

Welcome Back!



Staff across the district welcomed students back to school Tuesday for the 2014-2015 school year. Motorists are reminded to slow down in school zones and obey the posted speed limits. This year the flashing school zone signs will only operate before school, during lunch and afterschool. This change was made based on best practices for safety and due to limitations of the solar-powered signs.

Official enrollment count due to the state Friday

Executive Director of Business Services **Ted Cohan** reported on the first day of school enrollment count to school board members during last night's meeting. Cohan said the numbers are fluid at this point since the school year just started. School officials provided head count numbers based on how many students attended the first day of school. The district's budget target for Full-time Equivalent (FTE) is based on a projection of 5975 FTE. This number was lowered this school year to account for College Place High School ninth grade students leaving the district. Cohan said the first official count of the school year is due Friday. Yearly enrollment figures are based on the monthly average tallied throughout the school year.

Superintendent search talks continue

The school board will vote during its next school board meeting on two options regarding the search for a new superintendent.

One option the school board is considering is conducting an extensive search for a new superintendent this school year. The second option is extending the contract of Interim Superintendent **Dr. Bill Jordan** for another year and conducting the extensive search for a permanent superintendent next school year. This option would keep Dr. Jordan as superintendent for a total of two years. All board members agreed a decision must be made soon.

Dr. Jordan expressed his passion for the school district during last night's meeting and said it is an honor to serve the students, staff and parents. He also said he will do whatever is necessary to ensure the district finds the right person to serve as the permanent superintendent. Dr. Jordan's current contract expires June 30, 2015.



In other School Board meeting business...

Board members:

- approved minutes from the August 19, 2014 board meeting, minutes from the August 20, 2014 public work session, personnel report, out-of-state travel, September 2 accounts payable and August payroll, and extracurricular.

Our Core Values
are more than mere words;

they're our business!

Quality | Integrity | Accountability | Respect

Courtesy | Innovation | Diversity

Personnel Report

EMPLOYMENT

Certificated:

Sergio Hernandez, Access and Equity Coordinator (.5 FTE retire/rehire, CIA)

Staci Humphrey, Third Grade (temp.), Berney Elementary

Classified:

Roger Contreras-Rodriguez, Para-Educator, Garrison Middle School

Jennifer Davis, Assistant Secretary, Walla Walla High School

Erika Franco, Bilingual Para-Educator, Edison Elementary

Linda Leighty, Assistant Secretary (temp.), CIA

Jazmin Ornelas, Bilingual Assistant Secretary, Edison Elementary

Karen Ruzicka, Para-Educator, Green Park Elementary

Yvonne Segovia, Para-Educator, Edison Elementary

James Sengsavang, Custodian, Facilities & Operations/Trans./Opportunity/SEA-TECH

Quote of the Week

"Education is not the answer to the question. Education is the means to the answer to all questions."

William Allin

Jobs Posted Online

www.wwps.org

RETIREMENT/RESIGNATION

Classified:

Sandy Leos, Para-Educator, Green Park Head Start/ECEAP, 4 years

LEAVE OF ABSENCE

Certificated:

Kathleen Gilmore, Third Grade, Berney Elementary

- Kathleen will continue as a .5 FTE Resource Teacher at Berney for 2014-2015

OUT OF STATE TRAVEL

Gay Buissink to attend National Journalism Competition for Students in Washington, DC (Funding: CTE)



Staff Achievement grant recipients honored

Congratulations to this year's *Staff Achievement Grant* recipients!

- Peder Fretheim, Wa-Hi Math Teacher
- Elizabeth Jagelski, Berney Elementary Music Teacher
- Milissa Gierman, Berney Elementary Teacher
- Donna McCaw, Green Park Secretary
- Tressa Baker, Green Park Teacher

Local donations pave way for students to see famous astrophysicist Neil DeGrasse Tyson

Approximately 400 Walla Walla students will be able to attend a once-in-a-lifetime presentation from world famous scientist **Neil DeGrasse Tyson** thanks to more than \$20,000 in local donations, according to a report to school board members last night from Brent Cummings, 21st Century Community Learning Centers director.



Students will join Tyson Sept 11 and 12 to see his "Cosmos" presentation at Cordiner Hall on the campus of Whitman College. Approximately 40 Walla Walla students and members of the school board will also have a private sit-down conversation with Tyson at Main Street Studios as another opportunity for inspiration.

This amazing learning activity was made possible in coordination with the 21st Century Community Learning Centers (21st CCLC) program. The CCLS program supports the creation of community learning centers that provide academic enrichment opportunities during non-school hours for children, particularly students who attend high-poverty and low-performing schools.

"The importance of his presentation to our at-risk 21st CCLC students is enormous," said Cummings.