

Board salutes national board certified teachers

School board members joined Superintendent **Rich Carter** in congratulating district teachers **Dawn Jepson** (Pioneer), **Mindy Meyer** (Wa-Hi), **Anne Swant** (Wa-Hi), **Dan Ojcius** (Wa-Hi), **Natalie Allen-Tibbling** (Paine Alternative), **Kristen Harvey** (Garrison), **Sara Van Donge** (Sharpstein - last year recipient), and **David Williams** (former Berney teacher) for recently receiving their certification through the National Board for Professional Teaching Standards.

Executive Director of Personnel

Dr. Bill Jordan praised their efforts saying they are among the best educators in the district.

Wa-Hi PE teacher **Gayle See**, a recipient herself, introduced the teachers and discussed the process for earning a National Certificate.

Requirements included authoring a detailed professional portfolio, video taping classroom instruction and passing a challenging assessment to test subject knowledge.

These teachers earned a 10-year certificate and will receive a \$3,500 annual stipend.

January 18 • School Board Meeting Recap

District schools earn statewide academic improvement awards

Five Walla Walla Public Schools and the district recently received Washington State Academic Improvement Awards for reducing by 10 percent the number of students who last year missed meeting the reading, math and writing achievement goals.

- **Berney Elementary** (4th grade reading, writing and math)
- **Sharpstein Elementary** (4th grade writing)
- **Garrison Middle** (7th grade reading and math)
- **Pioneer Middle** (7th grade reading and math)
- **Wa-Hi** (10th grade reading and writing)
- **Walla Walla Public Schools** (7th grade math & reading / 10th grade math & reading)

“In an era of increased focus on accountability, this statewide recognition shows Walla Walla Public Schools’ targeted assistance strategy -- of providing additional resources and time for students who need it the most -- is working,” Superintendent **Rich Carter** said. “I’m extremely proud of our administrators, staff and students for making sure the educational needs of students come first.”

Each school and the district received beautiful plaques to proudly display their accomplishments in their school buildings for years to come. OSPI will continue to send brass tags each year to chart progress and has vowed to send more plaques if needed.

Energy management program continues to save

Butenhoff's leadership and staff efforts linked to success

A positive spirit from the staff and a sound energy use ethic, have helped lead the district to more than one million dollars in energy cost savings, according to a Year Five summary report to the school board members last night from Energy Program Manager **John Butenhoff**.

Butenhoff said the district uses sound conservation strategies aimed at limiting energy use in unoccupied areas and closely monitoring consumption trends.

“After going through year five of the energy management program, it has shown success and stability as we are still saving 25 percent annually.

Because of the dedication of our staff, the program has become a model program for the state.”



John Butenhoff

In other School Board meeting business...

Board members:

- approved minutes of regular board meeting December 14, 2004, Personnel and Out-of-State Travel Reports, Interlocal Agreement - Pathways Back Program, Payment of January bills and payroll.
- received annual committee assignments. Committee assignments remained the same as last year.

Personnel Report

• New Hires

(Classified) - **Kathy Bronkhorst**, Bus Driver, Transportation
Joanne Norris, Para-Educator, Pioneer

• Resignations/Retirements

(Classified) - **Naila Betances**, Bilingual Para-Educator Prospect Point - 2 years
Ann Caulk, Library Technician, Wa-Hi - 2 months
Glenys Stacy, Para-Educator, Edison - 23 years

• Out-of-State Travel

Karen Dazell and **Lori Finn** to WBITE Regional Conference in Reno, NV (*funding - Professional Growth/Vocational*)
Oscar Graybill to 2005 ASCD Annual Conference in Orlando, FL (*funding - Title One and Bilingual*)
Pamela McBride to National Meeting for Partners in Science in San Diego, CA (*funding - Professional Growth Option*)

Quote of the Week

"Without passion man is a mere latent force and possibility, like the flint which awaits the shock of the iron before it can give forth its spark."

Henri Frederic Amiel

School Board Appreciation Month

Former President Tim Donaldson thanked for service

District staff and students representing the district's schools showered school board members with tokens of appreciation last night in support of *School Board Appreciation Month*. The board room was decorated with colorful posters and the board desk was filled with more than ample supplies of chocolate and other crafts and goodies.

Superintendent **Rich Carter** presented each board member with a special, framed recognition certificate and thanked them for a job well done.

Carter also took time to thank outgoing School Board President **Tim Donaldson** for his leadership and dedication to service. The district passed a four-year Maintenance and Operations Levy and completed a districtwide facilities study during Donaldson's tenure as president.

Group gets ok for Garrison track

School board members voted to allow a citizens group with aspirations of donating an all-weather track to Garrison Middle School to move ahead.

Led by community members **Craig Nelson**, **Ed Nelson**, and **Steve Gerling**, *Citizens for the Garrison Track Project* plan to raise money through private donations and grants.

Several local businesses and contractors have already pledged their support for the project according to Nelson. The group hopes to raise \$150,000 for the project and another \$100,000 for future maintenance.

The group plans to secure enough funding for the track for a summer construction timeline. Design work and fund raising efforts will begin soon.

Contact the Blue Mountain Community Foundation regarding pledge opportunities, 529-4371.

Middle schools team to improve achievement

In a symbol of the collaboration taking place this year between Garrison and Pioneer Middle Schools, principals from both schools teamed to present efforts underway to improve their schools.

Principal **Jim Sporleder** and Assistant Principal **Gina Yonts** said to board members they appreciate working with new Pioneer Principal **Dana Jones** and new Assistant Prin-

cipal **Jon Abbott** to find common strategies to improve achievement at both campuses.

An emphasis on collaboration, focused instruction, curriculum mapping, extended learning, and Literacy First reading instruction is at the core of all efforts at both schools.

In their progress reports, principals at both schools said they will continue using data to plan for student instruction.

State testing alters secondary late start schedule

There will be no secondary (Pioneer, Garrison, Wa-Hi) late starts:
- Wednesday, April 20, 2005
- Wednesday, April 27, 2005

This change in the schedule was made so Washington Assessment of Student Learning (WASL) testing can begin at the same time on these days as the other regularly scheduled testing days during the two week WASL testing window.

The third week of the testing window - May 2 to 6 - is designated as a make-up week and the regular Late Start schedule will be followed.

Garrison to host next Superintendent's Coffee

Friday, January 21
Garrison Library
8:00 - 9:00 a.m.

This activity is an opportunity for parents and community members to get to know Superintendent Rich Carter. He will discuss issues facing Walla Walla Public Schools and talk about ways they can support efforts to improve district schools.

This will be a very informal setting, so please encourage people to drop in for coffee, juice and sweet rolls.

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'Keeping Our Team Informed'