

WWVEA and district promote cooperation



Walla Walla Valley Education Association President **Margo Piver** and Assistant Superintendent **Laure Quaresma** led an open, two-way process for contract negotiations. This collaborative effort promoted trust and cooperation.

Piver and Quaresma want to thank the community for its continued support of Walla Walla Public Schools.

During these difficult economic times, the district and the WWVEA have worked together to maintain a learning environment to meet the needs of all students. WWPS has reduced spending and staff have taken on heavier workloads to balance the budget and build reserves. Thank you for putting kids first!

Board adopts 2011-12 budget

District cash reserves remain strong

School board members approved the 2011-2012 budget during yesterday's school board meeting.

District Chief Financial Officer **Pat Johnston** reported the General Fund budget is based on \$60,401,441 in revenue and \$62,091,263 in expenditures.

Despite dipping into reserves to balance the General Fund budget, the district will maintain an ending fund balance of \$6,120,571 or a 9.8 percent reserve. Johnston said the district faced revenue reduction of \$529,050 for this fiscal year. She said Governor Gregoire has hinted additional mid-year cuts could come if the economic forecast does not improve.

The district will not see any staff cuts or significant program changes. Johnston said spending reduction efforts the past several years and increased student enrollment in recent years has helped the district weather the global recession.

The district is budgeting for 100 more students in 2011-12. The district has grown more than 300 students in the past five years, Johnston said

All Staff Back to School Meeting

Monday, August 22

Walla Walla High School Gym

7:15 - 8 a.m. (Social/Treats)

8 - 9 a.m. (Meeting)

In other School Board meeting business...

Board members:

- approved minutes of July 19, 2011 board meeting, minutes of July 28, 2011 board meeting, personne report, August 2 accounts payable, August 16, 2011 accounts payable and payroll, July Financial report, 2011-2012 Student Hand books, Issuance of 2011-2012 Contracts: Classified Administrators; Off-Schedule Staff, and minutes of August 4, 2011 Special Board meeting.
- approved final acceptance of the Support Services Facility/Resolution 09-2011.
- received for first reading: Policy 6882 Sale of Real Estate Property.

Personnel Report

Employment

(Certificated)

Susan Smilely-Nakonieczny, Fifth Grade Teacher (temp), Edison

Benjamin Van Donge, Fifth Grade Teacher, Sharptin

(Classified)

Katy Laumb, Para-Educator, Prospect Point

Thomas Newcom, Para-Educator (temp), Walla Walla High School

Jennifer Schaffer, Para-Educator (temp), Prospect Point

Resignation/Retirement

(Certificated)

Kim Wegner-McCauley, School Psychologist, Special Programs

(Kim did not begin the year)

(Classified)

Christina Price-Huntington, Para-Educator, Pioneer MS (3 years)

Leave of Absence

(Certificated)

Richelle Palmer, Title One Specialist, Blue Ridge (7 years)

(Classified)

Jill Sporleder, Para-Educator, Prospect Point (23 years)

(Jill is taking a partial leave of absence, but will continue with reduced hours for the 2011-12 school year.)

Quote of the Week

"A teacher affects eternity; he can never tell where his influence stops."

Henry Brooks Adams

Pearce Family Request:

For those of you who knew Hailey Pearce, please share your memories of her by going to this site:

rememberhaileypierce.blogspot.com

Former WWVEA President Update

Former Walla Walla Valley Education Association President Richelle Palmer recently accepted a position as Literacy Specialist with the Highline School District. Palmer will be representing 18 elementary schools as well as providing Professional Development support for teachers in the district.

Congratulations Richelle!

Lincoln Health Center continues to meet needs

More support needed to address substance abuse

Student Health Options Executive Director **Holly Howard** provided an update to school board members on the Lincoln Health Center and other programs related to this non-profit organization.

Howard said most Lincoln students continue to use the Lincoln Health Center for a variety of services, including preventative health care, immunizations, counseling and program placement to services not available at the clinic.

The Sherwood Trust awarded Student Health Options a \$113,000 grant to be paid over three years for additional fund development and grant writing support. Howard said the need for drug and alcohol counseling and treatment for teens continues to increase in Walla Walla. She said mental health issues and support addressing these issues is also on the rise.

Student Health Options, the oversight organization for the Lincoln Health Center, recently worked with Susan Newton to create a new strategic plan.

Goals (summary):

- Develop administrative infrastructure
- Build financial stability
- Ensure Lincoln Health Center continues to meet needs
- Enhance awareness and communication
- Determine an expansion plan

French students take trip of a lifetime

Walla Walla High School French teacher **Kerri Tucker** reported to school board members last night on a trip she organized to France and Italy this summer for 25 students.

Tucker said the 15 day trip was part of Educational First Tours which has been supporting similar trips for more than 40 years. Eight adults joined Tucker as chaperones.

The students and their families paid for the trip which had a strong educational component. A tour guide led the group to numerous sites and shared detailed information about each area. Tucker said the students were amazing and a lot of fun.

She said she witnessed her students' intellectual growth and their continued development as young adults. She said she will organize another trip in a few years.

School Zone Safety!

School starts Tuesday, August 23.

Please slow down and obey all traffic laws.