

Walla Walla Public Schools

10-10 Staff News



School Board Meeting Recap | October 7, 2014

Golden Onion

Gillespie scholarship fund supports district educators



Mike & Sue Gillespie

Congratulations to Carrie Givens (Prospect Point), Kasey Hooter (Blue Ridge) and Stefanie Flerchinger (Blue Ridge & Homelink) for receiving Gillespie Golden Onion awards.

Mike and Sue Gillespie established the "Golden Onion Award" in 2010 to provide school supplies, equipment and professional development funds to Walla Walla educators.

Sue Gillespie taught social studies, science

and math in high school and junior high school for 10 years in Virginia, Texas, Oklahoma and Okinawa Japan. Dr. Mike Gillespie is a retired orthopedic surgeon.

"It's a great opportunity to support teachers who are under paid for the hours they put in," said Mike Gillespie. "Teachers are under great stress with the growing difficulties in our society with the disruption of families. We need to value teachers more and more. We wish we could do even more."

Board Meeting Highlights

■ APPROVED . . .

Minutes from the September 16, 2014 board meeting, personnel report, extra-curricular contracts, co-curricular contracts, October 7 accounts payable and September 2014 payroll, 2014-15 Perkins Grant and 2014-15 State Transitional Bilingual Instructional Program grant.

■ Parent Conferences . . .

- No School Oct. 9 and 10
- Check with school/teachers for specific conference information

■ Maintenance priority . . .

As a part of the district's ongoing maintenance plan, two significant projects were recently completed. A new \$269,000 roof was put on at Pioneer Middle School and new \$162,000 energy efficient boilers were installed at Berney Elementary. D&D Roofing & Construction was the low bidder on Pioneer Middle School roof project. The project included replacing underlayment, membrane and asphalt shingles.

Walla Walla's Cutting Edge Plumbing completed the Berney boiler project. The original Berney steam boiler was only 60 percent efficient while the two new boilers boast 92 percent efficiency ratings. The existing boiler was no longer repairable.



Ted Cohan

Enrollment

October numbers increase

Business Services Director Ted Cohan reported October's enrollment figures have improved since school started. The October FTE figure is up 45 students from one month ago. October's FTE count rests at 5921. The district remains approximately 54 students under budget projections, according to Cohan. The good news is the 2013-14 ending year fund balance reserve is higher than anticipated. Cohan said the additional fund balance cash reserve would likely offset the revenue shortfall from the 2014-15 enrollment decline.

Excellence in Every Classroom

**PERSONNEL
REPORT**

NEW HIRES . . .

Classified:

- ELIZABETH ARNOSTI
Para-Educator - Pioneer Middle School
- MONICA AVILA
Secretary - SE WA Transportation Co-Op
- BRITTANY AYERS
Para-Educator - Pioneer Middle School
- RHETTA HARTWELL
Bus Assistant - Transportation
- DAVID MARQUEZ
Para-Educator - Green Park Elementary
- LAURI RICHARDSON
Bus Assistant - Transportation
- RUTH TRIEBWASSER
Para-Educator - Lincoln High School
- TAMARA WILLIS
Para-Educator (Temp) - Lincoln High School
- KIMBERLY GUTIERREZ
Bilingual Para-Educator - Blue Ridge Preschool

RETIREMENTS/RESIGNATIONS . . .

Classified:

- ARTHUR CADIEUX | 3 YEARS | TRANSPORTATION
Bus Driver
- PHILIP PEICK | 35 YEARS | PIONEER MS
Custodian
- VANESSA RUIZ | 1 YEAR | BLUE RIDGE
Para-Educator

LEAVES OF ABSENCE . . .

Classified:

- JULIA LEAVITT | BILINGUAL PARA-ED | BLUE RIDGE
Julia will serve as an Intervention Specialist (temp - 14-15)

OUT OF STATE TRAVEL . . .

NONE TO REPORT

Quote of the Week

“Education is the key to unlock the golden door of freedom.”

George Washington Carver

Drug Free Youth

Local Coalition promotes wellness

Peggy Needham, Community Prevention and Wellness Initiative Coordinator, briefed the school board on W2 for Drug Free Youth. This is a local community coalition that is part of the Washington State Community Prevention and Wellness Initiative. W2 for Drug Free Youth is operating on \$90,000 annually for the next four years.



Peggy Needham and Luis Rosales are placing banners at each school to raise awareness. Luis is the Executive Director, Trilogy Recovery Community.

The coalition works to prevent use of alcohol and other drugs by our youth. They organize community forums, utilize the media, display informational signs and banners and support various agencies.

W2 for Drug Free Youth is participating in the “Talk. They Hear You.” Underage Drinking Prevention campaign. Look for a community survey from W2 for Drug Free Youth coming out soon.

“Care & Share” Food Drive

Food Drive Dates: Oct. 17-19

Walla Walla Public Schools is teaming with area realtors to help those in need through the “Care and Share” annual food drive. There are many ways for parents, students and staff to get involved. All donations help the Blue Mountain Action Council Food Bank. Demand remains high. Peter Swant is the project coordinator: pswant@cbfr.biz

Here’s how you can help:

- “Fill the Bus” drive at area grocery stores: Saturday, Oct. 18 from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.
- Pick a section of town to distribute bags to area homes and then collect them the following day (Oct. 17-19)
- Donate food at all district schools (collection barrels are now in place throughout the month of October)