

AVID program comes to Sharpstein

Last night, Sharpstein Principal **Matt Bona** updated the school board on the AVID (Advancement Via Individual Determination) program. This is the first year the program has been in place at Sharpstein.

Bona was exposed to AVID during his tenure as Assistant Principal at Walla Walla High School. This program, which serves all 4th and 5th grade students, is designed to close the achievement gap and prepare students for success at four year colleges. Students are learning organizational skills, scholarship information and how to advocate for themselves.

Sharpstein 4th and 5th grade teachers have participated in extensive AVID professional development to hone their skills.



Sharpstein Elementary 5th grade student Carrie Seekamp shows her AVID planner to School Board member Max Carrera. Students use the planner to develop organizational skills and to communicate with their parents about school.

Hess to retire from school board

School board member **Dan Hess** announced last night he is retiring from the school board at the end of his term. Hess said he wanted to announce early so there is ample time for potential school board members to meet the May 13 to 17, 2013 filing period.



There will be a primary in August if there are two or more candidates running for the position. The November General Election determines the winner. The new school board member will be sworn in at the December 2013 school board meeting.

Hess served two terms from 1985 to 1993 and is in his third term on the school board after being re-elected in 2010. Thanks so much to Dan Hess for his service to Walla Walla Public Schools!

Skills Center groundbreaking

- Monday, March 25
- 1:30 p.m.
- WWCC (Skills Center site)

The Skill 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.

In other School Board meeting business...

Board members:

- approved minutes from the March 5, 2013 regular board meeting, personnel report, out-of-state travel, extra curricular contracts, March 19 accounts payable and February financial report.
- received for first reading: Policy 3413 - Student Immunization and Life Threatening Health

Personnel Report

Resignation/Retirement

(Certificated)

Sarah Rathbun, First Grade, Edison, 2.5 years

Leave of Absence

(Certificated)

Angie Butler, Science, Pioneer Middle School, 7 years

* *Angie is taking a .5 FTE leave of absence for the 2013-14 school year. She will continue as a .5 FTE science teacher.*

Maria Garcia, School Psychologist, Special Programs, 17 years

* *Maria will continue as RTI Coordinator in the Curriculum, Instruction and Assessment Department*

Margo Piver, Library Media Specialist, Prospect Point Elementary, 18 years

* *Margo will continue as a .5 FTE Library Media Specialist and fulfill her duties as Walla Walla Valley Association President for the 2013-2014 and 2014-2015 school years.*

Out-of-State Travel

Conor Fish and **Kasey Hooter** to attend Nike Basketball Clinic in Las Vegas, NV (Funding: Athletic Professional Growth)

Bill Bialozor and **Mark Mebes** to attend JROTC National Rifle Championship in Anniston, AL (Funding: US Army Cadet Command and Vocational)

Quote of the Week

“Do not train children to learning by force and harshness, but direct them to it by what amuses their minds, so that you may be better able to discover with accuracy the peculiar bent of the genius of each.”

Plato

Spring Break Vacation

- April 1-5 (No School)
- Classes resume Monday, April 8

School Board accepts Asset Preservation Plan

Facilities Support Director **Dan Johnson** presented the district’s Asset Preservation Plan to school board members per state requirements. School Board members accepted the plan as presented.



Dan Johnson

The online data collection program is a mechanism to score and inventory building facilities based on their condition and other criteria.

Johnson said he was skeptical of using the plan at first but has since found it a helpful tool. He said the Asset Preservation Plan will allow him to be more proactive in directing maintenance efforts. He said the district places a high priority on maintenance and he praised the staff for their professionalism and hard work.



The Asset Preservation Plan was created by the state of Washington to provide district’s a tool to manage maintenance.

Preschool using GLAD strategies

Board receives Head Start Annual Review

Preschool Director **Kerri Coffman** presented the Head Start Annual Review to school board members last night to meet program requirements. Teachers **Sharron Plucker**, **Elisa Weinman-Pogue** and **Tensie Lovejoy** presented a report on the GLAD (*Guided Language Acquisition Design*) strategies they are using this year for the first time.

The strategies help improve vocabulary skills and focus on academic gains. Preschool teachers attended training on GLAD strategies specific for preschool-aged students. They said students are more focused on their learning after implementing these strategies.



Preschool teachers are using learning logs, picture dictionaries, daily messages and other strategies to help students acquire skills.