

Survey results support high school needs

Nearly 80 percent say high schools are top priority

Superintendent **Mick Miller** met on nearly 50 occasions in January and February with staff, community leaders, focus groups and service clubs in support of the *Educate, Listen and Plan* initiative.

More than 300 people completed surveys to provide the school district input on the future facilities improvement efforts. The survey questions were based on facilities improvement recommendations put forth by the district's Community Facilities Task Report in June 2010. This report is available on the Walla Walla Public Schools website: http://www.wwps.org/community/community_facilities_taskforce.htm#6.

Surveys were available online via the district's website and on paper following presentations from Superintendent Mick Miller. Miller will discuss the results on a video that will be posted on the district website later this week. He also plans to meet with staff to have more conversations on this issue.

Survey Results

(336 total surveys -74 online and 263 focus group & staff)

- 77 percent agree with the Community Facilities Task Force priorities (336 Surveys)
- 89 percent believe Walla Walla and Lincoln High Schools need improvements (336 Surveys)
- 43 percent believe Lincoln High School should be replaced with a new building at its current location (336 Surveys) - (*Note: 27.5% disagree and 29.5% undecided)
- 79.5 percent believe the district should reinvest state matching dollars in district projects (336 Surveys)
- 62 percent believe high school needs should be addressed in 2011 (336 Surveys) - (*Note: 17% believe needs should be addressed in 2012 and 21% believe the needs should be addressed in 3 to 5 years)



Mick Miller
Superintendent

Architects organize planning group

Architects from BLRB/USKH, under the direction and leadership of Superintendent **Mick Miller** and Walla Walla High School Principal **Pete Peterson**, have organized a master planning committee to continue design efforts for a future Walla Walla High School facilities improvement project.

This group has met twice and will continue to meet this month to further refine options. Superintendent Miller plans to take a recommendation to the school board later this month to determine whether the district moves ahead with a bond proposal this spring to improve Wa-Hi or waits until a later date.

Master Planning Committee

Alex Demambro, USKH
Craig Sievertsen, Community member
Dan Johnson, Facilities Support Director
Dennis Debroeck, Teacher
Ed Nakonieczny, Electrician
Gary Peasley, Teacher
Greg McCracken, USKH
John Butenhoff, Teacher
Ruth Ladderud, Community member
Lee Fenton, BLRB
Melito Ramirez, Intervention Specialist
Mick Miller, Superintendent
Mark Higgins, Communications Director
Mindy Meyer, Assistant Principal
Pat Johnston, Chief Financial Officer
Peggy Payne, Teacher
Pete Peterson, Principal
Ron Higgins, Technology Director
Tom Bates, BLRB
Jerry Zahl, Community member
Kayla Leinweber, Student

In other School Board meeting business...

Board members:

- approved minutes of February 15, 2011 board meeting, personnel, out-of-state travel, March accounts payable/first half and rescind stockroom imprest account.

Personnel Report

Employment

(Classified) **Patrick Byrnes**, Lead Mechanic, Transportation/Facilities Operations
Jessica Floyd, Family Service and Mental Health Coordinator, Blue Ridge
(Coaching) **Eric Hisaw**, Head Football Coach, Walla Walla High School

Resignation/Retirement

(Certificated) **Pamela Lee**, ESL Teacher, Sharpstein/Pioneer, 23 years
(*Pamela will continue working until the end of the 2010-2011 school year.*)
Julianne Anderson, Title I, Berney Elementary, 6 years
(*Julianne has been on leave and will resign at the end of the school year.*)
Teresa Mobley, Social Studies, Garrison Middle School, 25 years
(*Teresa will resign at the end of the 2010-2011 school year.*)
James Smith, Physical Education teacher, Walla Walla High School, 27 years
(*James will resign at the end of the 2010-2011 school year.*)
(Classified) **Heidi Lee Braman**, Intervention Specialist, Berney, 3 months

Out-of-State Travel

Linda Boggs, Brett Cox, Diana Erickson, Louise Johnson (Staff Achievement Grant/Personal), **Laure Quaresma, Marie Spalding, Sara Van Donge**, and **Gina Yonts** to attend CABA (California Association of Bilingual Education) in Long Beach, CA (Funding: Title II)

Quote of the Week

“Education is an ornament in prosperity and a refuge in adversity.”

Aristotle

Classified Employee Week

March 14-18

School Board President **Dr. Jim Lehmann** and Superintendent **Mick Miller** praised classified employees during last night’s school board meeting. They said these dedicated employees are critical to the success of the district. Look for special treats during Classified Employees Week.

ACT test offers timely feedback and data

Wa-Hi first in state to offer widespread ACT testing

Walla Walla High School Assistant Principal **Mira Gobel** reported to school board members on the ACT college and career readiness testing the school conducted earlier this school year.

In November, all 9, 10 and 11 grade students participated in testing over a two day period. Gobel says they hope to improve the testing process next year by a single day in October 2011 for the testing.

The ACT assessment measures high school students’ general educational development and their capability to complete college-level work with the multiple choice tests covering four skill areas: English, mathematics, reading, and science. It also includes a career inventory component to provide staff and students data on possibly career matches. Test results are returned to the school in two weeks in an easy to read format. Gobel says the data is timely and helpful for goal setting and educational planning.

Children’s Forum: Brain research and child development

The Sixth Children’s Forum - Wednesday, March 9 (ALL STAFF)
- “Resilience- Building Blocks to Healthy Individuals” Dr. John Medina
- Cordiner Auditorium, Whitman College Campus

Agenda (Wednesday, March 9)

- 8:00 a.m. - Doors open
- 8:15 to 8:30 a.m. - Introduction & welcome
- 8:30 to 10 a.m. - Dr. Medina, part one
- 10 to 10:15 a.m. - Stand up and stretch break
- 10:15- 11 a.m. - Dr. Medina, part two
- 11 to 11:15 a.m. - Questions and Answers from the floor
- 11:15 to 12:00 p.m. - Lincoln HS Principal Jim Sporleder
- Noon: Adjourn

For more information contact: Dr. Linda Boggs, Assistant Superintendent, WWPS: lboggs@wwps.org – 509.526.6733

Hisaw to lead Blue Devil football program

Eric Hisaw is the new head football coach at Walla Walla High School. Hisaw, who has taught physical education at Walla Walla High School since 1997, has previous high school football coaching experience. He was selected by a committee of eight, led by Principal **Pete Peterson** and Assistant Superintendent **Laure Quaresma**. A four student advisory committee also interviewed the candidates and provided input to the hiring team.

Hisaw was an assistant football coach for the Blue Devils from 1997 to 2006. He will continue serving as the head track and field coach at Walla Walla High School.

Hisaw was a standout high school quarterback and track and field athlete at Cheney High School. He received a full athletic scholarship to the University of Idaho where he was a two-year starting quarterback for the Vandals in 1994 and 1995.

Hisaw was the 1995 Big Sky All-League quarterback. Hisaw was also on the University of Idaho track and field team as a hurdler and was the 1996 Big Sky 55 Meter Hurdle Champion.

Hisaw earned his Bachelor of Science in Education degree with a minor in Spanish from the University of Idaho. Hisaw was on the University of Idaho’s Dean’s List and named to the Big Sky All-Academic Team in football and track. He received a Masters Degree with an emphasis in Curriculum and Instruction from Eastern Washington University.

Hisaw, an Eagle Boy Scout, is a collegiate basketball official, strength coach at Whitman College and director of the Blue Devil Summer Athletic program.