

Lincoln principal resigns position due to a non-life threatening medical condition

Lincoln High School Principal **Jim Sporleder** is resigning his position effective at the end of the 2013-14 school year due to a non-life threatening medical condition. Sporleder has been on medical leave since the start of the school year and will remain in this status until June 30, 2014.



Jim Sporleder

Interim principal **Marci Knauft** will continue to serve as the acting principal for the remainder of the 2013-14 school year. The district will conduct a principal selection process to hire a permanent principal for next school year.

Sporleder has been employed by Walla Walla Public Schools for 28 years. He began his tenure in the district in 1986 as a Special Education teacher at Garrison Middle School. He spent three years as Garrison's assistant principal and 10 years as the school's principal. Sporleder was named the principal of Lincoln High School in 2007.

“In my 31 year career in education, I have never worked with someone as committed to his students as Jim Sporleder. We wish Jim good health and nothing but the best in retirement. He will be missed, but his impact on kids in Walla Walla will not be forgotten.”

Mick Miller, Superintendent

Hess retires from school board



Thanks to Board Director **Dan Hess** for his service to the school district. The November 19 school board meeting was his last official meeting. Sam Wells was elected Nov. 5 to replace Hess on the school board.

Hess was elected to the Board of Directors in 2010, but he also served as a WWPS school board member for two terms from 1985 to 1992. We appreciate his service and wish him well in the future!

American Education Week
November 18-22

Thanks to all of our educators!

In other School Board meeting business...

Board members:

- approved minutes from the Nov. 5, 2013 regular board meeting, minutes from the Nov. 12, 2013 public work session, personnel report, extracurricular contracts, Nov. 19 accounts payable, October financial report, General Imprest changes, and reinstate 1.9% salary reduction to Superintendent's contract.
- approved 2014-15 & 2015-16 school calendars (Calendars and Calendar Committee Q & A online: www.wwps.org)
- approved an extension of Superintendent's contract through 2016.

Personnel Report

Employment

(Certified)

Sandra Thomas, Health Sciences Teacher, SEA-Tech Skills Center

(Classified)

Lisa Fann, Para-Educator (temp), Edison Elementary

Patricia Harris, Bus Assistant, Transportation Dept.

Nicole Redman, Para-Educator (temp), Green Park

Retirement/Resignation

(Administrative) **Jim Sporleder**, Principal, Lincoln HS, 28 years

(Certificated) **Kristina Corbin**, Special Education, Prospect Point, 5 years

(Classified) **Martha Burroughs**, Kitchen Assistant, Wa-Hi, 5 years

Malinda Prendiville, Para-Educator, Blue Ridge, 2 years

Quote of the Week

“Intelligence plus character, that is the goal of true education.”

Martin Luther King Jr.

“Whitman Teaches the Movement” goes national



(L-R) Walla Walla High School Social Studies teacher **Michelle Higgins** and Whitman College senior **Sophie Schouboe** are presenting on the “Whitman Teaches the Movement” program November 22 and 23 at the annual conference for the National Council for the Social Studies in St. Louis, Missouri. “Whitman Teaches the Movement” was created in conjunction with the Southern Poverty Law Center. Higgins and Schouboe reported to the school board last night on the opportunity to share this program with a national audience.

The presentations for K-12 educators and college professionals include information about successful implementation of this training and teaching model to increase Civil Rights Education using college students as mentors. Many states fail to teach Civil Rights Education successfully based on an examination of their curriculum standards by the Southern Poverty Law Center. Hence, “Whitman Teaches the Movement” was created.

The 2013-2014 school year marks the third year of “Whitman Teaches the Movement” in Walla Walla. Approximately 150 students from Whitman College volunteer in local classrooms to teach the lessons.

Year end budget closing update

Executive Director of Business Services **Ted Cohan** briefed the school board on the 2012-13 General Fund budget year-end closing. Cohan reported the ending fund balance was higher than anticipated at \$6.9 million. He said the district remains fiscally healthy with more than a 10 percent reserve.

He also updated the school board on this year’s enrollment. He reported the district is approximately 10 students below beginning year budget projections. He said this equates to about a \$55,000 loss in state revenue. The district budgeted \$200,000 in a contingency fund to prepare for this type of a situation. Cohan said he believes the contingency fund will off-set the loss in state funds.

Latino Club survey recap

Latino Club Advisor **Bill Erickson** and Latino Club officers reported to the school board on a recent meeting they had with Superintendent **Mick Miller** and Administrator on Special Assignment **Sergio Hernandez**. The Latino Club also conducted a survey of Hispanic students to collect data on the school climate. Students shared data which revealed areas of strength and those in need of improvement. Latino Club members plan to work with Hernandez to create a plan to find more ways for Hispanic students to get involved in school and be successful.