

May 3 • School Board Meeting Recap

Carter thanks teachers for excellence



Dear staff members,

Teacher Appreciation Week is May 1-7 and May 3 is National Teacher Day. Please join me in paying tribute to our Walla Walla Public Schools teachers. Our teachers model learning as a lifelong process and understand that all students -- recognizing differences -- must be given equitable opportunities to reach their potential and to develop a love of learning.

Teachers are the grass roots of public education and have the greatest impact on student achievement. Our teachers spend countless hours outside their classrooms preparing lessons, evaluating progress, counseling and coaching students, and performing community service.

I encourage you this week to take time and reflect upon a teacher who made a difference in your life. Education is a way of life, not just another job. Thank you for dedicating your life to making our school district, community, nation, and world a better place to live. Strong schools equal strong communities. Thanks to our teachers for another great year.

**This year's theme is "Thank a teacher
for making public schools great!"**

Work session held at Paine

Bringing programs to same campus discussed

School board members held a special work session at Paine School last night to discuss facility needs and future program offerings on the Fourth Street campus.

Paine Principal **Jeff Weeks** showed a video of an alternative school in Rhode Island that has successfully used multiple funding sources and community resources to develop a performance-based program. The campus is open seven days a week, year round and also in the evenings. Despite high poverty and numerous social challenges facing students, the video revealed students are excelling.

Now nearly 80 years old, Paine School is facing numerous facilities needs. Several Paine School teachers joined Weeks in expressing an interest in moving the Opportunity Program to the Fourth Street campus and possibly having other social services available. Child care centers, health clinics and a teen center were mentioned during the discussion.

MGT of America cited Paine as one of the district's top priorities for modernization in last year's final facilities report to the school board.

Opportunity Program lead teacher says program best kept separate from Paine

Opportunity Program Lead Teacher **Tom Porter** said he and fellow Opportunity staff members prefer to stay at separate locations from Paine School. He said they more closely align with Wa-Hi and having the programs on the same campus would have a negative impact on Opportunity.

In other School Board meeting business...

Board members:

- approved minutes of regular board meeting April 20, 2005, Personnel and Out of State Travel Reports, Walla Walla High School Imprest Fund, Issuance of Certificated Contracts and Notices of Re-Employment for 2005-2006.

Personnel Report

• New Hires

Administrative: **Brandon Jensen**, Assistant Principal - Wa-Hi

• Resignations/Retirements

Certificated: **Chris Anderson**, English, Opportunity Program - 16 years

Katrina Van Cleve, Kindergarten, Prospect Point - 2 years

(Katrina is resigning .5 FTE of her position and will remain a .5 FTE Kindergarten teacher)

Deborah Rowland-Smith, Speech Language Pathologist, 25 years

(Deborah is resigning .2 FTE of her position and will remain a .6 FTE SLP)

Classified: **Linda Hanson**, Para-Educator, Prospect Point - 14 years

Kelley Hubbard, Assistant Secretary, Blue Ridge Head Start/ECEAP - 3 years

(Kelley is resigning a portion of her position and will remain a four hour per day Assistant Secretary)

April Graybill, Para-Educator, Berney - 10 years

(April is resigning a portion of her position and will remain a three hour per day Para-Educator)

Kathy Moore, Para-Educator, Sharpstein - 3.5 years

(Kathy took a leave of absence for the 2004-2005 school year)

• Leave of Absence

Rolanda Tello, Para-Educator, Sharpstein, 3 years (to pursue teacher certification)

• Out-of-State Travel

Barbara Buttice to Cooking Class for Culinary Arts in Florence, Italy *(funding - Personal)*

Sara Erwin and **Cindy Nass** to DIBELS Summer Institute in Eugene, OR *(funding - Title I)*

Quote of the Week

"If everyone is moving forward together; the the success takes care of itself."

Henry Ford

Edison students support *Books for Babes*

Children's books to be delivered to area hospitals Thursday

Board members were treated to a special skit last night from Edison Third Grade students in Kay Barga's class as they explained their Books for Babes program.

Each student discussed a portion of the program they organized to promote literacy with Walla Walla families who have newborns.

The students will deliver 100 book bags to St. Mary Medical Center and Walla Walla General Hospital to be sent home with mothers who recently had babies. Edison students helped raise money for the program, designed their own books and helped put the book bags together.

Book Bag Contents

The bag will contain material either in English or in Spanish, as appropriate, consisting of:

- Three commercially produced children's books
- Two books written by Edison third grade students -- one about the importance of reading to your child and the other a counting or an alphabet book.
- A book list for children ages 0-9 with -- *Reasons to Read to Your Baby* on the front cover and *Reading Strategies* on the back.
- A library card application for the parents.

Barga said next year students hope to create even more book bags so one day all newborns in Walla Walla will get one. They also want to add a video about reading. The video will feature a parent reading to the baby, a parent reading to the two-year old, and a parent listening to the beginning reader.

Special thanks to Edison Elementary staff and students for organizing this project and to volunteer Missy Peterson for her successful grant writing skills.

Opportunity continues to keep youth connected to educational programs

Opportunity Program Lead Teacher **Tom Porter** reported to school board members on innovations being used at this contract-based program to enhance learning.

Porter said students are taking more responsibility for their learning this year by working up to 22 hours per week on school related assignments outside of the classroom. He says it's becoming a school of choice for many students who aren't having success in other educational settings. He says the program's one-on-one teaching approach limits behavior problems and disruptions.

Porter says each student has an Individual Learning Plan and academic strategies for success.

Opportunity's Formula for Success

- Earn a High School Diploma
- NO COST
- Flexible Class Schedule
- Work at Your Pace
- One-on-One Instruction
- Specialized Learning Environment
- Caring & Professional Staff

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

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'Keeping Our Team Informed'