

## School board members sworn into office



Walla Walla County Superior Court Judge **John Lohrmann** swears in school board members **Jim Lehmann**, **Anne Golden** and **Max Carrera** to another four term on the school board. Carrera defeated contender **Veronica Sandau** for Position 4 on the school board. Golden and Lehmann won in uncontested races. Last night school board members also unanimously elected Carrera president of the school board and Golden as the vice president. Thanks to Jim Lehmann for his service as president the past year.

## School board approves calendars

School board members approved 2012-13 and 2013-14 school calendars last night concluding a three month adoption process led by Superintendent **Mick Miller**.

Miller chaired a broad-based committee of 22 people representing staff, students, parents and community. The group reviewed past calendars and potential new calendars and set priorities. Miller also worked closely with the district's bargaining associations throughout the process. Parent conference dates and times are yet to be determined.

### Both calendars feature:

- First day of school after Labor Day
- Spring Break first full week of April
- Thanksgiving Holiday (2.5 days off)
- Winter Break (10 business days off)
- Federal Holidays off (except Columbus Day)
- Two professional days annually (Fall/Spring)

Calendars posted online at [www.wwps.org](http://www.wwps.org)



## Remember to Vote!

Replacement Levy  
Tuesday, February 14  
(Ballots mail out Friday, Jan. 27)

Levy facts online: [www.wwps.org](http://www.wwps.org)

## Winter Break Schedule

- December 19 to 30
- Classes resume Monday, January 2

### District Office Winter Break Hours

- 8 a.m. to 12 noon & 1 to 4 p.m.
- Office closed: Dec. 22-23 & Dec. 29-30

## In other School Board meeting business...

### **Board members:**

- approved minutes of November 15, 2011 board meeting, November 29, 2011 accounts payable and December 13 Accounts Payable & November Payroll, 2010-2011 financial report, Co-Curricular contracts, Extra-curricular contracts, Head Start/ECEAP Policy Council Member Selection Process, Head Start/ECEAP Revision to PG01, Program Governance Policy, Head Start/ECEAP Revision to Fiscal Year 2011, and Head Start/ECEAP Eligibility, Recruitment, Selection (ERSEA), November Financial Report.
- approved Resolution No. 15-2011/Cafeteria Plan.
- approved school year calendars: 2012-13 & 2013-14.

Our Core Values  
are more than mere words;

they're our business!

Quality | Integrity | Accountability | Respect

Courtesy | Innovation | Diversity

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## Personnel Report

### Employment

(Certificated) **NONE TO REPORT**

(Classified) **NONE TO REPORT**

### Resignation/Retirement

(Certificated) **Diana Erickson**, Bilingual Coordinator, District, 8 years

- Effective June 30, 2012

### Leave of Absence

(Certificated) **Gayle See**, Physical Education, Walla Walla High School, 22 years

- Beginning January 20, 2012 for the remainder of the 2011-12 school year

(Classified) **William Heiser**, Trades Assistant, Facilities & Operations, 21 years

- Extension of approved leave through March 31, 2012

**Mario Uribe Saldana**, Para-Educator, Blue Ridge Elementary, 1 year

- Beginning January 2, 2012 to May 11, 2012

### Out-of-State Travel - NONE TO REPORT

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## *Excellence in Every Classroom*

### Quote of the Week

“When students learn about the civil rights movement they learn what it is like to be American. It shows students it is possible to struggle against great injustices and emerge victorious.”

**Kate Shuster**

## **Voter Registration Forms**

*Available at the district office  
and all WWPS schools*

### **Finance Officer Johnston reports enrollment decline**

Chief Finance Officer **Pat Johnston** provided the school board an update on the district's 2011-2012 General Fund budget. Johnston reported the district expects to receive fewer state dollars this year than originally budgeted following a decline in enrollment this fall. Johnston said the district is witnessing enrollment declines in both general education and special education programs. Johnston said based on past trends the district estimates it will miss budget targets for enrollment by 63 students this year.

“Usually we see an increase in enrollment each October and this year we actually dropped students,” Johnston reported. “We are estimating a \$623,000 revenue reduction this school year as a result of our current enrollment figures.”

Johnston reported despite serving fewer students and receiving less state funding through apportionment, the district is projected to end the year with an 8.8 undesignated fund balance. She said uncertain economic times and state budget woes remain a concern.

Johnston reported the district will begin budget planning following winter break for the 2012-2013 budget. Johnston said the district will continue to closely monitor enrollment reports to determine if adjustments are necessary for next school year. She reported the district's budgeting process will remain an open and collaborative process.

### **Lincoln High School plans public art show Thursday**

Lincoln High School is planning a free, public art show Thursday, Dec. 15 from 5 to 7 p.m. Students enrolled in the culinary and Spanish classes are planning to make and serve hors d'oeuvres. The Lincoln High School music program is organizing student performances.

“We will be displaying student work from the pottery, art and jewelry classes,” said Lincoln High School Art Teacher Jayne Eacker. “We encourage community members to join us for a wonderful evening showcasing the talents of Lincoln High School students.”

### **AVID program shines at Pioneer**

Pioneer Principal **Mira Gobel**, Assistant Principal **Jack Mehn** and 7th grade AVID (Advancement Via Individual Determination) elective teacher **Cheryl Herr** reported to school board members how this program is changing the culture at Pioneer. Students reported they are learning how to improve their study skills, set goals and stay focused on their success. Herr said teaching this class has re-energized her career and is an honor to work with these students. [Learn more about AVID online at:](#)

- [www.wwps.org](http://www.wwps.org)
- [www.avid.org](http://www.avid.org)

### **Garrison choir entertains board**

Garrison Middle School Music Teacher **Nichole Riggs** and the Garrison Middle School Honor Choir performed holiday songs for the school board last night. Riggs reported the students in the choir work hard and have fun performing.

### **School Performance Reports online**

New School Performance Reports for the 2011-2012 school year have been completed and are now available both online ([www.wwps.org](http://www.wwps.org)) and in print form in limited quantities at all school buildings. Reports include information on educational programs and assessment results.