

School board votes to improve Wa-Hi

Improved teaching and learning spaces top priority

Walla Walla Public Schools will seek a \$48 million bond on the February 12, 2013 Special Election to fund a \$69.6 million modernization of Walla Walla High School. All of the existing 1963 buildings will be repurposed in the design to reduce costs. The project is eligible for \$21.6 million in State Matching dollars which will be used on the Wa-Hi project. Cost is 68 cents per \$1,000 assessed value. The recently approved College Place bond was \$2.67 per \$1,000.



The project will fund improvements in the Science/Math building, Academic building, Commons/Library, CTE building and Music/Drama spaces. A new Fitness Center will replace the existing weight room, 10 tennis courts and a new all weather track will be added to support PE and athletic programs. See the district *Fact Sheet* for more details.

Why don't you phase in the project over time?

A multiple phased project would disrupt the learning environment for up to a decade as opposed to a 26 to 30 month disruption with a single project. Economically, it makes sense to do the project all at once. Rising inflation, election fees and multiple construction mobilizations will cost the taxpayers millions if the project is completed in phases. Current interest rates remain at an all time low as well.

Why do you need to modernize Wa-Hi since College Place passed a bond for its own high school?

The reduction of 350 College Place students does not mitigate the need to modernize the 50-year-old school, but does present the opportunity to scale the project back by approximately 10 classrooms.

Bond Costs & Timeline

- Local Bond Amount: \$48 million
- State Matching funds: \$21.6 million
(*Matching dollars to fund Wa-Hi project*)
- Total Project Cost: \$69.6 million
- 68 cents per \$1,000 assessed value
(*College Place Bond = \$2.67 per \$1,000*)

NOTE:

- * Any excess bond funds will be used for facility improvements at Lincoln High School.
- * Sharpstein Bond paid in full - Dec. 2012
- * Edison Bond paid in full - Dec. 2018

Proposed Project Timeline (if approved)

- Winter 2013: Detailed architectural design
- Spring 2014: Contractor bids
- Summer 2014: Project begins
- Winter 2016: Project completed

What is your plan for addressing Lincoln High School's facility needs?

Lincoln High School is the next priority on the district's Facilities Improvement Plan. By summer of 2013, the district will determine the best location for Lincoln High School. If that is on the current site, the district will determine if the existing 1927 building should be modernized or a new school built at the current location.

In other School Board meeting business...

Board members:

- approved minutes from the Oct. 16, 2012 board meeting, personnel report, out-of-state travel, extracurricular contracts, Nov. 6 accounts payable and October payroll, and revision to Policy 2025/Copyright compliance.
- Approved Resolution No. 13-2012/High School Facilities Bond -- Modernize Walla Walla High School

Personnel Report

Employment

(Certificated) - **NONE TO REPORT**

(Classified)

Mark Franklin, Bus Driver, Transportation

Staci Humphreys, Para-Educator (temp), Walla Walla High School

Stephanie Maldonado-Salgado, Para-Educator (temp), Sharpstein

Doug Sperber, Custodian, Green Park and Prospect Point and Wa-Hi

Out of State Travel

Linda Boggs to attend AVID Staff Developer Training in San Diego, CA (Funding: Title II - Professional Development)

Roger Garcia to attend Midwest Band and Orchestra Clinic in Chicago, IL (Funding: Professional Development)

Quote of the Week

“Live as if you were to die tomorrow. Learn as if you were to live forever.”

Mahatma Gandhi

No School Monday, Nov. 12
Veterans Day Holiday

Today's 5th graders would be the first freshmen to attend the new Wa-Hi for all four years.



“The district listened to the community and they said they wanted to keep the open feel and look of the campus, but they want a 21st Century learning environment. This plan does that. It remodels the existing buildings which keeps costs down. We are at historically low interest rates and now is the time. It's not going to get less expensive to modernize a 50-year-old building 10 years from now. Now is the time to do it.”

Mick Miller, Superintendent

Diversity Committee Plan

District Diversity Committee Chair **Sergio Hernandez** briefed the school board last night. Hernandez reported the district has developed a Diversity Plan for the 2012-13 school year.

Components of the plan include Cultural Diversity awareness and training, community outreach, legislative education, parent involvement, communications, staffing and partnerships.

Pioneer student films

Pioneer Middle School students in **Dan Calzaretta's** class reported to the school board on films they created as part of a class project. These films were recently accepted into the Citizen Jane Film Festival which targets women directors. The film *Bump in the Night*, which features paranormal activity, was created by **Oriana Golden** and **Amelia Mott**. The animated film *Amazing Fuzz* was created by **Gabby Frenzel** and **Beth Northam**.

Wa-Hi student programs

Wa-Hi ASB officers **Michaela Stalder**, **Summer Carlton-Gantz**, and **Tyler Morgan** reported efforts to improve school spirit. FFA member **Samantha Zuger** reported on the recent national FFA Convention.