

April 20 • School Board Meeting Recap

District names *Volunteers of the Year*

To help celebrate *Volunteer Appreciation Month*, last night Superintendent Rich Carter named **Russ Martin**, **Missy Peterson**, and **Marilyn Yaple** the district's 2005 *Art Regier Volunteers of the Year*.

This award is presented in recognition of the volunteers in our schools and their important contributions to our students and educational program.



Russ Martin - Pioneer Middle School
Nominators - Kenny Renner-Singer and Dana Jones
• VP of PTSA - (former Green Park PTSA President)
• Supervisor, All-Night 3-on-3 basketball tournament
• District Budget Committee and Symposium participant
• Stars Camp parent volunteer



Missy Peterson - Edison, Berney, Pioneer, Explorers
Nominators: Kay Barga, Kay Schisler, and numerous past and present Explorers Program leaders
• District's Elementary Math Contest coordinator
• *Books for Babies* program grant writer
• Longtime Explorers and Reflections Art Program volunteer and leader



Marilyn Yaple - Pioneer Middle School
Nominators: Jeanne Brewer, Brian Richard and Cheryl Herr
• Volunteers at least once a week in the Pioneer library
• Longtime volunteer at Pioneer athletic contests
• Bakes treats for students for special occasions
• Shelves books and helps keep library organized

Board approves new Strategic Plan

Strategic Plan Focus Areas

Teaching and Learning

Communications

Facilities and Technology

School board members last night gave their approval to the district's new five year Strategic Plan - thus paving a *Road Map to the Future*. Board members held a special work session prior to approving the plan to get more details on the development process and specifics of the five-year, *Road Map to the Future* Strategic Plan.

Development of the district's new strategic plan began in September with the successful Community Symposium at Whitman College where more than 100 people -- including staff, board members, students, parents and community members-- participated. A Strategic Plan Committee was then formed to shape the recommendations from the Symposium into a five-year strategic plan.

The Strategic Plan centers on three goals and is supported by key action steps designed to achieve desired outcomes. A copy of the Strategic Plan will be e-mailed to all staff and posted on the district's website. District administrators are currently discussing how to link the new Strategic Plan to building and department annual improvement plans.

In other School Board meeting business...

Board members:

- approved minutes of regular board meeting March 15 and March 30 Special meeting, 2005, Personnel and Out of State Travel Reports, increase in Food Service Imprest Fund, Adjustment to Pathways Back contract, Equipment/Facilities for Summer Sports program, call for bids for dairy products, and payment of April bills and payroll.
- received a report from Superintendent **Rich Carter** regarding the district's compliance with Basic Education Allocation entitlement requirements. The State Board of Education has certified the district is in compliance with these requirements.
- approved revision of Policy No. 2020 -- Development and Adoption of Curriculum and Instructional Materials.
- approved revision of Policy No. 2331 -- Controversial Issues/Guest Speakers.
- reported on last weekend's 65th Annual National School Boards Association meeting in San Diego attended by **Anne Golden**, **Toni Rudnick**, and **Mary Jo Geidl** and Superintendent **Rich Carter**. There were hundreds of workshops and outstanding speakers during the event. Board members said the experience will help them be better advocates for Walla Walla students.

Personnel Report

• New Hires

Classified: **Doug Tucker**, Custodian - Various locations

• Resignations/Retirements

Certificated: **Johanna Bents**, 6th Grade, Garrison - 2 years

Sara Seltmann, Kindergarten/Special Ed., Prospect Point - 3.5 years

Vicki Shafer, Homelink, Paine Campus - 11 years

- (*Vicki is resigning .4 FTE of her position and will remain a .6 FTE employee*)

Carolyn Shanks, Speech Language Pathologist, Prospect Point - 1 year

Jane Anne Warren, Speech Language Pathologist, Blue Ridge - 12 years

- (*Jane Anne is resigning a portion of her position and will remain an employee*)

Peggy Willcuts, Homelink/Elementary Science Coordinator, 15 years

- (*Peggy is resigning from her .5 FTE Homelink position and will remain in her .5 FTE Elementary Science Coordinator position*)

Classified: **Dianne Jackson**, Kitchen Manager, Pioneer - 26 years

Ann Smestead, Food Service Assistant, Green Park - 11 years

Deanna "Judi" Kessler, Para-Educator, Garrison - 17.5 years

Duke Morrow, Trades Assistant, 28 years

• Leave of Absence

Greer Bevel, Social Studies, Wa-Hi, 3 years (one-year leave of absence to complete Master's degree)

Karen Larson, Para-Educator, Berney, 6 years (Two-month medical leave of absence)

• Out-of-State Travel

Craig Buchanan to ATECH/AIPC Workshop in Cincinnati, OH (*funding - ATECH and Technology*)

John Butenhoff to Energy Education Seminar in Dalles, TX (*funding - Energy Management*)

Mindy Meyer to OSPI - Grade 10 Operational Range Finding Comm. in Tucson, AZ (*funding - OSPI*)

Mike Patterson to Nike Basketball Clinic in Las Vegas, NV (*funding - Athletics*)

Kate Venneri to Leadership Training/Range Finding for WASL Math in Lansing, MI (*funding - OSPI*)

Peggy Willcuts to NSRC Advisory Board Meeting in Washington, DC (*funding - NSRC*)

Quote of the Week

"Tough times don't last -- tough people do."

Anonymous

Library Media Specialists enhance learning

School board members took time last night to recognize April as School Library Media Month. National Library Week was April 10-16. This year's theme is "Libraries: Action, Access, Advocacy."

District Library Media Specialists presented to school board members how they provide resources and expertise to support learning and staff.

"Appreciation goes to our professionally trained WWPS Library Media Specialists: Ben Ugaldea (Berney), Shirley Rodenberg (Blue Ridge), Georgie Germain (Edison), Michelle Shaul (Green Park), Barbara Rutzer (Prospect Point) Linda Seibold (Sharpstein), Jackie George (Garrison), Diana Miller (Pioneer), and Lynn Waldron (Wa-Hi)."



Janis Barton

Director, Technology & Library Media Services

Wa-Hi students learn about themselves and others at youth Leadership Camp

With some students moved to tears while reflecting on last month's experiences at a youth Leadership Camp, Wa-Hi students expressed to school board members last night why a similar camp in Walla Walla would be a good fit.

Under the direction of Assistant Principal **Kirk Jameson** and Leadership Class Teacher **Lori Finn**, Wa-Hi students who participated said they learned more about themselves and others during the three day camp at Deer Lake near Spokane than any of their other high school experiences.

Students learned to trust and express themselves and not stereotype others through a variety of activities. Jameson and Finn said they are working to develop a similar camp at Wa-Hi next school year.

District holds I-728 forum to discuss future spending

District officials sought public input last night in the development of an operational plan for next year's Initiative 728 funding. Director of Curriculum & Instruction **Len Taruscio** provided an overview of the parameters of the I-728, reviewed this year's spending plan and led a discussion for next year's spending plan.

I-728 funds may be used for: class size reduction, extended learning opportunities, professional development for educators, early assistance for pre-kindergarten children, and construction to reduce class size.

Initiative 728 was approved by Washington State voters in November 2000 to provide school districts local control of additional funding to support efforts to achieve mastery of the essential learning requirements for all students.

Garrison track gets green light

School board members -- with great appreciation -- approved a request from Citizens for a new Garrison Track Project to finalize plans to develop an all-weather track at Garrison Middle School.

Group spokesperson **Craig Nelson** said the group has nearly \$150,000 in the bank to date -- enough for the track itself-- and will continue efforts to raise money for maintenance. Nelson said construction will begin after school is out and be completed by the start of the 2005-2006 school year.