

## High School Skills Center a reality

### *Architectural designs nearly completed*

Progress continues on the development of a high school skills center in Walla Walla, according to an update to the school board during last night's public work session. Superintendent **Mick Miller** reported approximately \$11 million has been earmarked in the state's capital projects fund this legislative session. He said the district could receive funding this summer, break ground on the project in the fall and open the new skills center in 2013.

Architectural designs are nearly completed for the 36,000 square feet facility located at Walla Walla Community College off of Isaacs Ave. The skills center will initially offer construction trades, welding, renewable resources and health programs. The building will have two spaces for future growth which may also be used for other district educational needs. The Walla Walla skills center will be a branch campus of the Kennewick School District's Tri-Tech Skills Center.

**Kirk Jameson** and **Sergio Hernandez** are taking the lead on organizing the project and coordinating programs. The skills center will serve regional high schools, including Dayton, Waitsburg, Touchet, Prescott and possibly local private schools. An agreement could also be reached with the Milton Freewater School District to serve Oregon students.

Students from Walla Walla High School and Lincoln High School are expected to take 80 percent of the slots. Miller anticipates the skills center will serve 60 Full-Time Equivalent students when it opens and grow to 160 FTE in future years. Students will attend for a three period block in either the morning or afternoon. Career and Technical Education courses at Walla Walla High School will still be offered.

## District studies preschool options

Bulging elementary enrollment figures the past few years are pushing the district to capacity at all Walla Walla grade schools.

The district is studying an option to offer relief through the construction of a new preschool facility at the northeast corner of the Blue Ridge Elementary grounds. This would free up space for Blue Ridge to offer another section of classes for K-5 students. Facilities Support Director **Dan Johnson** provided a progress report of preliminary designs and costs during last night's school board public work session.

The district is considering a 17,000 square feet modular structure which would include 12 classrooms, a multipurpose room and office space for staff. The cost for the project is estimated at just under \$3 million.

The district has funding options, but no decisions have been made at this time. The district could opt for non-voted debt by borrowing the money and paying it back over time. The district could also propose a capital levy or bond to Walla Walla voters to fund the project. School board members also asked the district to research options for paying for part of the project with district reserves. If funding is secured, Johnson estimated construction would take at least six months.

**No School Friday, March 9**  
Parent/Teacher Conferences

## In other School Board meeting business...

### **Board members:**

- approved minutes from the February 6 and 21 school board meetings and February 29 special school board meeting and public work session, personnel report, and March 6, 2012 accounts payable.
- approved Board Policy 3412/Automated Defibrillators.
- received for first reading: Policy 6895/Pesticides Notification, Postings and Record Keeping - per state requirements.

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

*Excellence in  
Every Classroom*

**Employment** - NONE TO REPORT

### **Resignation/Retirement**

(Certificated)

**Daisy Amirzadeh**, Kindergarten, Blue Ridge, 2 years

*(resignation effective at the end of the 2011-2012 school year)*

**Kyle Hurst**, Science, Pioneer, 7 years

*(resignation effective at the end of the 2011-2012 school year)*

**Kristin Lee**, Second Grade, Sharpstein Elementary, 22 years

*(retirement is effective at the end of the 2011-2012 school year)*

**Vicki Shafer**, Art, Homelink Program, 18 years

*(resignation is effective at the end of the 2011-2012 school year)*

(Classified)

**Jill Sporleder**, Para-Educator, Prospect Point, 24 years

*(Jill is resigning a portion of her position - she will continue as a 4.5 hour per day para-educator)*

### **Leave of Absence**

(Certificated)

**Richelle Palmer**, Title I Specialist, Blue Ridge, 8 years

*(for the 2012-2013 school year)*

**Jeanne Schmidt**, Special Education, Walla Walla High School, 24 years

*(for the 2012-2013 school year)*

(Classified)

**Denise Fraire**, Family Advocate, Head Start/ECEAP Program, 7 years

*(Denise will serve as Family Service/Mental Health Coordinator for the Head Start/ECEAP Program during her leave-of-absence from April 2012-March 2013)*

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## **Classified Employees Week: March 12-16**

Next week is Classified Employees Week and a time to say thank you to the district's 376 support employees. Assistant Superintendent Laure Quesma read a proclamation from Governor Gregoire. Quesma said we could not operate our schools without classified employees.

### Excerpt from Governor Gregoire's Proclamation:

"Classified employees are involved in nearly every aspect of education, including maintaining school building and grounds, providing secretarial and clerical assistance, preparing and serving meals, providing safe transportation, keeping school facilities clean and orderly, assisting in the classroom, providing a secure environment and many other specialized services."

### **Health Center at Lincoln video showcases success**

#### *Students praise center for helping improve their lives*

Last night, Health Center at Lincoln Executive Director **Holly Howard** showed a new video to the school board highlighting the work being done at the center. The 20 minute video features health center staff, Lincoln High School students and staff. Nearly every Lincoln High School student uses the health center for medical and mental health care. Students in the video praised the center for helping them turn their lives around.

### Quote of the Week

"The object of education is to prepare the young to educate themselves throughout their lives."

*Robert M. Hutchins*

### **Board approves installation of Automated External Defibrillators**

Last night the school board approved Policy 3412 marking the final step needed to install automated external defibrillators in all district facilities.

The district plans to install these devices in district schools, support services facilities and the district office by spring break, according to Health Services Director **Jennifer Douglas**.

An automated external defibrillator is used in cases of life threatening cardiac arrhythmias which lead to cardiac arrest.

### **Wa-Hi ASB President candidates**

Last night Walla Walla High School ASB President candidates **Michaela Stalder** and **Cougar Henderson** briefed school board members on their bid for presidency. They both reported they want to see more students involved in school activities.