

Walla Walla High School top facility need

District continues planning to help chart next move

Superintendent **Mick Miller** presented options for modernizing Walla Walla High School during last evening's school board public work session. Walla Walla High School ranks number one on the list of greatest need, according to the Community Facilities Task Force's 2010 study.

Miller showed construction options ranging in total project costs from \$68 million to \$82 million. The local bond contributions for these projects would approximately range from \$47 million to \$55 million. The difference between the total project costs and local bond contributions is made up from state matching dollars.

Miller would like to see the district move forward with a bond this school year to fund the modernization of Walla Walla High School. Board members would like additional information on how Lincoln High School's needs will be met should the Wa-Hi project proceed. Miller will continue to seek input, discuss options and work with architects to get more information on Lincoln H.S.

District rejects Skill Center bids

School board members rejected all bids for the Southeast Area Technical Skill Center after general contractor bids for the \$7.7 million construction project came in approximately \$1.1 million over estimations.

Superintendent **Mick Miller** says the district will work with Architects West to scale back the project to reduce costs and put it out for re-bid.

Last spring, the Washington State Legislature allocated \$10.3 million to fund the High School Skill Center. These funds will also pay for equipment, furniture and other costs associated with the project.

The Southeast Area Technical Skill Center is expected to open in the Fall of 2014 and will serve regional high school students at its Walla Walla Community College location. It will offer construction trades, welding, renewable resources and health occupation programs.

The Skill Center will be a branch campus of the Kennewick School District's Tri-Tech Skills Center.

Ladderud officially joins Walla Walla Board of Directors



Last night, **Ruth Ladderud** was sworn in as a school board member by Superintendent **Mick Miller**. School board members appointed Ladderud to fill the vacant Position 3 school board slot which came available when Jim Lehmann resigned to move to the East Coast.

Board says 'no' to Charter Schools

School board members approved Resolution No. 12-2012 which opposes the passage of Initiative 1240 -- Charter Schools. See the entire resolution on the district web site. Initiative 1240 (Charter Schools) will be on the the Nov. 6 General Election Ballot.

In other School Board meeting business...

Board members:

- approved minutes from the Sept. 18, 2012 board meeting, minutes from the Sept. 25 special board meeting, personnel report, out-of-state travel, October 2 accounts payable and September payroll, August financial report, Policy 2022: Electronic Information System (Networks), and Minimum Basic Education Requirement Compliance.
- approved Resolution No. 11-2012 / Copier Rental Agreement
- approved the rejection of the High School Skill Center bid
- approved Resolution No. 12-2012/Initiative 1240 Charter Schools

Personnel Report

Employment

(Certificated) - **NONE TO REPORT**

(Classified)

Kathy Carranza, Para-Educator (temp), Prospect Point

Jack Dickson, Trades Assistant, Facilities & Operations

Jeana Hobbs, Para-Educator (temp), Blue Ridge

Yvonne Huff, Custodian, Wa-Hi

Judy Pinney, Para-Educator (temp), Prospect Point

Sylvia Pedroza, Para-Educator (temp), Green Park

Resignations/Retirements

(Classified)

Deborah Tolley, Food Services Assistant, Blue Ridge, 6.5 years

Margo Anderson, Bus Assistant, Transportation, 25 years

Out of State Travel

Lindsey Butcher and **Jessica Johnson** to attend the National FFA Convention in Indianapolis, IN (Funding: Vocational)

Quote of the Week

“Do you know the difference between education and experience? Education is when you read the fine print; experience is what you get when you don't.”

Pete Seeger

District science test scores above state average

Wa-Hi graduation rate 16% points higher than state average

District assessment Coordinator **Maria Garcia** briefed the school board on results from last Spring's state testing. Spring state test scores revealed positive trends in elementary reading, math and science and results for high school assessments were above the state average in all but one subject.

WWPS 5th grade science scores were above the state average for the second year in a row. Blue Ridge and Prospect Point Elementary results were at or above 87 percent. Especially notable is Blue Ridge's improvement from only 11 percent meeting science standards in 2010.

Wa-Hi continues to vastly out perform the state graduation rate with an impressive 92 percent on-time rate. The state graduation rate is 76.6 percent.

With the ESEA waiver, there are substantial changes to the way the state uses results from these assessments to hold schools and districts accountable for student achievement, according to Garcia. “The concept of "AYP", or Adequate Yearly Progress has been replaced by the more fair and realistic system of "AMO", or ‘Annual Measurable Objectives.’ Under the old AYP provisions, all groups of students (e.g., Limited English, Low Income, Special Education) were to meet the same achievement targets regardless of where they started, with increasingly severe penalties when they didn't.”

Garcia says under the new AMO system, improvement is much more fine-tuned. Each school has its own set of AMO targets for each subgroup of students, and for each subject area. Further, rather than an ultimate (and unrealistic) goal of reaching 100% proficiency, the aim is to close the achievement gap by half for each subgroup by 2017.

- Reading AMO targets met in 10/11 subgroups
- Math AMO targets met in 2/11 subgroups

For a complete listing of state test scores, visit www.wwps.org.

Whitman Partnerships support kids

Susan Prudente, Whitman College Outreach Coordinator, and Whitman students involved in district programs reported to school board members last night.

Whitman Mentors Program

- Approximately 120 Whitman students
- School visits are one day per week

Story Time

- Approximately 70 Whitman students
- Target students: P-2 (literacy-based)

College Coaches

- Approximately 17 Whitman students
- Guided study program, academic tutoring

America Reads Program

- Approximately 30 Whitman students
- Work study position (5 to 8 hours per week)

Wa-Hi student receives Microsoft Award



Walla Walla High School student **Madeline Brooks** received a \$1000 check for earning a Certificate of Excellence award from Microsoft. She is one of only 15 students in the state to win this award for computer excellence. Teacher **Gay Buissink** presented the check to Brooks.