

School board puts Wa-Hi Bond on hold

No timeline on table for next ballot measure

School members voted to not place a Walla Walla High School bond on the April 23, 2013 ballot. The district would have been required to have a resolution on file by Friday, March 8 for an April bond. No timeline has been set for the next bond election.

School Board President **Anne Golden** said the district will conduct more public meetings and work sessions to gather input and study additional options for modernizing the 50-year-old school.

The Feb. 12 Wa-Hi bond measure received a 53 percent yes count, falling short of the 60 percent Supermajority requirement for approval.



Anne Golden

“We need to put the Wa-Hi bond on hold and take in more input. We need to find out what people would like us to do and how much it is going to cost. We want the support of the community for Wa-Hi.”

Anne Golden, School Board President

Board pushes legislators to adequately fund schools

School board members urged state elected officials to address K-12 funding by approving Resolution #05-2013. School districts across the state are taking similar action challenging legislators to fully fund basic education. School board members and Superintendent Miller will be in Olympia this weekend to address these issues with regional and state legislators.

Skills Center groundbreaking

This week, contractors from Leone and Keeble, Inc. began work on the Southeast Area Technical Skills Center on the campus of Walla Walla Community College. The building is expected to be completed March 2014 with classes beginning Fall of 2014.

The district is planning a public Groundbreaking Ceremony Monday, March 25 at 1:30 p.m. at the site. The Skills Center will offer high school courses in construction trades, welding, renewable resources and health occupation programs. Partnering districts include Dayton, Waitsburg, Touchet, Prescott, and College Place.

Classified Employees Week: March 11-15

Next week is Classified Employees Week and a time to say thank you to the district's 391 support employees. Superintendent **Mick Miller** read a proclamation from Governor Inslee. Miller said we could not operate without classified employees.

Excerpt from Governor Inslee's Proclamation:

“Classified employees are involved in nearly every aspect of education, including maintaining school building and grounds, providing secretarial and clerical assistance, preparing and serving meals, providing safe transportation, keeping school facilities clean and orderly, assisting in the classroom, providing a secure environment and many other specialized services.”

In other School Board meeting business...

Board members:

- approved minutes from the Feb. 19, 2013 executive session and regular board meeting, minutes from Feb. 25, 2013 executive session, minutes from Feb. 26, 2013 work session, minutes from Feb. 20, 2013 audit entry conference, personnel report, out-of-state travel, extra curricular contracts, March 5 accounts payable and February Payroll, Policy 4130 District Parent/Family Involvement -- Title I Annual Review.
- approved Resolution #05-2013 - Washington State Legislature K-12 Funding.
- took action stating there will not be a proposal for Wa-Hi on the April 23, 2013 special election ballot.

Personnel Report

Resignation/Retirement

(Certificated)

Cami Baker, Physical Education, Pioneer Middle School, 6 years

* *Cami has been on a leave of absence for the 2012-13 school year*

Kay Barga, Second Grade, Edison Elementary, 22 years

Annie Boyd, School Psychologist, Special Programs, 7 years

* *Annie has been on a leave of absence for the 2012-13 school year*

Craig Buchanan, Auto Mechanics, Walla Walla High School, 9 years

Audra Cummings, Language Arts, Garrison Middle School, 9 years

* *Audra has been on a .5 FTE leave of absence for the 2012-13 school year and will continue as a .5 FTE teacher at Garrison Middle School.*

Marilyn Day, Head Start/ECEAP, Blue Ridge Elementary, 25 years

Carol Franklin, Counselor, Walla Walla High School, 28 years

Karen Fuller, First Grade, Edison, 36 years

Eileen Greenwalt, Speech Language Pathologist, 25 years

Robert Gregoire, ESL Coordinator, Green Park, 15 years

Louise Johnson, Kindergarten, Edison, 11 years

Christine Lowry, Fourth grade, Berney, 23 years

* *Christine has been on a leave of absence for the 2012-13 school year*

Sandra McCoy, Head Start/ECEAP, Blue Ridge, 11 years

Erika Montgomery, Second grade, Sharpstein, 1 year

Mary Schumacher, English, Walla Walla High School, 24 years

* *Mary has been on a leave of absence for the 2012-13 school year*

(Classified)

Marcia Clausen, Assistive Technology Assistant, Special Programs, 28 years

Ashia Jordana, Head Start/ECAP Family Advocate, Green Park, 2.5 years

Nicole Miller, Intervention Specialist, Special Programs, 4 years

* *Nicole has been on a leave of absence for the 2012-13 school year*

Hilary Tinneland-Darnold, Para-Educator, Prospect Point, 3 years

* *Hilary has been on a leave of absence for the 2012-13 school year*

Leave of Absence

(Certificated)

Lucas Hamada, Science, Garrison Middle School, 6 years

* *For the 2013-14 school year*

Out-of-State Travel

Jill Meliah and **Jim Smith** to attend Nike Basketball Clinic in Las Vegas, NV (Funding: Coaches Professional Growth)

Lehman provides Special Education Board Report

Special Programs Director **Dr. Karen Lehman** updated the school board on Special Education services. Currently 809 students are being served in programs ages Birth to 21. Lehman praised the exemplary staff in the Special Education program. She said staff development has been a focus this year and will continue in the fall. She said the program hinges on providing an education experience to meet the individual needs of each child.



Dr. Karen Lehman

Quote of the Week

“An education isn’t how much you have committed to memory, or even how much you know. It’s being able to differentiate between what you know and what you don’t.”

Anatole France

Enrollment remains below budget targets

Chief Financial Officer **Pat Johnston** updated the school board on district enrollment and finances last night. Johnston reported the district is 29 students below beginning year budget projections. The greatest dip is in grades 1-3. She said revenues are up approximately \$162,059 due to other state and federal factors not related to student enrollment. She said the district will use this year’s reduced enrollment figures to set budget targets for next year. The district maintains a 8 percent undesignated fund balance reserve despite the lower enrollment.