

Additional visitor parking spaces at Wa-Hi Valley Transit buses to shift west to make space

The Safe Travel Alliance, chaired by parent volunteers **Katie Christianson** and **Kathryn Southwick Hess**, continues to work with the district to improve school zone safety. This summer the group is focusing on improving safety at Walla Walla High School. Most of the recommendations are focused on Abbott Road where traffic congestion is heaviest before and after school.

One significant change coming by the start of the school year is adding 20+ visitor parking spaces on Abbott Road just east of the Science Building. This area is currently being used by Valley Transit buses. The transit buses will shift to the west in front of the Science Building.

Safe Travels Alliance is also recommending a new crosswalk and signs be placed near the Yellowhawk Bridge on Abbott Road. The district is also working with Walla Walla County for improvements at the intersection of Fern and Abbott. A concrete barricade has been installed in the academic parking lot to keep students from entering near school buses. Safe Travels is also recommending additional law enforcement be present near Wa-Hi during school hours.



The additional 20+ visitor parking spaces will make it easier for parents and guests to access the Walla Walla High School campus.

Preliminary budget sent to ESD 123 for final review

Chief Financial Officer **Pat Johnston** reported to school board members the district's 2012-2013 preliminary General Fund budget was sent to ESD 123 for review per state requirement.

Johnston said the district is basing the preliminary General Fund budget on revenues of \$60,396,271 and expenditures of \$61,215,107. This requires the district to use \$880,436 of reserves to balance the budget.

Johnston said the district will still maintain an unrestricted reserve of 10.4 percent for the upcoming school year. She said the district will continue to refine the figures in the next few weeks as more information arrives. The school board will approve the final budget during their August 21 meeting.

All Staff Back-to-School Meeting

- Thursday, August 30
- Wa-Hi Main Gym
- 8 a.m. (treats and visiting)
- 8:30 a.m. (program begins)
- All staff encouraged to attend

In other School Board meeting business...

Board members:

- approved minutes from the June 19, 2012 work session, school board meeting and executive session, minutes from the June 27, 2012 work session and executive session, personnel report, out-of-state travel, July 3 accounts payable, July 17 accounts payable and June payroll, June Financial Report, Head Start/ECEAP June Budget Report.
- approved Resolution No. 06-2012 New Sea Tech Skills Center Constructabilty Review Report Acceptance.
- approved Resolution No. 07-2012, 180-Day School Year waiver 2012-14
- received a thank you from Blue Ridge kindergarten teacher **Tina Brennan** for supporting the Blue Ridge Summer School program. She reported students are receiving an additional 24 days of learning to support their academic needs.

Personnel Report

Employment

(Certificated)

Cindy Gomez, Second Grade (temporary), Blue Ridge

Robin Hoheisel, Title I Teacher .5 FTE (temporary), Blue Ridge

Erika Montgomery, Second Grade, Sharpstein

Kenneth Smith, Math, Lincoln High School

Dallas Jones, PE/Health Education Teacher, Walla Walla High School

(Classified)

Zoe Ballering, Para-Educator (temporary), Sharpstein

Martha Flores-Rojas, Para-Educator, Green Park

Carrie Hendrix, Para-Educator - Vision Assistant, Special Programs

Resignation/Retirement

(Certificated) **Dr. Sherri Eaton-Bin Daar**, School Psychologist, Special Programs

Out-of-State Travel

- **Heather Abajian, Shannon Ahrens, Justine Benson, Andrew Blumel, John Carter, Beth Clearman, Brett Cox, Julie Cox, Kristina Duncan, Chris Ferenz, Conor Fish, Angie Gardea, Vivian Glaeser, Mike Gobel, Mira Gobel, Kristen Graber, Kimberly Gradwohl, Javier Hernandez, Cheryl Herr, Clayton Hudiburg, Lani Kiefel, Brad Ludwig, Charlene Maib, Mindy Meyer, Keith Michels, Monica Nelson, Marit Nierman, Grace Ogoshi, Peggy Payne, Pete Peterson, Jerry Records, Lisa Reinland, Sue Schulz, Kelli Jo Smith, Marie Spalding, Carina Stillman, Doug Venneri and Gina Yonts** to attend AVID Summer Institute in San Diego, CA (Funding GEAR UP)
- **Steve Olson** to attend National School Bus Conference in Reno, NV (Funding Professional Growth)
- **Scott Tibbling** and **Marc Yonts** to attend Functional Training Summit (Funding Staff Development)

Quote of the Week

“What sculpture is to a block of marble education is to the human soul.”

Joseph Addison



Visit the district's website and click on the YouTube logo to see the School Board President **Max Carrera's** recently released Alumni Connections video.

Washington secures ESEA waiver

Waiver to provide more local flexibility

Earlier this month, the U.S. Department of Education granted Washington's waiver request from Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA) requirements. Washington is one of 26 states that have received waivers from ESEA to date. (See more at: <http://www.k12.wa.us>)

Last night, Assistant Superintendent **Dr. Linda Boggs** reported to school board members the waiver allows state and local educators more flexibility to decide how to best meet the individual needs of students.

The waiver request rested on three principles:

- Common Core State Standards (CCSS)
- Accountability System and Index
- Teacher/Principal New Evaluation System.

Before the waiver was granted, districts had been required to set aside a statewide total of roughly \$34 million in their budgets to pay for outside service providers with little accountability. Now that Washington has received the waiver, districts will be allowed to spend that money in ways they determine most appropriate, within ESEA Title I rules.

One component of ESEA, Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP), requires that all students pass both the reading and math

assessments by 2014. The waiver agreement replaces that provision with a focus on opportunity gaps. Subgroups of students (such as black, Hispanic, Asian, special education, students receiving free or reduced-price meals) will need to have the difference between their scores in 2011 and 100 percent cut in half by 2018.

For example, if one subgroup's reading scores averaged 74 percent proficient in 2011, that subgroup would need to score 87 percent proficient by 2018, because 87 is halfway between 74 and 100.

Another part of the waiver agreement requires the Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction (OSPI) to annually identify “priority schools,” “focus schools” and “reward schools”:

- **Priority schools** are among the lowest 5 percent of Title I schools in the state.
- **Focus schools** are among the lowest 10 percent of Title I schools in the state.
- **Reward schools** are classified either as “highest-performing schools” or “high-progress schools.”

Currently, Garrison Middle School is a “focus school” for the subgroups English Language Learners and Special Education. Lincoln High School is a “focus school” for graduation rates.