trimmed.

School board members have studied the budget for the last few months during special budget work sessions and meetings prior to adopting the budget last night. Details of the budget will be posted on the district website soon.

### **2010-2011 Budget Basics**

- General Fund: \$62,116,176
- Budget Enrollment Projections: 5,900 FTE (up 100 students from last year)
- District Fiscal Year: September 1 to August 31



*Pat Johnston*

## Back-to-School All Staff Meeting

Monday, August 23  
Wa-Hi Main Gym

7:15 a.m. - Treats  
8 a.m. - Program  
9 a.m. - Program ends

*See you Monday!*



Walla Walla Public Schools has started a **Facebook** page to enhance district communications. Click on the icon on the district website homepage ([www.wwps.org](http://www.wwps.org)) to visit the WWPS Facebook page.

Send district photos, information and items of interest to Communications Director Mark Higgins for posting on the district Facebook page.

E-mail information to:  
[mhiggins@wwps.org](mailto:mhiggins@wwps.org)

## In other School Board meeting business...

### **Board members:**

- approved minutes of July 20, 2010 board meeting, personnel report, August bills and payroll, July financial report, minutes of August 9, 2010 special school board meeting/work session, 2010-11 student handbooks, and issuance of 2010-11 contracts: Classified Administrators; Off-schedule staff.
- approved resolution 22-2010 - Budget for 2010-2011.
- approved Policy 2024 - District Online Learning -- 2nd reading and adoption.
- revised the school board meeting calendar for October to December to change the meeting start times from 7:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m.

## Personnel Report

### • Employment

(Certificated) **Sarah Rathbun**, 1st Grade Dual, Edison  
**Amanda Bess**, Bilingual First Grade, Green Park

(Classified) **Joaquin Avalos**, Para-Educator, Pioneer Middle School  
**Karen Bannerman**, Custodian, Walla Walla High School  
**Wendy Jones**, Health Clinician, Pioneer Middle School  
**Karene Gonzalez**, Assistant Secretary (temp.), Special Programs  
**Vickie Rogers**, Health Clinician, Walla Walla High School  
**Ruthell Martinez**, Intervention Specialist (temp.), Sharpstein

### • Resignation/Retirement

(Classified) **Floyd E. Bloom**, Bus Driver, Transportation, 12 years  
**Annette Holden**, Para-Educator, Prospect Point, 3 years  
**David Schaub**, Bus Driver, Transportation, 6 years

### • Leave of Absence

(Classified) **Pamela Elia**, Food Services Assistant, Sharpstein, 5 years

### Quote of the Week

"The beautiful thing about learning is that no one can take it away from you."

B.B. King

### Staff Transfers

- **Luz Phillips** will transfer from Edison to Sharpstein to teach 4th grade dual language.
- **Claudia Saldivar** will transfer from Green Park to Sharpstein to teach 2nd grade dual language.
- **Denise Ongers** will transfer from Lincoln Alternative High School as a Para-Educator to Blue Ridge Preschool Programs to serve as Assistant Secretary for the preschool programs. Denise will continue to work a part-time as a para-educator at Lincoln after her day at Blue Ridge.

## Walla Walla County Health Department to offer immunizations to school-aged children

The Walla Walla County Health Department is offering immunizations for school-aged children. All students enrolled in public schools must have up-to-date immunizations. Visit the Walla Walla Public Schools Health Services Department website page for school immunization information: <http://www.wwps.org/support/healthservices/default.htm>

### Immunization Clinic Location

Walla Walla County Health Department - 314 West Main Street (use the Rose Street entrance)

### Immunization Dates

- Wednesday, August 18 (Time: 8-11 a.m. and 1-6 p.m.)
- Friday, August 20 (Time: 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.)

### Items to bring

- Child's immunization record
- Form of payment: medicaid, cash, check, credit card

### Additional information

Susann Bassham, MPH  
Health Educator  
Walla Walla County Health Department  
314 West Main Street  
PO Box 1753  
Walla Walla, WA 99362  
(509)524-2664

### Book Calendar and Personnel Directories

This year the district is not producing a printed Book Calendar and Personnel Directory as part of an effort to trim costs, encourage the utilization of the district's electronic tools and protect the environment.

The elimination of the Book Calendar and Personnel Directory will save the district approximately \$10,000 annually. Calendar information and district staff directory information is available online ([www.wwps.org](http://www.wwps.org)).

The Personnel Department has also fielded concerns over the years for printing staff member's home telephone numbers and addresses. This move also addresses this concern as this information is not available online.

### School board meetings to start at 6:30 p.m.

School board meetings will start at 6:30 p.m. beginning in October. Superintendent **Mick Miller** recommended starting the meetings one hour earlier to better meet the needs of staff, parents and students.

He said this change will allow parents to be home earlier to get their children ready for bed or to complete their studies.

School board members last night said they welcome the change.

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First day of School  
Tuesday, August 24