

Architect to plan for high school improvements

Superintendent Miller says architectural support is needed

Last night school board members voted to hire BLRB/USKH (Tacoma/Walla Walla) to help the district design future facility improvements at Walla Walla and Lincoln High Schools. Architectural firms *Architects West* (Coeur d' Alene) and *NAC Architecture* (Spokane) were also finalists.

"High school facility needs were our top priority according to the Community Facilities Task Force," said Superintendent **Mick Miller**. "We are to the point where we really need professional support. We're a group of educators, not architects. Architects can come in and take the input of students, staff, parents and community members and really help us with our planning."

BLRB/USKH representatives said during their interview two weeks ago they pride themselves on listening and working in collaboration with all school district stakeholders to get the right design for the community.

This month Superintendent Miller will continue his *Educate, Listen and Plan* effort to discuss facilities improvement needs. Miller has met with more than 20 community groups and nearly all staff members. By the end of February, Miller will have met with nearly all staff twice to get input.

Miller is expected to make a recommendation to the school board in March as to whether the district should pursue a bond measure this spring for high school improvements, or wait, and continue the planning process.

A survey is posted on the district website (www.wwps.org) to provide Miller with input. Contact Miller or Communications Director Mark Higgins to learn more about the facilities improvement process or to take a tour of district facilities.



Mick Miller

Energy usage continues decline

Despite rising utility costs the district continues to trim usage and save money through its conservation efforts.

District Energy Management Program Coordinator **John Butenhoff** reported to school board members last night the district saved \$286,081 this past year. Butenhoff said this brings the 11 year total savings to \$2.9 million or a savings of 22 percent.

The energy management program is based on behavioral modification and is designed to not interfere with the classroom instructional program or impact comfort.

"The staff and everybody involved have done a great job of controlling what they are using," Butenhoff said. "On week nights, weekends and holidays we try to shut things down and turn off equipment that should not be running."

Butenhoff said utilities costs continue to increase since the program began in 1998.

- Natural Gas	Up 104%
- Electricity	Up 72%
- Water/Sewer	Up 66%

Mid-Winter Holiday Break

- Thursday, Feb. 17 (No School)
- Friday, Feb. 18 (No School)
- Monday, Feb. 21 (No School)

In other School Board meeting business...

Board members:

- approved minutes of the January 18 board meeting, personnel, out-of-state travel, February accounts payable (first half), 2009-10 financial report, decrease transportation travel advance imprest, Entley St. easement and dedication, co-curricular contracts, extra-curricular contracts and surplus equipment.
- approved resolution: No. 03-2011 (copier lease) - Total Office Concepts of Walla Walla received the contract.

Personnel Report

Employment

(Classified)

Kelsey Trejo, Para-Educator, Edison

Kristen Coffeen, Para-Educator, Blue Ridge

Resignation/Retirement

Malinda Pankl, Library Technician, Various Locations, 28 years
(effective December 31, 2010)

Pamela Dressler, Occupational Therapist, one month

Catherine Mehn, Mental Health Coordinator, Head Start/ECEAP, 6 months

Out-of-State Travel

Kelly Gabel to attend PIA Expo 2011 in San Diego, CA (Funding: Staff Achievement grant/professional growth)

Quote of the Week

"Education is the most powerful weapon which you can use to change the world."

Nelson Mandela

Walla Walla High School Conspiracy of Hope Benefit Concerts feature a variety of student performances

Walla Walla High School presents the annual Conspiracy of Hope Benefit Concert featuring a variety of student performances on Thursday, February 10 and Friday, February 11 at the Walla Walla High School Auditorium. Both performances begin at 7:30 p.m. with a \$5 donation collected at the door.

The Conspiracy of Hope Benefit Concert is a student production benefiting both the Dave Meyer Foundation and the S.O.S Health Services of Walla Walla. The Dave Meyer Foundation was created to help athletes of low-income families with expenses associated with sports participation such as equipment and camp fees.

The S.O.S Health Services of Walla Walla is a free medical clinic to serve the greater Walla Walla Valley area. It functions as a walk-in family medicine/urgent care clinic designed to service the uninsured.

For more information about this event, contact Wa-Hi ASB Coordinator Arch McHie at amchie@wwps.org

Conspiracy of Hope Fact Sheet

Event Highlights: Student produced benefit concert highlighting the multi-talented student body

Concert Dates: Thursday, February 10 and Friday, February 11

Location: Walla Walla High School Auditorium

Time: 7:30 p.m.

Cost: \$5 Donation

American Association of University Women annual book sale

- 36th Annual AAUW Book Sale

- Friday, Saturday & Sunday - February 18, 19 & 20

- Friday - Noon to 9 p.m. / Saturday - 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. / Sunday - 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. /

- Location: The Marcus Whitman Hotel & Conference Center (6 W Rose St)

- Thousands of lightly used hardback and softback books will be for sale at very reasonable prices.

Spring Parent/Teacher/Student 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

Patron Tour program continues Thursday

Superintendent **Mick Miller** will continue his Patron Tour program Thursday, February 3. Approximately 15-20 community members and parents have signed up to participate.

February 3 Patron Tour Highlights

• Meet with Superintendent Mick Miller

• Tour Walla Walla High School

• Tour Lincoln High School

• Provide survey feedback and comments

The final Superintendent's Patron Tour is scheduled for Thursday, April 21 from 8 a.m. to 12 noon. Staff are encouraged to invite their friends, neighbors and family members to participate.

To sign up, contact Communications Director Mark Higgins - mhiggins@wwps.org / 526-6716.