

Stories this week include:

District Stories

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District Stories

Washington secures ESEA waiver

Waiver to provide more local flexibility

Earlier this month, the U.S. Department of Education granted Washington's waiver request from Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA) requirements. Washington is one of 26 states that have received waivers from ESEA to date. (See more at: <http://www.k12.wa.us>)

Tuesday, Assistant Superintendent Dr. Linda Boggs reported to school board members the waiver allows state and local educators more flexibility to decide how to best meet the individual needs of students.

The waiver request rested on three principles:

- Common Core State Standards (CCSS)
- Accountability System and Index
- Teacher/Principal New Evaluation System

Before the waiver was granted, districts had been required to set aside a statewide total of roughly \$34 million in their budgets to pay for outside service providers with little accountability. Now that Washington has received the waiver, districts will be allowed to spend that money in ways they determine most appropriate, within ESEA Title I rules.

One component of ESEA, Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP), requires that all students pass both the reading and math assessments by 2014. The waiver agreement replaces that provision with a focus on opportunity gaps. Subgroups of students (such as black, Hispanic, Asian, special education, students receiving free or reduced-price meals) will need to have the difference between their scores in 2011 and 100 percent cut in half by 2018.

For example, if one subgroup's reading scores averaged 74 percent proficient in 2011, that subgroup would need to score 87 percent proficient by 2018, because 87 is halfway between 74 and 100.

Another part of the waiver agreement requires the Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction (OSPI) to annually identify "priority schools," "focus schools" and "reward schools":

- Priority schools are among the lowest 5 percent of Title I schools in the state.
- Focus schools are among the lowest 10 percent of Title I schools in the state.
- Reward schools are classified either as "highest-performing schools" or "high-progress schools."

Currently, Garrison Middle School is a "focus school" for the subgroups English Language Learners and Special Education. Lincoln High School is a "focus school" for graduation rates.

School board president featured on Alumni Connections video series

Visit the district's website at www.wwps.org and click on the YouTube logo to see the School Board President Max Carrera's recently released Alumni Connections video. Carrera says his years in Walla Walla Public Schools held him accountable and provided a foundation for personal and professional success. Please take a moment to watch this five minute video to learn more about Max Carrera and his passion for the community and school district.

Personnel Report (from July 17, 2012 meeting)

Employment

(Certificated)

Cindy Gomez, Second Grade (temporary), Blue Ridge

Robin Hoheisel, Title I Teacher .5 FTE (temporary), Blue Ridge

Erika Montgomery, Second Grade, Sharpstein

Kenneth Smith, Math, Lincoln High School

Dallas Jones, PE/Health Education Teacher, Walla Walla High School

(Classified)

Zoe Ballering, Para-Educator (temporary), Sharpstein

Martha Flores-Rojas, Para-Educator, Green Park

Carrie Hendrix, Para-Educator - Vision Assistant, Special Programs

Resignation/Retirement

(Certificated) Dr. Sherri Eaton-Bin Daar, School Psychologist, Special Programs

All Staff Back-to-School Meeting

- Thursday, August 30

- Wa-Hi Main Gym

- 8 a.m. (treats and visiting)

- 8:30 a.m. (program begins)

- All staff encouraged to attend

See you at the Fair!

School displays, student work, animals, information and more!

• August 29 through Labor Day Weekend

Preliminary budget sent to ESD 123 for final review

Chief Financial Officer Pat Johnston reported to school board members during the Tuesday, July 17 school board meeting the district's 2012-2013 preliminary General Fund budget was sent to ESD 123 for review per state requirement.

Johnston said the district is basing the preliminary General Fund budget on revenues of \$60,396,271 and expenditures of \$61,215,107. This requires the district to use \$880,436 of reserves to balance the budget.

Johnston said the district will still maintain a healthy unrestricted reserve for the upcoming school year. She said the district will continue to refine the figures in the next few weeks as more information arrives. The school board will approve the final budget during their August 21 meeting.

WWPS District Office Summer Hours

- 8 a.m. to 12 noon & 1 to 4 p.m.

- Closed 12 to 1 p.m. for lunch

- Open Monday-Friday

School Stories

Additional visitor parking spaces at Walla Walla High School

Valley Transit buses to shift west to make space

The Safe Travel Alliance, chaired by parent volunteers Katie Christianson and Kathryn Southwick Hess, continues to work with the district to improve school zone safety. This summer the group is focusing on improving safety at Walla Walla High School. Most of the recommendations are focused on Abbott Road where traffic congestion is heaviest before and after school.

One significant change coming by the start of the school year is adding 20+ visitor parking spaces on Abbott Road just east of the Science Building. This area is currently being used by Valley Transit buses. The transit buses will shift to the west in front of the Science Building.

Safe Travels Alliance is also recommending a new crosswalk and signs be placed near the Yellowhawk Bridge on Abbott Road. The district is also working with Walla Walla County for improvements at the intersection of Fern and Abbott. A concrete barricade has been installed in the academic parking lot to keep students from entering near school buses. Safe Travels is also recommending additional law enforcement be present near Wa-Hi during school hours.

Athletic registration forms now online

Registration forms for middle and high school athletic programs are now available online at www.wwps.org and at the Walla Walla High School Athletic web site. These forms will also be available on the Pioneer, Garrison and Lincoln web sites soon.

The forms were put online to better serve parents and improve efficiencies. Completed forms, with parent signatures, must be returned to the appropriate school and directed to the athletic director. Hard copies of the athletic registration forms are still available at each school.

Community Stories

Juvenile Arthritis Lemonade Stand and Bake Sale

- Thursday, July 26
- Noon to 3 p.m.
- Walla Walla Builders Supply (307 W. Tietan)
- All proceeds will be donated to the Arthritis Foundation

Student Allison Wanichek, who was diagnosed with Juvenile Arthritis in her knees and ankles last year by Seattle Children's Hospital, is organizing this event to raise money and awareness about this disease. Last year, Allison and her friends raised \$3,000 for the Arthritis Foundation. They were so excited and proud of their accomplishment they decided to do it again this summer.