

Grant brings STEM program to Blue Ridge



Last night Blue Ridge Elementary Principal **Kim Doepker** and teachers **Janifer Sams** and **Kristen Garcia** reported to the school board on the school's new STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Math) program.

The program was made possible by a \$5000 grant from the Washington State Leadership and Assistance for Science Education Reform (LASER) Partnership.

Students also work with Whitman College students and faculty through this program designed to help students develop skills for high-demand jobs. Students wear lab coats during their lessons and conduct fun and challenging experiments. Sams, Garcia and Doepker said this program helps break down barriers for girls and minority students and all students improve achievement in other subject areas.

Enrollment dips to start school year

The district is serving 28 fewer students to start the year based on "Head Count" tallies from the first official enrollment count of the school year.

The district's Full Time Equivalent (FTE) student count for September 2013 is 5964. This figure takes into account recent legislative changes which allows the district to count kindergarten students at Edison and Sharpstein Elementary Schools as a full-time FTE. New legislation provides full funding for all-day kindergarten at these schools.

This district missed budget enrollment projections due to the dip. Superintendent **Mick Miller** said the District's Leadership Team will address this issue to make adjustments for next year's projection. He said the district did build in a contingency fund for this scenario to help offset the revenue shortfall.

Board considers taking show on the road

School board members are considering a change to their meeting format. The potential change would move the first school board meeting of the month to a school location.

School teams would host the board members and provide a more in-depth report on activities and operations. The school board would also adjourn its regular meeting after the consent agenda is addressed to have a public work session to provide an open arena for discussion.

In other School Board meeting business...

Board members:

- approved minutes from the Sept. 3, 2013 regular board meeting, personnel report, out-of-state travel, extra-curricular contracts, co-curricular contracts, Sept. 17 accounts payable, August financial report, Carl Perkins Grant, and 2013-14 Head Start Program calendar revisions.

Personnel Report

Employment

(Classified)

Brent Cummings, 21st Century Grant Program Coordinator, Garrison MS

Resignation/Retirement

(Classified)

Rayni Lambert, Assistant Secretary, Pioneer Middle School, 4 years

Viviana Villalobos, Assistant Secretary, Walla Walla High School, 1 year, 3 months

Out-of-State Travel

- **Gay Buissink** to attend JEA Write-Off Competition in Boston, MA (Funding: CTE and ASB)

Quote of the Week

"You have to go wholeheartedly into anything in order to achieve anything worth having."

Frank Lloyd Wright

Facilities and Operations summer projects review

Facilities and Operations **Dan Johnson** updated the school board on district projects completed over the summer and during the past year.

The district spends approximately six percent, or nearly \$4 million, of its General Fund budget annually to support district maintenance and grounds efforts. Facilities and Support has 13 trades staff members and five support staff for warehouse and secretarial services. Johnson also manages a state approved Asset Preservation Plan for preventative maintenance scheduling and prioritizing of facility improvement projects and repairs.



Dan Johnson

Facilities Overview

- 14 sites with 44 buildings
- 1,000,000 sq. ft. of building space on 150 acres

Maintenance Goals

- Prevent
- Repair
- Replace

Summary of projects:

- Garrison MS kitchen upgrade / staff room carpet
- Wa-Hi Science area bus stop sidewalk / small gym floor refinish
- Prospect Point new fencing
- Berney security cameras
- Berney/Homelink classroom upgrade
- Wa-Hi Vocational building fire sprinkler system
- Pioneer flooring VCT upgrade / carpet upgrades
- Sharpstein parking lot reseal and line striping
- Support Services/Transportation loop road asphalt reseal
- Blue Ridge classroom carpet upgrade

Margo Piver named Fair Coordinator

Margo Piver will serve as the Southeast Washington Fair Coordinator for the district. She replaces **Amy Reed** who this year resumed her teaching career at Blue Ridge Elementary.

Piver is the Pioneer Middle School Library Media Specialist and Walla Walla Valley Education Association President. Margo will be connecting with school fair representatives soon. She is excited to continue the proud tradition our district has through its involvement in the Walla Walla Fair and Frontier Days.



Margo Piver

Thanks so much to Amy Reed for her outstanding service the past six years. Also, thanks to all of our staff and students who made the 2013 fair a tremendous success. More than 1000 items were on display this year.

Health Center celebrates anniversary



Katherine Boehm and **Holly Howard** of The Health Center present the school board with a signed photo celebrating the organization's five year anniversary.