

Staff complete long list of summer projects

Maintenance efforts help provide quality learning spaces



Pioneer Middle School was repainted this summer to improve its appearance and help preserve the building. Pioneer also received HVAC and lighting improvements as part of the summer work load.

The district invested more than \$1 million in maintenance and new projects across the district last school year and over the summer months, according to a report to the school board last night from Facilities Support Director **Dan Johnson**. Johnson said some of the work was completed by district staff while other was contracted out.

Project Highlights

(Funding: General & Capital Funds, Grants and Maintenance Budget)

- New Garrison backstop and fencing (funding support from donations)
- New Blue Ridge playground (funding support from donations)
- Blue Ridge HVAC control systems, lighting improvements, carpet
- Lincoln asphalt driveway and new kitchen
- New Green Park classroom and cafeteria floor finishing
- New Prospect Point driveway, lighting & exterior paint
- New Berney playground and hub room improvements
- Wa-Hi portable installations, HVAC install in Music Bldg., Auto Shop floor refinished, rifle range and classroom improvements, Murr Sports complex parking lot repairs, Reser Road support and fencing

Enrollment stable to start year

Chief Financial Officer **Pat Johnston** reported to school board members last night the district is on sound footing regarding enrollment to start the school year.

Johnston said the district is at 6102.03 Full-Time Equivalent (FTE) students. These figures include the Alternative Education Program and Running Start Program at Walla Walla Community College.

The district set its budget figure at 6013 FTE to fund the 2011-2012 school year. The school district is funded from the state based on enrollment figures from Full-Time Equivalent students. Johnston said elementary enrollment numbers are above projections, while middle and high school enrollment has taken a slight dip.

Johnston also suggested state law changes to Homeschool funding have impacted the Homelink program which is serving fewer students to start the year.

The district's 2011-2012 General Fund budget is \$62,091,263. District enrollment counts will be tallied each month throughout the school year and averaged out to determine state funding levels for the 2011-2012 school year.

Early dismissal dates

- Friday, Sept. 30 (K-5 only)
(Report card preparation)
- Thursday, Oct. 6 (K-12)
- Thursday, Oct. 7 (K-12)
(Parent/Teacher Conferences - both days)

In other School Board meeting business...

Board members:

- approved minutes of September 6, 2011 board meeting, personnel report, September 19, 2011 accounts payable and September payroll, August financial report, Public School Employees (PSE) Contract, Board Policy 5006/Unprofessional Conduct, and the board meeting schedule (January to June 2012).
- held a work session to discuss the new Strategic Plan, calendar committee and future Preschool facility options.

Personnel Report

Employment

(Certificated) **NONE TO REPORT**

(Classified)

Teri Turner, Food Services Assistant, Blue Ridge Elementary

Christopher Zink, Custodian, Walla Walla High School

Resignation/Retirement

(Classified)

Laure Jordan, SLP Para-Educator, Special Programs (6 years)

Leave of Absence

(Classified)

Tom Arland, Custodian, Walla Walla High School (3 years)

- Tom will be on a leave until further notice

Out-of-State Travel

Marc Yonts to attend OAPHERD Speaker in Salem, OR (Funding: PGO Funds)

Quote of the Week

"I am always willing to learn, however I do not always like to be taught."

Winston Churchill

Curriculum Department announces new Administrative Assistant

Kim Locken will transfer from the Special Programs Department to the Curriculum Department to assume the Administrative Assistant position. Locken replaces Maryelyn Hebel who recently retired.

Superintendent Mick Miller forms Calendar Committee

Superintendent **Mick Miller** briefed the school board on his plans for organizing the district Calendar Committee. The group will meet Wednesday, October 12 from 6:30 to 8 p.m. This group will meet again Wednesday, November 2 to continue the process.

The Calendar Committee will make recommendations for the 2012-2013 and 2013-2014 school year calendars. Miller would like to take a recommendation to the school board in November or December.

Calendar Committee Membership

- Superintendent Mick Miller, Chair
- WWVEA president, Co-Chair – Margo Piver
- PSE president, Co-Chair – Bill Heiser
- School board member – Jim Lehmann and Anne Golden (Alternate)
- Administrators – Dr. Linda Boggs, Laure Quaresma, Mark Higgins
- Principals – Donna Painter and Mira Gobel
- Teachers – Margaret Yount, Lynn Junke, Lance Longmire
- Parents representatives – Staci Simmelink-Johnson, Dana Hood, Heidi Leinweber, Nancy Klicker, Kirk Klicker, Susan Brick, Phillip Brick, Federico Diaz, Sara Paine, Charlotte Bouta, Shannon Kruegar, Peter Swant, Shauna Bogley
- High School students (two) *optional - TBD
- College Place Superintendent – Tim Payne
- Dixie Superintendent – Mark Wegner
- Whitman College - Ruth Wardell (Communications Director)
- Walla Walla University – Jodi Wagner (Marketing Director)
- Washington State Penitentiary – Don Holbrook
- Walla Walla Fair and Frontier Days Representative – Cory Hewitt
- Future Farmers of America Representative – Arch McHie

Trip to Germany & Spain offers students summer to remember

Walla Walla High School teachers **Gayle See** and **Curtis Schafer** and Edison ESL staff member **Elisabeth Entrena** reported to school board members on a student trip they organized this summer to Germany and Spain.

The 12 Walla Walla students spent one month overseas. Most students spent two weeks in Germany and two weeks in Spain, but a few spent the entire month in Germany. See showed a photo slideshow to school board members and stressed how much the students learned during their stay.

Schafer and Entrena wanted to visit a country which featured Spanish as the national language. They said the students represented their school and country well. They plan to go back in the Summer of 2013. This time they want to spend an entire month in Spain with a separate group spending an entire month in Germany.

Board to visit Lincoln Health Center

- October 4, 2011
- 6:30 p.m. (regular board meeting)
- Location: Lincoln High School
- Tour of Lincoln Health Center prior to the school board meeting
- Meeting & tour open to the public