

September 20 • School Board Meeting Recap

## Architects probe school design teams for input

*Staff feedback brings facilities needs and wants to surface*

Staff members on design teams from Edison Elementary, Wa-Hi, Paine Alternative programs and Support Service had an opportunity to meet with representatives from Architects West last week to further define their facilities needs.

Architects West also met with members of the district's Community Facilities Task Force and the Blue Mountain Action Council during their two-day visit.

In a report to school board members last night, Business Manager **Aron Rausch** said the meetings were very productive and will be helpful as Architects West begins efforts to create conceptual designs of facilities in need.

"Architects West did a great job prob-

ing design teams on what their program needs are," Rausch said to school board members. "Program needs will drive the facilities design."

Representatives from Architects West are scheduled to make regular visits to Walla Walla in the coming months as the district continues work to finalize its Facilities Improvement Plan.

Architects West will also play a key role in engaging our community during public forums the district plans to schedule -- tentatively in November.

Architects West gave all members of the design teams a "homework" assignment to connect with staff in their schools and departments to gather even more information and feedback to support this process.

## Symposium Reunion

*District to deliver progress report to Strategic Plan 'think-group'*

**Wednesday, September 28**  
**Whitman College - Reid Center**  
**11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.**

Last fall more than 100 community members, staff, parents, students and business leaders gathered on the campus of Whitman College to help define what Walla Walla expects of its public schools and what graduates will need to be successful in the 21st Century.

Many of the ideas and concepts shared during the two-day Symposium were used to develop the district's recently approved Strategic Plan ([http://www.wwps.org/leadership/strategic\\_plan.htm](http://www.wwps.org/leadership/strategic_plan.htm)).

This group and other community leaders are being reconvened September 28 for a progress report from the district.

"This provided an opportunity to help validate their work and demonstrate how it is being used to improve student achievement," Superintendent **Rich Carter** said. "We are united as a community to get better."

## National Food Service Employees Week

*September 19-23*

*Superintendent Rich Carter and school board members celebrated the week by acknowledging and thanking Food Service staff for helping get students ready to learn and their key role in education.*

## In other School Board meeting business...

### **Board members:**

- approved minutes of the regular board meeting September 6, 2005, Personnel and Out-of-State travel reports, PSE Negotiated Agreement for 2005-2006, Interlocal Agreement for 2005-2006, Pathways Back Interagency Agreement 2005-2006, Payment of September Bills and Payroll.
- hired Koegen-Edwards as the district's Bond Counsel. Business Manager Aron Rausch explained how bond issues are required to have a legal opinion for tax exempt status and SEC requirements before being authorized to be sold or rated. Roy Koegen has served in this capacity with Walla Walla Public Schools for more than 20 years.
- approved a 25 year easement for Qwest to place a fiber optics hub at Berney Elementary.

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

**Quality | Integrity | Accountability | Respect | Courtesy**

## Personnel Report

### • New Hires

(Certificated) - NONE TO REPORT

(Classified) - **Denise Fraire**, Bilingual Para-Ed, HeadStart/ECEAP - Blue Ridge  
**Julie Maib**, Para-Educator, Pioneer

### • Resignations/Retirements

(Classified) - **Alicia Garza**, Bilingual Assistant Secretary, Wa-Hi, 1.5 years  
**Roger Hicks**, Bus Driver, Transportation, 2 years

### Quote of the Week

"Obstacles cannot crush me. Every obstacle yields to stern resolve. He who is fixed to a star does not change his mind."

*Leonardo da Vinci*

## Battelle scientists honor Pioneer's Herr

Pioneer Middle School Language Arts teacher **Cheryl Herr** learned first hand hard work pays off. For Herr, it came in the form of a \$2,500 check from Battelle Pacific Northwest National Laboratory following a successful educational partnership with one of the nation's science leaders.

Jeff Estes of Battelle paid tribute to Herr last night for her efforts launching an earth science project at Pioneer Middle School with 6<sup>th</sup> grade students.

The task featured a risk analysis project students completed in conjunction with Scientists from Battelle Pacific Northwest National Laboratory.

Students documented historical flood data, calculated slope figures, studied stream flows, and charted topography during this Earth Science exercise.

Estes said Herr demonstrated professionalism and courage for taking a risk with this project.

Herr helped the project grow from involving just her students in its first year to expanding in its second year to include all Pioneer 6th graders. Students also created logos, designed posters and organized a public open house to support the project.

This project was made available through the district's Leadership Assistance for Science Education Reform (LASER) partnership with Battelle. The LASER program enhances the district's science offerings by providing additional funding sources, science materials, professional expertise and avenues for community involvement.



Cheryl Herr

## Wa-Hi's Calhoun tests school board members math skills with automated response system

School board members and those in the audience at last night's school board meeting had no idea they would have to wipe the dust off their math skills, but that's what happened as Wa-Hi Math teacher **William Calhoun** demonstrated how he is using technology to support learning.

Using the automated response system, Calhoun asked school board members and those in the audience to answer math questions to demonstrate how the system helps provide students with instant feedback on their learning.

Using a remote similar to one for a television, users are able to punch in their responses and instantly see if they have the correct answer. Calhoun said students are asking to be tested just so they can use the technology. There are currently 8 to 10 systems in the district. They were paid for with grant dollars.

### Young Peoples' Concert Friday

The Walla Walla Symphony hosts the 2005 Young Peoples' Concert Friday, Sept. 23 at Cordiner Hall.

More than 3,000 third and fifth grade students are scheduled to attend this presentation. There will be a 9 a.m. concert and a 10:30 a.m. concert.

The concert will feature Prokofiev's "Peter and the Wolf." In addition Wa-Hi student Alex Bernstein will be performing one movement of a Beethoven concerto.

For more information on this concert, contact the Wa-Hi Music Department at 527-3039.

### First Patron Tour Thursday

The district launches its new Patron Tour program Thursday in an effort to enhance awareness of district issues, goals and needs.

Participants of the half-day program will meet with Superintendent **Rich Carter** and other district administrators to learn more about district goals, tour Sharpstein Elementary and Pioneer Middle School before eating school lunch with students.

Next month participants will tour Edison Elementary and Wa-Hi.

Contact Communications Director **Mark Higgins** at 526-6716 or [mhiggins@wwps.org](mailto:mhiggins@wwps.org) if you know someone who is interested in participating in a future tour.

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:

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