

## Architects pitch to partner with district

Yesterday afternoon, three architectural firms presented to school board members and Superintendent **Mick Miller** during a public work session as to why their companies would be best to partner with the district to improve high school facilities. No action was taken last night, but school board members are expected to hire a firm during the February 1 meeting.

The district is seeking an architectural firm with experience working on large scale high school projects to help the district advance its facilities planning process.

Architectural firms BLRB/USKH (Tacoma/Walla Walla), Architects West (Coeur d' Alene) and NAC Architecture (Spokane) participated in yesterday's interview process.

Each firm reviewed its past experiences, introduced its leadership team, discussed costs and unveiled conceptual design options to illustrate what could be possible at Walla Walla High School as part of a renovation and expansion project.

The district's Community Facilities Task Force, chaired by Dan Reid, placed Walla Walla High School and Lincoln Alternative High School facilities as the most pressing needs in the district.

Superintendent Miller has launched the *Educate, Listen and Plan* initiative to meet with district stakeholder to talk about these issues. A survey is posted on the district website ([www.wwps.org](http://www.wwps.org)) to provide Miller with input.

## Board votes to extend spring conferences and support professional development

The Walla Walla Public Schools Board of Directors voted unanimously to change the 2010-2011 school year calendar by extending spring Parent/Teacher/Student Conferences to include Wednesday, March 9 as a no school day. (See revised conference schedule below.)

The calendar change will allow district staff to participate in a morning workshop March 9 with Dr. John Medina, a brain research and child development expert.

Dr. Medina is an award winning author and trainer, providing the latest research in understanding how the brain functions. His research focuses on methodologies for teaching children in response to what we know about optimal brain function. He offers transformative strategies that can influence daily life for adults and children.

## March 7-11, 2011 Parent/Teacher/Student Conference Calendar Schedule

- Monday, March 7 (school in session)
- Tuesday, March 8 (school in session)
- Wednesday, March 9 ( NO SCHOOL)\*
- \*this represents the change to the previously adopted calendar
- Thursday, March 10 (NO SCHOOL)
- Friday, March 11 (NO SCHOOL)

*NOTE: Check with your child's school for specific conference times and dates*

## Additional students help district finances during recession

Last night school board members conducted a public work session to get an update on the 2011-12 school year budget planning process. Chief Financial Officer **Pat Johnston** provided the details.

Superintendent **Mick Miller** said he hopes to maintain the same level of service next year despite state cuts to this year's funding and a forecast of additional reductions for next year. Miller said having an additional 140 FTE students this year will help the district maintain programs and staffing levels during this difficult economic time. He stressed the district remains fiscally sound.

## In other School Board meeting business...

### Board members:

- approved minutes of December 14 and Jan. 4 board meetings, personnel, out-of-state travel, January accounts payable and payroll, and November & December financial reports.
- approved resolutions: No. 01-2011 (Network for Excellence) & No. 02-2011 (WW County Hazard Mitigation Plan)

# Personnel Report

## Employment

(Certificated)

**Pamela Dressler**, Occupational Therapist (temp.), Special Programs

(Classified)

**Alejandro Anaya**, Custodian, Walla Walla High School

**Matt Casey**, Bus Driver, Transportation

**Rogelio Jara**, Bus Driver, Transportation

**Robb Lincoln**, Bus Driver, Transportation

**Kent Mayberry**, Bus Driver, Transportation

**Mark Mebes**, JROTC Junior Army Instruction, Wa-Hi

## Resignation/Retirement

**Justine Taylor**, Special Education, Berney, 34 years

*(effective at the end of the 2010-2011 school year)*

## Out-of-State Travel

**Linda Boggs** to attend AVID District Director Conference in Phoenix, AZ (Funding: CIA Travel)

## Quote of the Week

“Genius without education is like silver in the mine.”

*Benjamin Franklin*

## Staff Transfer

Karina Morin transferred in December to Sharpstein Elementary from Edison Elementary. Karina was a para-educator at Edison and is now Assistant Secretary at Sharpstein.

## January is School Board Appreciation Month

District students and staff showered school board members with tokens of appreciation in support of school board appreciation month. Posters, flowers, photos and even a video featuring Prospect Point students were on display last night.

Superintendent **Mick Miller** officially presented each board members with a certificate of appreciation and personally thanked them for their service and dedication to children.

## Pacific Power awards Edison for energy savings

Pacific Power Regional Manager **Bill Clemens** presented the school district with two Certificates of Energy Resource Stewardship awards last night in recognition of the school district's installation of energy efficiency improvements at Edison Elementary. Clemens said the district will save more than \$40,000 annually as a result.

The school district will be saving over 110,000 kilowatt hours annually. Pacific Power provided \$20,151 in incentives to help with the installation of the energy efficiency improvements.

“The Certificate of Energy Resource Stewardship recognizes organizations that show a commitment to energy efficiency and the sustainability of resources,” said Clemens. “These kind of investments will pay dividends to the school district for many years.”

## Blue Ridge strategies enhance student achievement

Blue Ridge Elementary Principal **Kim Doepker** provided a update to the school board on teaching and learning strategies in place to improve student achievement. This year Blue Ridge has developed a “Platooning” model which has 3rd, 4th and 5th grade students rotating to different classrooms for core content instruction.

Doepker says this model allows teachers to broaden their subject knowledge and take the necessary time to expose the students to more materials. She said staff, student and parent feedback has been amazingly positive. Blue Ridge also has a successful afterschool program focused on helping second language learners improve their math skills.

## 2011 School Board Committee Assignments

Max Carrera

- Safe Schools
- Career/Technical Education
- Classified Negotiations (with Cindy Meyer)
- Head Start Policy Council

Dan Hess

- Community Facilities Task Force
- Extracurricular Supervisors Negotiations
- Administrative Negotiations
- School-Based Health Center

Anne Golden

- Curriculum Advisory and Instructional Materials
- Certificated Negotiations (with Jim Lehmann)
- Legislative Representative
- District Calendar (back up)

Jim Lehmann

- WIAA Liaison
- Certificated Negotiations (with Anne Golden)
- Technology/Telecommunications
- District Calendar

Cindy Meyer

- Explorer Advisory Committee
- Parent Advisory
- Classified Negotiations (with Max Carrera)
- Citizens for Schools liaison

Learn more about the Walla Walla School Board online at: [www.wwps.org](http://www.wwps.org)