

September 6 • School Board Meeting Recap

Garrison Track Celebration

Board salutes citizens group during dedication



What began as a vision to bring an all-weather track to Garrison Middle School, officially became reality last night during a dedication and ribbon cutting ceremony at the school's new addition.

Community members **Craig Nelson, Ed Nelson, and Steve Gerling**, representing Citizens for the Garrison Track, led a fund-raising campaign to raise the \$170,000 necessary to complete the project and provide long-range maintenance.

Superintendent **Rich Carter** and Board President **Dr. Rich Jacks** presented Appreciation plaques to project supporters to thank them for enhancing the school and community.

First official enrollment count today

Today is the district's first official enrollment count of the 2005-2006 school year. During a presentation to school board members last night, Deputy Superintendent **Dr. Bill Jordan** said preliminary counts have the district well above budgeted projections, but below the number of students the district was serving last year.



Bill Jordan

Jordan said it appears elementary enrollment numbers are up slightly from last year, while secondary numbers have dipped some -- especially in 11th and 12th grades.

Jordan said this could change some this week as several students were still enrolling yesterday when he visited Wa-Hi.

The official enrollment numbers will be available for this Friday's Week in Review.

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In other School Board meeting business...

Board members:

- approved minutes of the regular board meeting August 22, 2005, Personnel report; and the WWVEA 2005-2007 Negotiated Agreement
- chose not to officially act to support the School Districts' Alliance for Adequate Funding of Special Education. Although all school board members were in agreement Special Education is under funded and that it should be fully funded -- they did not support securing this funding through litigation. They said they will continue working with elected officials to seek change in this area.
- received a district insurance overview from Business Manager **Aron Rausch**. Rausch said he was pleased rates for the district's school-wide cooperative insurance package with School Insurance Association of Washington (SIAW) went up less than three percent this year. He said limits and the deductible are very acceptable. He said low claims are key to low rates.

Our Core Values
are more than mere words;
they're our business!

Quality | Integrity | Accountability | Respect | Courtesy

Personnel Report

• New Hires

(Certificated) - **Cynthia Palmer**, Homelink teacher, Paine Campus

(Certificated) - **John Bogle**, Special Education Para-Ed, Wa-Hi

Lauri Jordan, Speech Language Assistant, Special Programs

• Resignations/Retirements

(Certificated) - **Jackie Martinez**, Assistant Bilingual Coordinator, Sharpstein, 6 years

• Leave of Absence

(Certificated) - **Teri Voth**, Reading Teacher, Pioneer - 27 years

(• Leave of absence for the 2nd Quarter of the 2005-2006 school year)

Quote of the Week

"We don't work for each other, we work with each other."

Anonymous

Technology big draw at fair Education Building

With more than 70 student technology projects represented, visitors of the Education Building at this year's Walla Walla Fair and Frontier Days were treated to numerous fascinating projects.

During a report to school board members last night, Technology Director **Janis Barton** said the fair exhibits demonstrate how technology is being integrated into district classrooms. She thanked all the staff volunteers for working at the fair to supervise the equipment and help visitors view the student work.

Communications Director **Mark Higgins** thanked longtime Fair Coordinator **Jim Ebding** for his leadership at the fair. Ebding coordinates the fair entry submission process, secures judges, lines up facility supervisors and provides set-up and event break-down support.

This year more than 1,000 student projects were on display with more than 100 students earning ribbons. Higgins also thanked staff fair representatives from each building for decorating the facility and designing the displays. He also recognized staff members for volunteering to take time out of their busy holiday weekend to supervise the Education Building. The Education Building was open from 11 a.m. to 11 p.m. each day of the fair.



Berney's **Bonnie Torres** hauls in artwork for the Berney Fair Display.

Music Department presents board token of appreciation DVD

Wa-Hi Choral Director **Norb Rossi** thanked the school board for their longstanding support of the district's Music Department and presented them with DVD copies of last year's special performance at the Northwest Music Educators Conference in Bellevue.

Rossi was especially appreciative of school board members for taking time before a school board meeting last year to attend the final warm-up concert prior to the Northwest event.

Rossi said he has been in several districts and by far Walla Walla Public Schools school board members are the most supportive of music efforts he has witnessed.

Financial advisor hired for future bond

Walla Walla Public Schools will continue its relationship with Seattle Northwest Securities after school board members last night hired the firm to serve as the district's financial advisor.

Company Vice President **Mark Prussing** reported to board members last night on the services Seattle Northwest Securities will provide the district as it prepares for a future bond issue.

Prussing said his firm is the largest public finance firm in the Northwest and has been in business for more than 30 years. He said he is excited to continue working with the district.

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To submit materials for this publication, contact Communications Director Mark Higgins:

- Telephone: 526-6716
- E-mail: mhiggins@wwps.org

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