

DeBroeck to direct SEA-Tech Skills Center

Walla Walla High School Technology teacher **Dennis DeBroeck** has been named the Director of the Southeast Area Technical Skills Center which is scheduled to open in the Fall of 2014.



DeBroeck will also teach the Digital Media Technology program at the SEA-Tech Skills Center. He will continue teaching technology classes full-time at Walla Walla High School during the 2013-2014 school year while also providing planning support for the SEA-Tech Skills Center. DeBroeck will work full-time at the SEA-Tech Skills Center once it opens. DeBroeck has been employed by Walla Walla since 1994.

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“I am incredibly excited to have Dennis DeBroeck heading up the new SEA-Tech Skills Center,” Superintendent **Mick Miller** said. “He is a kid magnet. Also, Dennis has a vision as to how a rural skills center can be successful and he is the person to lead us.”

The Washington state legislature approved a total of \$11,519,000 to fund the design development, construction and equipment for the Southeast Area Technical Skills Center in Walla Walla during the 2011-13 biennium for the 36,000 square foot facility located on the Walla Walla Community College campus, off of Isaacs Ave.

WWCC is leasing the land to Walla Walla Public Schools for \$1 per year. The district’s matching portion of the project cost is the value of the lease over 30 years. The state funded the remaining portion of the project. This funding allowed the district to break ground on the project March 2013.

Leone and Keeble, Inc. is the project contractor and Architects West, Inc. is the architect. The skills center will initially offer digital media technology, welding, renewable resources and health occupation programs. The SEA-Tech Skills Center will be a branch campus of the Kennewick School District’s Tri-Tech Skills Center. Partner districts: Dayton, Waitsburg, Touchet, Prescott, and College Place.

Board approves Lincoln High School community facility report

School board members approved the report from the Lincoln High School Community Facility Study Committee co-chaired by **Max Carrera** and **Lori Finn**.

The report recommends the district build a new school at its current 4th Street location. The committee stated in its recommendation a new building would be less expensive, offer more flexibility and have the least impact on students during construction. The current school was built in 1927 for elementary students. Committee members said the current location best suits the school with its proximity to social services, and Valley Transit bus lines. Many students also live within walking distance of the campus.

The committee also recommends the district establish an Alternative Education Advisory Committee, “institutionalize” the school’s culture and create a public awareness campaign of the school’s recent successes. The school board has not taken action on the recommendations at this time.

Committee Members: Max Carrera, Co-Chair, Lori Finn, Co-Chair, Katherine Boehm, Eric Gordon, Mark Higgins, Holly Howard, Pat Johnston, Lawson Knight, Ruth Ladderud, Julia Leavitt, Tim Meliah, Mick Miller, Steve Moss, Cindy Widmer, Charlotte Bouta, Steve Burdick, Dick Cook, Alex Demambro, Dan Hess, Dan Johnson, Dean Lodmell, Jim Sporleder, and Mari Tupper.

In other School Board meeting business...

Board members:

- approved minutes from the June 4, 2013 regular board meeting, personnel report, out-of-state travel, extracurricular contracts, June 18 accounts payable, May Financial report, and 2013-14 Head Start/ECEAP Program Calendar.
- approval of Lincoln High School Community Facilities Study Committee Report. (no action on recommendations)

Personnel Report

Employment

(Certificated)

Michelle Enriquez, second/third grade, Sharpstein

Justin James, Fourth Grade, Green Park

Bethany Kelly, Speech Pathologist (Temp.), Special Programs

Katherine Redar, Special Education, Garrison Middle School

Alice Thomas, Art, Garrison Middle School

***Dennis DeBroeck**, Teacher/Director, SEA-Tech Skills Center

* *Dennis will teach 1.0 at Wa-Hi in 2013-14 and provide SEA-Tech Skills Center planning on supplemental contract.*

(Classified) **Frieda (Mara) Palumbo**, Head Start/ECEAP Family Advocate, Blue Ridge Elementary

Out-of-State Travel

Rick Pummel to attend Tech Transfer Partners Training in Provo, UT (Funding: Technology Infrastructure)

Quote of the Week

"The great aim of education is not knowledge, but action."

Herbert Spencer

Retired librarian receives regional leadership award



Superintendent **Mick Miller** presents former district librarian **Jackie George** the Southeast Washington Association of School Administrators Community Leadership award. Miller recommended George based on her years of community service and passion for learning.

Most of her volunteer work has taken place at Lincoln High School. She did an inventory of the books then organized and categorized them into a student-friendly check out system. George continues to volunteer at Lincoln every Tuesday. Additionally, when time permits, she gives of her time to mentor our new staff in all areas.

Jackie is also active in the Exchange Club of Walla Walla. This organization hinges on three pillars of service: child abuse prevention, Americanism and youth activities. She also helps support the City of Walla Walla Library efforts to engage children in learning and many other civic initiatives.

Congratulations Jackie!

The Health Center end-of-year update

The Health Center Executive Director **Holly Howard** provided the school board with an end-of-year update highlighting the organization's accomplishments and gains.

Howard reported more than 200 students were seen at Blue Ridge Elementary this school year and Lincoln High School students visited the clinic 1900 times. Blue Ridge Health Center opened for business in the fall. Students also received outreach and education support as part of the program's whole child wellness approach.

The Lincoln High School clinic is in its fourth year of operation. Since opening in 2009, Lincoln High School truancy rates have decreased by 34 percent and graduation rates have increased by 14 percent, according to OSPI figures. State test scores have also increased, most notably in reading and writing.

Blue Ridge Principal Kim Doepker and Lincoln High School Principal Jim Sporleder both praise The Health Center for its positive impact on learning and student health.

The Health Center receives \$100,000 grant

Washington Women's Foundation has awarded The Health Center a \$100,000 grant to help fund clinic coordinator positions to serve at Lincoln High School and Blue Ridge Elementary School.

The Health Center was one of five nonprofit organizations in the state, and the only Eastern Washington organization, to receive a \$100,000 grant. The Health Center will use the grant over a three year span. Visit the district web site for the entire story.