

Opportunity Program returns to district

Walla Walla Public Schools has re-established an off-site alternative learning program to offer area high school students more choices for earning credits en route to graduation and is targeting 5th and 6th year seniors, credit deficient students and students in need of a flexible schedule.

The Opportunity Program is a contract-based program which offers students more flexibility to meet their scheduling needs, a chance to work one-on-one with a teacher for a portion of the week and an off-site location. Opportunity students work at their own pace and on subject areas related to their specific academic needs. Contract-based programming is also used at Walla Walla High School and Lincoln High School for credit retrieval.

This community-based, off-site program is being operated in the Walla Walla Public Schools district office at 364 S. Park St. Former Opportunity Program teachers Tom Porter and Jerry Quaresma are serving as the program teachers and student advisors.

“It is our intention to keep students in the Walla Walla School District connected with public school education and to reconnect those students

who have previously dropped out or have not been successful,” Porter said. “Course content and graduation requirements are aligned with Walla Walla High School.”

Opportunity Program begins the first day of school – Tuesday, Sept. 4. For more information, contact at Tom Porter – tporter@wwps.org / 509.526.6785



School Board approves budget

Last night, school board members approved the district’s 2012-2013 General Fund budget. The General Fund budget is based on revenues of \$60,330,556 and expenditures of \$61,043,956.

The district used nearly \$800,000 of reserves to balance the budget. The General Fund budget maintains a \$6,252,644 unrestricted reserve or 10.2%. School board members thanked Chief Financial Officer **Pat Johnston** and Superintendent **Mick Miller** for their work preparing the budget and finding ways to reduce expenditures without compromising programs.

Lehmann to resign from school board

School board member **Dr. Jim Lehmann** is resigning from the school board. The Sept. 4 school board meeting will be his last day on the school board. Lehmann plans to spend more time with his children and grandchildren on the east coast.

He said it has been an honor and privilege to serve on the school board. Superintendent **Mick Miller** and Board President **Max Carrera** will develop a plan for finding a replacement. His term runs through 2015.



In other School Board meeting business...

Board members:

- approved minutes from the July 17, 2012 school board meeting and July 24 executive session, personnel report, August 7 accounts payable, August 21 accounts payable and July payroll, July Financial Report, Out-of-State Tuition 2012-13, Request to Increase Procurement Card Imprest Account, 2012-13 student handbooks, Issuance of Superintendent’s Contract, Issuance of 2012-13 contracts: Classified Administrators; Off-Schedule staff, and Extra Curricular Contracts.
- approved Budget Resolution No. 08-2012
- approved Interlocal Agreement for Procurement of Food/Resolution No. 09-2012
- approved a Declaration of Emergency, Blue Ridge Elementary School/Res No. 10-2012

Personnel Report

Employment

(Certificated)

Kasey Hooter, Title I Teacher (.5 FTE) temporary, Blue Ridge

Caroline Lujan, Counselor, Walla Walla High School

Susan McKay, School Psychologist, Special Programs

(Classified)

Danon Griffen, Mechanic, SE Transportation Cooperative

Janet Ihle, Health Clinician, Blue Ridge

Julian Oscanaz, Kitchen Assistant, Pioneer Middle School

Della Rock, Kitchen Assistant, Garrison Middle School

Dilsey Welck, Kitchen Assistant, Prospect Point

Resignation/Retirement

(Certificated)

Laura Grant, Fifth Grade, Berney, 20 years

Elaina Renius, Counselor, Walla Walla High School, 2 years

(Classified)

Simmon Palomino, Para-Educator, Blue Ridge, 5 months

Erika Sayers, Para-Educator, Sharpstein, 2 months

Kelsey Trejo, Para-Educator, Edison, 1.5 years

Vidalia Trejo, Family Advocate, Blue Ridge Head Start/ECEAP, 5 years

Quote of the Week

"Education is not the filling of a bucket, but the lighting of a fire."

W. B. Yeats

See you at the Fair!

School displays, student work, animals, information and more!

*August 29 through
Labor Day Weekend*

Student Health Options seeks center at Blue Ridge

Student Health Options Executive Director **Holly Howard** reported to school board members last night her organization is seeking school board approval to expand to Blue Ridge Elementary School.

Currently Student Health Options operates the Student Health Center at Lincoln High School. The Student Health Center at Blue Ridge would operate Monday, Tuesday and Thursday from 12:30 to 3:30 p.m.

Student Health Center staff would share space with the Blue Ridge Health Clinician who provides service to the school during the morning hours. The school currently does not have coverage in the afternoons. **Dr. Alison Kirby**, a founding member of Student Health Options who was instrumental in establishing a school-based health center at Lincoln High School, said the program is designed to help support area primary care physicians. She said the Health Center at Blue Ridge will help streamline care, improve local healthcare efficiencies and be a conduit to area medical clinics.

No decision was made last night. School board members will schedule a work session soon to further study the proposal.

Wa-Hi JROTC program helps prepare future leaders

Last night Lt. Col. Bill Bialozor and Sgt. Mark Mebes provided a report to school board members. Currently 179 students are involved. The program features daily classes and extra-curricular marksmanship and drill. Bialozor said the program has a strong leadership development component and continues to grow in numbers and scope.

District offers new bullying Tip Line

Walla Walla Public Schools is now using *SafeSchools Alert* to report safety concerns. *SafeSchools Alert* is a tip reporting service which allows students, staff, and parents to submit safety concerns to district administration in four different ways:

1. Phone: 1-855-4ALERT1, ext. 1057
2. Text: Text #1057 @tip + your tip to ALERT1 (253781)
3. Email: 1057@alert1.us
4. Web: <http://1057.alert1.us>

Easily report tips on bullying, harassment, drug use, vandalism or any safety issue concern through *SafeSchools Alert*.

When submitting a tip, be sure to use our district's identification code, 1057, in the communication.

All Staff Back-to-School Meeting

- Thursday, August 30
- Wa-Hi Main Gym
- 8 a.m. (treats and visiting)
- 8:30 a.m. (program begins)
- All staff encouraged to attend