



## School Board Meeting Recap | June 2, 2015

### Academic Achievement

#### Walla Walla High School receives state award for 5th consecutive year

ESD 123 Superintendent Bruce Hawkins visited Walla Walla last night to present Wa-Hi its 2014 Washington Achievement Award for high progress in math and reading. This is the fifth consecutive year Wa-Hi has received this award. Winners are selected based on statewide assessment data for three previous years.

“Wa-Hi is in rare company,” said Hawkins. “This is a significant accomplishment and the entire community should feel proud.”



Pete Peterson



### Board Meeting Highlights

#### ■ APPROVED . . .

Minutes from the May 19, 2015 board meeting, personnel report, out-of-state travel, June 2 accounts payable and May payroll.

#### ■ Reports . . .

Budget: Business Services Director Ted Cohan reported districts around the state are anxiously waiting for the legislature to approve a budget. He said the Business Office is poised to act quickly once the revenue figures are available. Finances remain strong.

Parent Involvement: Board members received the first reading of Board Policy 4130. Curriculum Director Dr. Tracy Williams is proposing the revision to align with current WSSDA recommendations.

Annual Reports: Assistant Superintendent Laure Quaresma reported 95 students attended AEP this year. Homelink Principal Christy Krutulis said the transition to close the program is nearly completed. She said staff have been working closely with parents this year to find options for next year. Opportunity teacher Tom Porter reported 31 Opportunity students will graduate. Porter said the program provides another option for students.

#### ■ GESA Credit Union . . .

The district is considering a Gesa Credit Union branch at Wa-Hi. The program would teach students about banking and personal finance. No action was taken.



#### Graduates of Distinction

(L-R) 2015 Graduates of Distinction Judy Chamberlain Holloway (Class of 1962), Carol Barker (Class of 1974), and Richard “Dick” Moeller (Class of 1963) celebrate following yesterday’s ceremony. Holloway named Toss Benefiel her most inspirational staff person. Barker selected Charlotte Wirth and Jolynn (McBee) Worth as her staff members, while Moeller chose Dick Neher. All of the recipients said Walla Walla Public Schools provided an outstanding education.

PERSONNEL REPORT

EMPLOYMENT ...

**Certificated:**

DYAN NELSON | SPECIAL EDUCATION  
*Speech Language Pathologist*

MELANIE RICHARDSON | SPECIAL EDUCATION  
*Speech Language Pathologist*

**Classified:**

MELINDA GEE | BUSINESS OFFICE  
*Fiscal Assistant*

BRITTNEY KUBIK | WALLA WALLA HIGH SCHOOL  
*Para-Educator*

FABIOLA OCHOA | WALLA WALLA HIGH SCHOOL  
*Bilingual Para-Educator*

RETIREMENTS/RESIGNATIONS

**Certificated:**

BUNNY BAKER | 25 YEARS | WALLA WALLA HIGH SCHOOL

LYNNE BURNHAM | 2 YEARS | HOMELINK

DANIEL COFFEY | 4 YEARS | SHARPSTEIN ELEMENTARY

DENNIS DEBROECK | 21 YEARS | SEA-TECH

KATHI DEBROECK | 20 YEARS | WA-HI

LEAVE OF ABSENCE ...

**Classified:**

KELLI JO SMITH | 11 YEARS | PIONEER PARA-EDUCATOR  
*(for the 2015-2016 school year)*

OUT OF STATE TRAVEL

NANCY ANHORN, JEN COWGILL, AMY FORD, OLGA GARCIA, CINDY GOMEZ, REBECCA KEENE, ERIN MORENO, AND MARIO URIBE to attend *Two-Way Bilingual Immersion Conference in Palm Springs, CA (Funding: State Bilingual)*

BRENT CUMMINGS to attend *Out-of-School Time Initiatives Conference in Grapevine, TX (Funding: Edvance Research, Inc.)*

Quote of the Week

“Don’t limit yourself. Many people limit themselves to what they think they can do. You can go as far as your mind lets you. What you believe, you can achieve.”

Mary Kay Ash

Daughters of the American Revolution Essay Contest

Community member Sarita McCaw presented awards to students Lauren Bergman and Marissa McBride for their successful submissions in the Daughters of the American Revolution Essay contests. Bergman has been a state first place winner for four consecutive years.

Title I Program

*District takes corrective action following Title I audit finding*

The State Auditor’s Office during the May 20, 2015 exit interview for the district’s 2013-2014 annual audit reported the Walla Walla School District did not have adequate internal controls to ensure compliance with federal procurement requirements for its Title I program. The finding shows internal control deficiencies related to bid quotes and lacked adequate documentation of sole source vendors for procurements for the Title I program. In a separate communication, the auditor also found the district did not have adequate internal controls related to time sheet management resulting in \$5478 in over reported summer hours.

WWPS corrective action based on these findings:

- The district has reorganized its administrative leadership team.
- Training has been provided to staff regarding federal requirements pertaining to Title I funding.
- Bid guidelines and the flow charts indicating proper dollar threshold have been updated and reviewed.
- Timesheets now adequately identify the project(s) for which employees claim additional hours.
- Timesheets are now reviewed by the Business Office by someone knowledgeable with the project to determine if the hours reported appear correct.
- All of the \$5478 from over reported summer hours has been repaid to the district.

“We are confident we have taken the necessary steps to ensure adequate internal controls over federal programs,” said Superintendent Dr. Bill Jordan. “We take these findings seriously and are committed to remaining in compliance with federal laws, regulations, and provisions of these grant awards.”

