

March 1 • School Board Meeting Recap

Traditional elementary summer school program adjusted

Extended day programs to begin sooner for students in need

Elementary students who still need extra instruction at the end of the school year to meet grade level expectations will no longer be enrolled in a traditional summer school program.

With the success of the district's extended day learning programs at all six district elementary schools, board members last night opted to reallocate current resources into this instructional concept. Rather than waiting until November to begin the extended day learning program geared to improve academic achievement for struggling students, the new extended day model will begin approximately two weeks after school starts.

"We will use the same criteria we have in the past for determining which students need this level of support," Blue Ridge Principal **Linda Boggs** said. "We'll identify these students before the end of the school year, communicate with parents their children's areas of

deficiencies and plan for their enrollment in the extended day learning program at the start of the school year."

During her presentation, Boggs also noted the teacher "burn out" factor which has significantly impacted the district's traditional summer school program.

"Each year it is more difficult to hire teachers for the summer school program," Boggs said. "Many of our teachers are working the extended day learning program and they need a break. Our student achievement data shows student gains are far more dramatic in our extended day learning program than they are in summer school. It just makes sense to adjust the schedule."

The elementary summer school adjustment will also save district dollars which may be used for other learning opportunities.

The grades 6 through 12 summer school program will operate similar to years past.

For more information on these issues contact the district's Curriculum Department.

Revisions to district curriculum management policies discussed

Nods of approval and thank you statements from numerous audience members summed up last night's work session as school board members reviewed drafts of the revised **Policy 2020 - Curriculum Development and Adoption of Curriculum and Instructional materials** and **Policy 2331 - Controversial Issues/Guest Speakers**.

"Thanks to all the input we received and the outstanding work and collaboration of the district's Departments of Teaching and Learning, Curriculum and Instruction, and Instructional Materials, we have policies and procedures to provide the district with clear direction in these areas," said Technology and Library Media Director **Janis Barton**, who as Instructional Materials chair also served as a leader in the revision process.

The Phi Delta Kappa (PDK) Curriculum Management Audit conducted in 2000 prompted the move to revise board policies to help establish a clear system for curriculum management.

"We have made tremendous efforts in the past few years to update our policies based on the PDK recommendation," Barton said.

The Policy 2020 and Policy 2331 revision process has included staff and community input and has been a focus of several Administrative Council meetings. Board members will be presented with recommendations for adoption of these policies at a future board meeting. All board policies will be posted on the district website soon.

In other School Board meeting business...

Board members:

- approved minutes of regular board meeting February 15, 2005, Personnel and Out-of-State Travel Reports, and Middle School Enrollment Caps: Grade 6-220; Grade 7-225; Grade 8-225.
- approved maintaining current Wa-Hi graduation requirements. Wa-Hi Principal **Brian Pendleton** said the timing is not right to add more credits to the school's current 22 credit graduation requirement -- which is already three more than the state's minimum. He said demands linked to the state's Certificate of Academic Achievement and mandates of the No Child Left Behind Act make adding more credits to Wa-Hi's graduation requirements at this time a formula for failure.

Our Core Values
are more than mere words;

they're our business!

Quality | Integrity | Accountability | Respect | Courtesy

Personnel Report

• New Hires

(Classified) - **Alejandra Trejo**, Bilingual Para-Educator, Prospect Point

• Resignations/Retirements

(Certificated) - **Diane Briggs**, PE Specialist, Garrison - 35 years (effective end of school year)

Juanita Gillum, Bilingual Second Grade Teacher, Green Park - 27 years (effective end of school year)

Linda Jacky, Math Teacher, Wa-Hi - 28 years (effective end of school year)

Harriet Michael, Third Grade Teacher, Blue Ridge - 29 years (effective end of school year)

Shirley Rodenberg, Library Media Specialist, Blue Ridge - 34 years (effective end of school year)

Gloria Camp, Literature/Reading Teacher, Garrison - 17 years (effective end of school year)

Kristi Goin, Math Teacher, Pioneer - 5 years (effective end of school year)

Gary Mires, PE Specialist, Wa-Hi - 17 years (effective end of school year)

Jennifer Small, Special Education Teacher, Garrison - 9 years (effective end of school year)

Classified

Peggy Lightfoot, Para-Educator, Blue Ridge - 30 years (effective end of school year)

Out of District Travel

Heidy Wiese to Seven Habits of Highly Effective Managers Workshop in Las Vegas, NV (*funding - Staff Achievement Grant*)

March is Music in our Schools Month

Theme - *The Heart of Education*

District Fine Arts Director **Glen Mitchell** kicked off the celebration of Music in our Schools Month with a special presentation to school board members. He noted 55 percent of district students participate in music programs.

Music offerings in Walla Walla Public Schools can be traced back as far as 1915. Mitchell thanked the school board for its continued support of the vast music programs offered throughout the district. He said the opportunities are linked to higher student achievement and parent involvement. He praised the efforts of the Wa-Hi Chamber Singers during last weekend's performance at the Northwest Music Educators Conference in Bellevue. He said they received a standing ovation and made the entire community proud.

Mitchell encouraged school board members, staff, parents and community members to take advantage of the numerous musical events scheduled this month. A complete schedule is available by calling the Wa-Hi Music Department.

Wa-Hi Band Director **Andrew Ueckert** also attended the board meeting to recognize outstanding band students for being named to All-Northwest Honor Groups. The students are: **Lyn Beckett**, Mixed Choir, **Tim Davis**, tenor saxophone, **Jeremy Ueckert**, percussion, **Alex Bernstein**, pianist. More than 3,600 music students auditioned for these honor groups and only 900 were selected. Alex Bernstein concluded the presentation by dazzling the audience with an entertaining piano selection.

Quote of the Week

"It is only as we develop others that we permanently succeed."

Harvey Firestone

District sends team to Olympia for annual meeting with Legislators

Superintendent **Rich Carter**, School board member **Anne Golden** and Executive Director of Personnel **Bill Jordan** traveled to Olympia last weekend to meet with are legislators to discuss educational issues.

Summary of messages delivered in Olympia:

Operating Budget 2005-2007

- Reminded them of state's paramount duty to fund education. Budget gap continues to grow. Oppose shifting funding responsibilities to local level.

Education Reform

- More funding needed to accomplish our goals and narrow the achievement gap.

School Construction

- Funding formulas do not accurately or adequately portray the cost on school construction

Unfunded Mandates

- Asking legislature to pass no new unfunded or under-funded mandates.

Simple Majority

- After 60 years, citizens of the state should have opportunity to reconsider the supermajority requirement. Encourage a fall ballot choice.

Washington Mutual Bank donates money to schools

Jane Wilkins of Washington Mutual Bank presented checks to all 10 district schools totaling more than \$3,000. The funds were made available through the bank's "WaMoola For Schools" program.

Bank customers may designate which school they want to support and purchases from their bank credit card generate points. Points through the program eventually become dollars and ultimately are gifted back to the school. The program also offers curriculum for students on money management and financial planning. Contact Jane at 527-3300 for more information on this program.

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