

## School Board Recognition Month

*January marks a time to say Thank You!*



School board members were showered with tokens of appreciation and words of praise last night as part of School Board Recognition Month festivities.

School board members viewed videos produced by Blue Ridge Elementary and Pioneer Middle School staff and students as a thank you for their service. Posters, cards, and art work filled the school district board room.

Superintendent **Mick Miller** thanked the school board for their tireless efforts to support educational opportunities in Walla Walla. He said their leadership sets a tone for excellence throughout the entire school district.

*(Photo L to R):* **Dr. Jim Lehmann, Mick Miller, Max Carrera, Anne Golden** and **Cindy Meyer**. Not present: **Dan Hess**.

## Chamber endorses levy

The Walla Walla Valley Chamber of Commerce Chief Executive Officer **David Woolson** reported to school board members last night the chamber board has voted to endorse the district's Educational Programs and Operations Replacement Levy which will appear on local ballots February 14, 2012.



*David Woolson*

"The business community recognizes that long-term economic growth is simply not possible without a strong local education system," Woolson said. "If you want to live in a strong and prosperous community with a good business climate, you have to be willing to continue to invest in that community, and one area that consistently provides a strong return on investment is education."

Rates for the replacement levy are similar to those currently being collected. Levy funding makes up approximately 20% of the district's General Fund budget.

## Remember to Vote!

Replacement Levy

Tuesday, February 14

*(Ballots mail out Friday, Jan. 27)*

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

## In other School Board meeting business...

### **Board members:**

- approved minutes of: December 13, 2011 board meeting, January 3, 2012 Work Session/Executive Session, January 10, 2012 Work Session, January 13, 2012 Special Board meeting, Personnel Report, Out-of-State Travel, January 3 Accounts Payable, January 17 Accounts Payable & December Payroll, December financial report and revision to Policy 2410 - High School Graduation Requirements.

## Personnel Report

### Employment

(Certificated) **NONE TO REPORT**

(Classified) **NONE TO REPORT**

### Resignation/Retirement

(Certificated) **Elissa Stites**, Fifth Grade, Green Park, 30 years

- Effective at the end of the 2011-12 school year

(Classified) **Stephanie Eastman**, Attendance Secretary, Wa-Hi, 11 years

- Effective immediately

**Molly McKinney**, Para-Educator, Blue Ridge/ECEAP, 1 year

- Effective at the end of the 2011-12 school year

### Leave of Absence

(Classified) **Alexander Andary**, Para-Educator, Edison, 4 months

- Beginning January 2, 2012 for the remainder of the 2011-12 school year

**Jessica Floyd**, Family Services & Mental Health Coordinator, Blue Ridge Elementary, 1 year

- April 2012 through March 2013

### Out-of-State Travel

**Linda Boggs**, **Mira Gobel**, **Mindy Meyer**, **Pete Peterson** and **Gina Yonts** to attend National Council for Community Partnerships in New York, NY (Funding: GearUp)

**Kirk Jameson** to attend Interop Conference in Las Vegas, NV (Funding: Technology)

**Jason Parsons** to attend National Baseball Coaches' Convention in Anaheim, CA (Funding: Professional Growth)

*Excellence in  
Every Classroom*

Quote of the Week

"Tell me and I'll forget. Show me, and I may not remember. Involve me, and I'll understand."

**Native American Saying**

### School board praises Blue Ridge principal

Walla Walla Elementary school principals in the Lake Wallula Region recently selected Blue Ridge Elementary Principal **Kim Doepker** as one of 18 regional Distinguished Principals for the 2011-12 school year.

Doepker has led the development of a Dual Language (Spanish/English) Program at Blue Ridge. This program is in its second year of implementation with a goal to eventually offer it in all grade levels. In December the district received notice Blue Ridge Elementary earned its way off the lowest achieving schools list after being on the list in 2010. Doepker and the Blue Ridge staff initiated a school improvement plan designed to better align curriculum, enhance instructional practices, coordinate focused professional development and promote high levels of family and community involvement. Doepker thanked her staff for their support and professionalism in helping the school make these impressive academic gains.

### Gear Up promotes higher education

Gear Up staff **Lauren Hemenway** and **Margaret Thomas** reported to school board members last night on their efforts to help students move on to higher education after high school. Students **JC Lees** and **Bridgett Hernandez** said the program is helping them stay focused on life after high school.

GEAR UP is an acronym for Gaining Early Awareness and Readiness for Undergraduate Programs with the goal of significantly increasing the number of students who are prepared to enter and succeed in postsecondary education.

### School Board Committee Assignments

#### Max Carrera:

- Safe Schools
- Career/Technical Education
- Classified Negotiations
- Head Start Policy Council

#### Dan Hess

- Community Facilities Task Force
- Extra-Curricular Supervisors Negotiations
- Administrative Negotiations
- School-Based Health Clinic

#### Anne Golden

- Curriculum Advisory/Instructional Materials
- Certificated Negotiations
- Legislative Representative
- District Calendar (alternate)
- WWVEA Liaison

#### Dr. Jim Lehmann

- WIAA Liaison
- Certificated Negotiations
- Technology/Telecommunications
- District Calendar
- WWVEA Liaison

#### Cindy Meyer

- Explorer Advisory Committee
- Parent Advisory
- Classified Negotiations
- Citizens for Schools Liaison