

## Board conducts budget work session

### *Preliminary budget maintains strong reserves*

Despite no increase in state public education funding for the 2012-2013 school year and a slight decline in enrollment last year, the district remains fiscally sound.

The district is projecting an unrestricted fund balance of more than \$5 million or nearly eight percent, based on preliminary General Fund budget projections from Chief Financial Officer **Pat Johnston** during last night's public school board work session. The district would need to dip into fund balance reserves by approximately \$2.2 million to balance the General Fund budget, according to the preliminary budget presented by Johnston.

Johnston based the preliminary General Fund budget on revenues of \$60,833,848 and expenditures of \$63,034,653. The district is using an enrollment figure of 5,862 Full-Time Equivalent students as the primary revenue source for the 2012-13 General Fund Budget. This basic education enrollment figure used for budgeting purposes is up 33 students from the previous year. During the next two months, Miller and Johnston will be working to find ways to reduce expenditures to better align with revenue.

School board members and Superintendent **Mick Miller** believe the trend of using significant reserves to balance the General Fund budget cannot be sustained. He said the district built up its reserves to help maintain programs and necessary staffing levels to combat the lean years of the recession. Miller says he hopes to get additional state funding next year and in the coming years. Despite the uncertainty in a down economy, Miller says he is confident the district is sound fiscally.



*Pat Johnston*

## Wa-Hi test scores above national averages on ACT

Walla Walla High School Principal **Pete Peterson** provided a year end report to the school board Tuesday evening. Peterson reported students participating in this spring's ACT testing performed well as compared to state averages.

Students were tested in English, Math, Reading and Science. Peterson said students made gains from last year and in most cases performed above the national average in all subject areas.

Peterson also reported the school's unexcused absence percentage is approximately one percent of all absences. He said only 49 petitions were sent to Court Services this year for students with chronic unexcused absences. Peterson said direct contact with parents and students is the key to preventing unexcused absences.

Peterson went on to say discipline incidents are on the decrease. In 2012 there were 12 cases of discipline from fighting, down 13 from the previous year. On-campus drug and tobacco offenses are down significantly as well. Peterson said it was a great school year at Walla Walla High School.

## In other School Board meeting business...

### *Board members:*

- approved minutes from the June 5, 2012 school board meeting, personnel report, out-of-state travel, June 19 accounts payable, May Financial Report, 2012-13 Highly Capable Grant, 2012-2013 Head Start/ECEAP Program Calendar, June 12, 2012 Public Work Session minutes.
- received for first reading - Credit for Competency/Proficiency, Policy #2409.
- approved the High School Math Curriculum Adoption (Algebra I-II and Geometry)
- approved a new American Military History course for high school students

## Personnel Report

### Employment

(Certificated)

**Dr. Sherri Eaton-Bin Daar, School**, School Psychologist, Special Programs

(Classified)

**Ana Aguilar**, Para-Educator, Sharpstein

**Amity Priore**, Para-Educator, Edison

### Resignation/Retirement

(Certificated)

**Ted Cummings**, PE Specialist, Walla Walla High School, 30 years

(Classified)

**William Beckmeyer**, Trades Assistant, Facilities & Operations, 20 years

(Retirement effective September 30, 2012)

**Chris Brown**, Para-Educator, Walla Walla High School, 1 year

### Out-of-State Travel

**Stacy Estes** to attend AVID Elementary Training in Dallas, TX (Funding: GEAR UP)

**Elaina Renius** to attend AVID Summer Institute in San Diego, CA (Funding GEAR UP)

*Excellence in  
Every Classroom*

Quote of the Week

“Education costs money, but then so does ignorance.”

Sir Claus Moser

## GEAR UP develops College and Career online resource

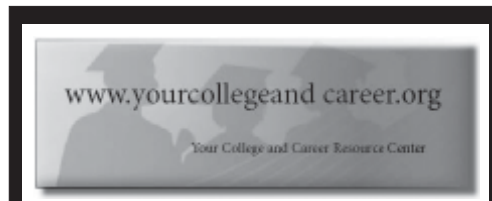
Last night WSU GEAR UP’s Jerri Grant and Becky Waggoner reported to school board members on the new web site developed last school year to promote College and Career readiness programs here.

Waggoner explained how the site offers parents and students information about upcoming events and activities. A link to the site is located on the Walla Walla Public Schools homepage.

#### Online features:

- School Contacts
- Career Planning
- College Planning
- Getting Involved
- Paying for College
- Testing
- Academic Support

[www.yourcollegeandcareer.org](http://www.yourcollegeandcareer.org)



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- quick reference to college & career events
- AVID strategies & classes
- single source guide for district parents for summer programs, leadership opportunities crossing over middle schools and the high school
- great resource for college visits

## District strengthens partnership with Commitment to Community

Commitment to Community (C2C) Program Director **Julia Leavitt** provided a report to school board members last night. This school year C2C organizers regularly visited schools in the neighborhoods they serve. This activity is designed to improve relationships and communication. Leavitt said having more access to district schools helps them build stronger relationships with the children of the families they serve.

C2C Team: Julia Leavitt, Lupe Mares, Yesenia Guevara, Federico Diaz, Aubrey Hill.

## School lunch prices increase

On Superintendent Miller’s recommendation, school board members reluctantly approved a 10 cent increase to school lunches to keep pace with program costs and to conform with federal guidelines. Students receiving free or reduced-price meals are not impacted. Lunches were last increased in 2008-09.

## Blue Devil Athletic Development (BDAD) Summer Program

Dates:

June 27 - August 2

Schedule

Incoming 9-12 grades:

- 8-9 a.m. or 10-11 a.m.

Incoming 5-8 grades:

- 9-10 a.m.

Cost:

- \$30 pre-register

(if postmarked by June 25)

- \$35 registering at the door

Registration form online:

Available on the Wa-Hi web site

Questions:

- Eric Hisaw: [ehisaw@wwps.org](mailto:ehisaw@wwps.org)
- Amy Hisaw: [ahisaw@wwps.org](mailto:ahisaw@wwps.org)