

May 17 • School Board Meeting Recap

Board approves Elementary early release plan

Weekly release allows time for teachers to learn together

School Board members last night adopted a Professional Development and Collaboration plan for elementary schools set to begin next school year. Blue Ridge Principal **Linda Boggs** - who will assume Assistant Superintendent duties this summer -- said in her report to the school board the plan (detailed below) is designed to provide consistent time for teachers to learn together.

"As instructional leaders who have extensively researched the effectiveness of consistent collaboration time to enhance learning, we collectively believe providing professional development within the work day is an effective model," Elementary principals said in a letter sent home last week to all parents with children enrolled in district elementary schools.

Positive feedback from staff and parents for teacher professional development and collaboration over the years -- and successful secondary late start efforts - reinforced the decision, Boggs said.

Elementary Schools Professional Development and Collaboration plan outline *(begins this fall)*

- Elementary staff will have the opportunity for weekly collaboration each Wednesday afternoon. Students will be dismissed an hour early on Wednesday afternoon. Bus schedules will be adjusted to accommodate the early release schedule.
- Elementary principals will work with teachers and parents to provide supervision alternatives for those families unable to arrange for after school care. Individual schools will share specific information with families in the fall.
- Instructional time will be made up within the weekly building schedule.

Enrollment finishes above projections

With the final 2004-2005 school year enrollment count recently tallied, the district finished the year 148 Full-Time Equivalent (FTE) students above beginning year budget projections according to a report from Executive Director of Personnel **Dr. Bill Jordan**.

The count comes as good news as the additional revenue generated from the FTE students over 2004-2005 budget projections will keep the district from dipping deeper into its cash reserves to balance the general fund budget.

The 2004-2005 budget -- when approved last August -- was projected to dig \$1.2 million into cash reserves. District Business Manager **Aron Rausch** says it is too early to determine just how much the district will have to take out of cash reserves this year now that the enrollment counts are in, but he says it should be under the \$1.2 million projection.

"School board members continue to support our conservative budgeting practices, especially when it comes to projecting enrollment," Rausch said. "Our budget for an upcoming school year is approved long before we ever see the kids."

The district projects beginning year FTE students for budgeting purposes on the previous year's enrollment, economic trends and community growth estimates.

The district's enrollment grew slightly this year, up just 18 FTE students from last year.

In other School Board meeting business...

Board members:

- approved minutes of regular board meeting May 3, 2005, Personnel and Out of State Travel Reports, Request for proposals for Architectural Services, 2005-2006 Head Start Grant Application, Sale of Surplus Materials, Increase in Meal Prices, Payment of May bills and payroll.
- were thanked for their support and participation in the 2003-2004 Fulbright Teacher Exchange Program. Blue Ridge Bilingual Teacher **Brenda Hall** was recognized for her leadership in hosting families and traveling abroad through this program. The program allows teachers to apply to the program to teach overseas for a year, semester or six-week period. Applications will be accepted for the 2006-2007 program cycle until Oct. 15, 2005.

Personnel Report

• New Hires

Administrative: **Connie Taylor-Randall**, Principal - Blue Ridge

Certificated: **Jennifer Cramp**, Third Grade - Blue Ridge

S. Anthony Barba, Math - Pioneer

Steve Pitzer, Counselor - Garrison

Edward Eckles, Math - Paine Alternative

Suzette Kennedy, Kindergarten - Prospect Point

Anne Kroeger, First Grade - Green Park

Kami Kuhlmann, Third Grade - Prospect Point

Julianne Porter, Kindergarten - Berney

Debora Rossi, Kindergarten - Edison

Julie Wiley, Kindergarten - Prospect Point

Coaching: **John Golden**, Head Boys' Basketball Coach - Wa-Hi

• Resignations/Retirements

Certificated: **Kim Cassetto**, English, Wa-Hi - 3 years

(Kim is resigning .4 FTE of her position and will remain a .6 FTE English teacher)

Susan Meiners, Learning Specialist, Berney - 30 years

Coaching: **Jim Thacker**, Head Boys' Basketball Coach - Wa-Hi - 30 years

• Out-of-State Travel

Lisa Braddock, **Kerri Coffman**, **Leah Crudup**, **Brenda Prins**, and **Brenda Sims** to DIBELS Summer Institute in Eugene, OR (*funding - Title I*)

Gayle See to Grant Writing Workshop (Presenter) in Myrtle Beach, SC (*funding - Title II*)

Quote of the Week

"Moderation is a fatal thing.
Nothing succeeds like excess."

Oscar Wilde

District names Graduates of Distinction

The 2005 Graduates of Distinction were announced at last night's board meeting and will be honored at a community reception Wednesday, June 1, from 3:30 to 5:00 p.m. in the district Board Room. Community members are invited to listen to their stories and hear who helped shape their lives during their school years.

2005 Graduates of Distinction Honorees

Gerwyn A. Jones, Sr. – Class of 1928 (nominated by Margaret Buchan)
His inspirational staff person is Laura Boucher, who was his high school English and journalism teacher.

Dr. George Cole Williams, Jr. – Class of 1947 (nominated by the Kurt Smith family)

His inspirational staff person is Lucille McIntyre, who was his high school Latin teacher. She is deceased.

Michael Maiden – Class of 1968 (nominated by Barbara Wardrip)

His inspirational staff person is Elton Fenno, who was his high school history teacher and wrote one of Michael's recommendation letters. He will be at the reception.

Extended day programs helps Wa-Hi students learn

Wa-Hi Assistant Principal **Mira Gobel** and Science Teacher **Lenna Kopf** reported to school board members on extended day programs in place this year to help struggling students.

Gobel said the programs were added to support students who were failing classes or in danger of fail-

ing classes. Kopf said she has noticed a positive difference on campus this year. She said the Assignment Lab program allows students to make up work in a timely manner so they don't fall further behind.

Gobel said they'll begin offering these services sooner next year to help students from falling behind.

Wa-Hi JROTC student excels in national marksmanship event

School board members congratulated Wa-Hi sophomore **Amber Criss** for placing second in the nation among Army marksmen and sixth among competitors from all branches of service in last month's National Junior ROTC air rifle championship at Fort Benning, GA.

Coach Sgt. **Gerald Taylor** said she holds all north-west records in this category. Criss says she plans to pursue a spot on the Olympic team in the future.

Green Park supports Tsunami Relief efforts

Green Park Principal **Mike Lambert** reported on the school's successful Tsunami relief efforts. Staff and students raised nearly \$3,000. Lambert showed a moving PowerPoint show staff and students -- with technical support from volunteer **Ed Stites** -- made to raise awareness for this cause. All proceeds were donated to the American Red Cross.

The **10/10 Staff Newsletter** is published three times per month by the Walla Walla Public Schools Communications Department.

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

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

'Keeping Our Team Informed'