

## School board tours Lincoln Health Center

*Daily use continues to rise for health center services*



Lincoln Health Center Director **Holly Howard** provided a tour of the facility for school board members before last night's meeting. Howard says the health center continues to see its usage numbers rise. She said students visit to receive care for illnesses and other medical conditions.

Howard said mental health services and drug related counseling are in high demand. Howard is focused on providing quality services, securing funding, raising awareness and improving communication.

## Walla Walla Public Schools now offering Free Tutoring

- Free Tutoring Provider Fair: Wednesday, October 12
- Blue Ridge, Edison, Garrison, Green Park and Sharpstein families only
- Location: Garrison Middle School (906 Chase Street)
- 4 to 6 p.m. / Information: 509.876.6435

## Lincoln HS studies 19 credit diploma

Lincoln High School Principal Jim Sporleder provided a report last night to school board members during the public work session on the need to offer students meeting defined criteria an opportunity for a 19 credit State of Washington diploma. Currently the district requires all students to earn 22 credits for a diploma.



*Jim Sporleder*

Sporleder says the exception would only be made for students who are 17.5 years of age, in senior status and who have less than 14 credits. They would also be required to pass all state graduation requirements, including High School Proficiency Exam standards. Sporleder said 25 of the school's 66 seniors could benefit from this option.

He said many district's offer a similar diploma for select students. Sporleder says this will help keep students in school and not transfer to other out-of-district programs. No decisions were made last night. The board will continue its study.

## Early dismissal dates

### *Parent/Teacher Conferences*

- Thursday, Oct. 6 (K-12)
- Friday, Oct. 7 (K-12)

*(Conference schedules: [www.wwps.org](http://www.wwps.org))*

## In other School Board meeting business...

### **Board members:**

- approved minutes of September 20, 2011 board meeting, personnel report, revisions to Head Start/ECEAP Policies and Procedures, Co-Curricular Contracts, Extra-Curricular Contracts, Oct. 4, 2011 accounts payable and September payroll, and revisions to Board Policy 5006 (Unprofessional Conduct).
- approved the new Strategic Plan: 2011-2015, Resolution #12-2011 Skills Center Design and Resolution #13-2011 Urgent Repair Grant Requirements.
- received a report from Superintendent Miller on the district's Minimum Basic Education Requirements Compliance.

## Personnel Report

### Employment

(Certificated) **NONE TO REPORT**

(Classified)

**Connie Hernandez**, Intervention Specialist, Pioneer

### Resignation/Retirement

(Classified)

**Jaenemy Perez de Luengas**, Para-Educator, Blue Ridge (1 year)

## Excellence in Every Classroom

### Quote of the Week

“Nine-tenths of education is encouragement.”

**Anatole France**

## Big Blue Weekend a huge success

*Humor used to spread message of respect*



**Photo: Keynote speaker Stu Cabe received “rock star” treatment from the students at Big Blue Weekend.**

More than 350 Walla Walla High School students spent an entire weekend to work at making their school a better place and reflect on their own behavior as part of Big Blue Weekend held at the Washington Family Ranch in Antelope, OR. Big Blue Weekend was created to break down social barriers and build a positive school community.

Keynote speaker **Stu Cabe** delivered powerful messages using humor to stress the importance of treating people with respect. Thirty-four Wa-Hi and district staff served as chaperones and 30 parents, staff and community members provided work crew support.

Special thanks to Assistant Principal **Mindy Meyer** and English teachers **Kristina Duncan** and **Carina Stillman** for organizing the event.

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“We’re all human at the core. We should always put this first as we navigate through life. Do no harm: To yourself, to others, to the planet.”

**Stu Cabe**

### Bilingual program meets standards

Last night district Bilingual Coordinator **Diana Erickson** reported to school board members the district received notification its Bilingual Program earned “Yes” for all three Annual Measurement of Achievement Objectives (AMAOs). These are the standards by which the state and federal government measure the effectiveness of the bilingual program.

Erickson said the program’s success is attributed to many factors including the three tier Response to Intervention model which ensures students’ needs are met by monitoring and adjusting instruction. Teachers are utilizing our OASIS data system to effectively monitor student progress and provide instruction based on that data. They also have implemented systematic teaching routines that smooth the transition from Spanish instruction to English instruction.

“We will continue to build on these initiatives to ensure that our English Language Learners continue to acquire proficiency in English and achieve success,” Erickson said.

### New state funding formula reviewed

Chief Financial Officer **Pat Johnston** reported on the state’s new conceptual state funding formula. Currently there are no dollars linked to the changes, according to Johnston.

The new formula aims at more accurately accounting for costs associated with operating today’s public school systems. Johnston could not speculate on when the funds would be available.

She also reported the district’s enrollment counts are flat, but remain on target to meet budget projections.