

Superintendent Miller to discuss facilities needs

Last night Superintendent **Mick Miller** detailed his “Educate, Listen and Plan” facilities improvement effort he intends to carry out over the next two months.

Per this plan, Miller will be educating staff, students and community members on past district facilities studies. He will be listening to their thoughts and ideas on these issues and will then be working in collaboration to develop facility improvement plans based on this process.

With the completion of a new Edison Elementary, Support Services Facility and Transportation Cooperative, recent studies have placed Walla Walla High School and Lincoln Alternative High School at the top of the district’s facilities improvement priorities.

Miller plans to visit each school in January and again in February to talk about district facility needs. He also plans to conduct a community meeting in January, meet with several focus groups, talk with student groups and conduct a survey. He also intends to meet with the Walla Walla Union Bulletin Editorial board next month to discuss the “Educate, Listen and Plan” process.

Miller says it is vital to get the right plan in place before taking anything to the voters. Miller says good plans begin with a lot of listening.



Experienced architect sought

School board members and Superintendent **Mick Miller** screened architect proposals yesterday afternoon during the special public school board work session.

The district seeks to hire an architectural firm with experience working on school projects. The architectural firm will help the district advance its facilities planning process.

Six firms were reviewed yesterday before being narrowed down to three. Architectural firms BLRB/USKH (Tacoma/Walla Walla), Architects West (Coeur d’ Alene) and NAC Architecture (Spokane) will be formally interviewed to determine the best fit for Walla Walla Public Schools.

“These interviews will be extensive,” Miller said. “I’ve been part of two major renovation projects so it’s exciting to be talking about doing a third at some point.”

Interviews will take place in January. The school board hopes to make a final decision during its January 18 meeting.

School board officers elected

Tuesday evening **Dr. Jim Lehmann** was elected president of the school board and **Max Carrera** vice president. They will hold these positions for one year.

Lehmann, a long-time College Place Public Schools teacher, is now an online instructor for the University of Wisconsin-Stout. Carrera works for the Department of Corrections.



Dr. Jim Lehmann Max Carrera

Winter Break Schedule

- December 20 to January 2
- Classes resume Monday, January 3
- Have a safe and happy holiday break

In other School Board meeting business...

Board members:

- approved minutes of November 16 and December 7, 2010 board meetings, personnel, out-of-state travel, December accounts payable and payroll, October financial report, and rescind business office stamp imprest account.
- approved board policy 6215 (Voucher Cert & App.), Board Policy 6300 (Recognition), Resolution 27-2010 (Energy Operational Cost Saving Improvement Grant).
- received a report from Facilities and Operations Director Dan Johnson on steps the district is taking to ensure the maintenance plan meets all state requirements.

Personnel Report

Employment

(Classified)

Michelle Gwinn, Para-Educator (temp), Blue Ridge

Sandy Leos, Head Start/ECEAP Para-Educator, Green Park

Monique Morris, Para-Educator, Sharpstein

Sonia Soto, Para-Educator (temp.), Sharpstein

Mickey Weber, Para-Educator, Sharpstein

Resignations/Retirements

(Certificated)

Kit Chryst, Title One, Edison, 32 years

(effective at the end of the 2010-2011 school year)

(Classified)

Jennifer Avina, Para-Educator, Blue Ridge, 1.5 years

Michele Larson, Certified Occupational Therapy Assistant, 1.5 years

Leave of Absence

William Heiser, Trades Assistant, Facilities and Operations, 20 years

Out-of-State Travel

Laure Quaresma to attend New Teacher Center 2011 in San Jose, CA (Funding: Personnel and recruiting travel)

Quote of the Week

"Excellence in education is when we do everything that we can to make sure they become everything that they can."

Carol Tomlinson

Staff Transfer

Mireya Vargas transferred to Walla Walla High School from her position as Assistant Secretary at Sharpstein. She is the new Bilingual Intervention Specialist at Walla Walla High School.

Alumni video series praises district educators

Last night district Communications Director **Mark Higgins** reported on a video project the district is working on to highlight graduates. The "Alumni Connections" series provides a venue for graduates to reflect on how teachers and staff have had a positive impact on their lives.

The short, three to four minute features will be posted on the district's web site, aired on Charter Cable Channel 3, used for teacher recruitment, community presentations and new family communications packets. Links will also be sent out to staff and community members once the video features are posted on the district web site.

2010-11 "Alumni Connections" featured graduates

- Craig Sievertsen (final production December 2010)
- Veronica Esparza (final production January 2011)
- Lindsey Mahan (final production January 2011)
- Abby Van Donge (final production January 2011)
- Megan Clubb (final production February 2011)
- Gary Hanson (final production March 2011)

District strategic plan focuses on achievement

Last night Superintendent **Mick Miller** provided school board members a strategic plan update, specifically related to the math and reading adequate yearly progress action plan.

Superintendent Miller said including the adequate yearly progress action plan as part of the district's strategic plan has allowed the district to keep the plan a living document. He said strategies are modified annually based on district needs. He said student achievement remains the primary goal of the plan.

School Board Meetings

January - June 2011

(approved 12/14/10)

Meeting times noted below, unless changed by the school board. Additional meetings may be scheduled as necessary.

Tuesday, January 18 6:30 p.m.

Tuesday, February 1 6:30 p.m.

Tuesday, February 15 6:30 p.m.

Tuesday, March 1 6:30 p.m.

Tuesday, March 15 6:30 p.m.

Tuesday, April 19 6:30 p.m.

Tuesday, May 3 6:30 p.m.

Tuesday, May 17 6:30 p.m.

Tuesday, June 7 6:30 p.m.

Tuesday, June 21 4:00 p.m.

Tuesday, July 19 4:00 p.m.

Visit the district web site for more information on the Schools Board.

Web Site: www.wwps.org