

Jordan named interim superintendent for 2014-15

Board to begin search for permanent superintendent this fall

Former Walla Walla Public Schools Deputy Superintendent **Dr. Bill Jordan** was unanimously named interim superintendent for the 2014-2015 school year during the June 17, 2014 school board meeting. This agreement is pending a mutually agreed upon contract. Jordan replaces Superintendent Mick Miller who accepted a position with Northeast Washington Educational Service District 101 in Spokane. Jordan, who served as the district's deputy superintendent from 2004 to 2010, will begin his tenure July 1.



Jordan's responsibilities will include providing leadership to the school board, promoting a common vision for future success of the school district and assisting the school board in the selection process for a permanent superintendent.

"Dr. Bill Jordan has the experience necessary to lead the district during this time of transition and we are excited to have him on our team again," said School Board President Anne Golden. "He has a proven record of success, an effective leadership style we are familiar with and the ability to bring people together with a common vision."

Jordan's career features vast experience in the field of education. He most recently was the superintendent in the Prescott School District from 2010 to 2013. He spent three years as Coe Partnership Center Director for Washington State University. He was Deputy Superintendent for the Office of the Superintendent of Public Instruction for four years, Superintendent of Kelso School District for five years, and Associate Superintendent of Richland School District for three years. He served for nine years as a principal and assistant principal for Walla Walla Public Schools and as a classroom teacher for nine years in Walla Walla School District 140.

The Walla Walla Public Schools Board of Directors will conduct a search for a permanent superintendent beginning this fall.

14-15 Preliminary Budget

The school board held a public work session Tuesday afternoon to review the district's preliminary 2014-15 General Fund budget.

Business Manager **Ted Cohan** reported the \$67.5 million budget maintains an 8.4 percent fund balance reserve or an approximate \$5.5 million cushion. The 2014-15 budget is based on enrollment of 5975 K-12 FTE students. This projected enrollment number is down 75 students from last year to account for recent trends of fewer students across the district and College Place High School.

Cohan recommended the district establish a new furniture replacement fund to improve classroom settings. He also is encouraging an increase to the Technology Department budget of \$100,000 to \$200,000 annually to keep pace with rising tech demands. The technology budget has gone unchanged for more than a decade.

The board will continue to discuss the budget over the summer.

In other School Board meeting business...

Board members:

- approved minutes from the June 2, 2014 executive session, minutes from the June 3, 2014 regular board meeting, minutes from the June 3, 2014 executive session, personnel report, out-of-state travel, June 17 accounts payable, May financial report, dairy bid award, and surplus equipment and materials.
- approved the Homelink Annual Report presented by Principal Connie Taylor Randall.
- approved a \$348,435 Wireless Technology proposal as a one-time capital cost to improve wireless infrastructure needs.

Personnel Report

Employment

(Certificated)

Laura Berg, Class Size Reduction Teacher, Blue Ridge Elementary

Gregory May, Class Size Reduction Teacher, Blue Ridge Elementary

Jennifer Morasch, Bilingual teacher, Blue Ridge Elementary

(Classified)

Nancy Montgomery, Health Clinician, Berney Elementary

Maria Remington, Bilingual Para-Educator, Sharpstein Elementary

Amy Wells, Health Clinician, Edison Elementary

Retirement/Resignation

(Administrative)

Josh Wolcott, Principal, Edison Elementary, 7 years

(Certificated)

Carl Robanske, PE Teacher, Garrison Middle School, 8 years

(Classified)

Richard Bunnell, Bus Driver, Transportation, 5 years

Gabriela Salazar, Para-Educator, Blue Ridge Elementary, 6 months

Out of State Travel

AJ Blumel, Linda Boggs, Matt Bona, Karen Bumgarner, Lindsey Butcher, Julie Cox, Nicole Duncan, Robert Elizondo, Conor Fish, Vivian Glaeser, Mike Gobel, Kristen Graber, Kimberly Gradwohl, Shannon Jones, Kim Kelsay, Kate Keyes, Aaron Martin, Cindy Meyer, Mindy Meyer, Monica Nelson, Richelle Palmer, Peggy Payne, Pete Peterson, Kathy Pritcher, Marie Spalding, Carina Stillman and Marc Yonts to attend the AVID Summer Institute in San Diego, CA (Funding: Gear Up/Title I/LAP/CIA)

Wireless upgrade to improve access across district

The school district took a big step forward in its plans to provide wireless access to all students with the approval of a one-time \$348,435 expense to provide wireless network equipment, system licenses and infrastructure wiring. Work will begin this summer according to Technology Director **Forrest Baker**.

The improved wireless network will enhance instructional and administrative use. Baker said the goal is to implement a robust wireless network infrastructure district-wide to support current and future mobile technology needs in the classroom. All schools will see improvements per this project.

School Board studies Trauma Informed Education policy

The school board is studying options for developing programs to support Trauma Informed Education. **Teri Barila** and **Mark Brown** of the Children's Resiliency Initiative reported to school board members during a special work session how children who have experienced significant trauma in their lives are at a disadvantage when it comes to learning and academic achievement. They say research indicates the need for establishing a school culture of safety and relationships of trust to enhance student learning.

One option for addressing this issue is the creation of a School Board Policy and Administrative Procedures for implementation. No decisions were made during the work session. School Board President **Anne Golden** said the school board will meet again in the future to continue the discussion.

Quote of the Week

"Confidence is preparation. Everything else is beyond your control."

Richard Kline

Homelink Annual Report

Homelink Principal **Connie Taylor-Randall** presented the Homelink Annual Report to school board members yesterday as part of a state compliance requirement.

Taylor-Randall reported the program served 72 FTEs this school year in programs for students kindergarten through 8th grade. She reported the Homelink program is striving to decrease expenditures as changes to state alternative learning programs has impacted enrollment numbers. She said next year the program will reduce staffing numbers, curriculum offerings and time at the YMCA for the fitness program.

Pioneer Explorer teacher Dan Calzaretta will facilitate an Action Research Committee this fall to study sustainability options for the program.

Taylor-Randall thanked her staff for a great year and their commitment to the program.