COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS

Message from the Superintendent

At the start of this school year I chartered a Long Range Facility Planning Committee to make recommendations on the major current and future facility and property needs of the Washougal School District. The committee consisted of 18 members representing Washougal area citizens, district staff, two School Board members and other individuals with professional expertise in facility planning. The goal of the committee was to evaluate the needs and conditions of school district facilities and prepare recommendations that ensure that our school facilities support a positive environment for student learning and success.

The committee reviewed nearly 300 needs identified by the district and toured our buildings over the course of the last several months. The evaluation separated the needs into two basic categories – facility needs that should be funded through voter-approved bonds and facility needs that should be addressed through the district’s annual budget process.

The highest priority identified by the committee was the need to improve the safety and security of every district school. The front entries and foyers of our schools need renovation, and additional security measures for classroom doors are also necessary. The second priority also relates to student safety - the replacement of Jemtegaard Middle School. JMS has multiple portables, and a “California design” that lacks internal hallways. This campus cannot be secured, has sub-standard classroom learning environments, and increased energy use due to the multiple doors that open to the elements. The committee also reported that additional classroom space is needed for future enrollment growth and to accommodate new and effective programs like All-Day Kindergarten. The recommendation was also made to reduce the number of portable classrooms because they are old, costly to maintain, and unsafe for students and staff. Maintenance and repair of district assets was also listed.


I would encourage you to read the report and to let me know if you have any questions. I would like to invite you to a meeting on August 25, 6 – 8:00 p.m. at the Washougal District Office, 4855 Evergreen Way to learn more. This is the first of several community meetings that will be scheduled in the late summer and early fall to provide the opportunity to share in greater detail the recommendations made by the committee and to receive input and guidance on the next steps.

There is great sensitivity to the potential cost of the projects identified through this committee process and to the timing of a future capital bond. The district will be working to create multiple methods for input from citizens as the School Board prepares to make a decision in late fall about how to fund the projects that are most essential for our students and important to our patrons. Our most valuable community resource is our children, their safety, health, and education. I look forward to working with you in the coming months to finalize a plan to address our essential facility needs.

Sincerely,

Dawn Tarzian, Superintendent
Washougal School District is pleased to recognize Marie Klemmer as the 2014 Camas-Washougal Chamber of Commerce Teacher of the Year.

A fifth grade teacher at Gause Elementary, Marie has worked for the district for 14 years.

“Marie is respected as a teacher known for implementing innovative instructional techniques that have had an impact on improved student learning,” said Superintendent Dawn Tarzian. “Her strong collaboration skills have helped staff address the many new educational initiatives being implemented across the state. Marie is committed to her own professional growth, embracing the opportunity to learn how to integrate iPads into her instruction, though she has shared that her students are often the ones teaching her!”

A proud member of the Gause Elementary School team, Marie is quick to credit her team in her success. Because of the collaborative work at Gause, Marie and the Gause staff have supported increased student success in the academics, the arts, physical fitness and positive social development.

“The Gause staff is among the most dedicated team of professionals with a true focus on empowering students through learning,” said Marie. “I am proud to represent not only this amazing team, but the efforts of all teachers in the Washougal School District.”

“I believe that Marie Klemmer was born to teach,” said Gause Principal Rex Larson. “For the past 14 years, Marie has taught both primary and intermediate grades, and has been recognized as a teacher leader in our district. She has a strong ability to collaborate and problem solve her way through almost every instructional challenge she has ever faced. I was very pleased to hear of her selection, and all of the Washougal community should feel proud that she is representing ALL of the fantastic teachers this district is lucky to have.”

Class of 2014 earns impressive awards and scholarships

WASHOUGAL GRADUATES EARNED SOME AMAZING AWARDS AND SCHOLARSHIPS TOTALING MORE THAN $1,117,810.

- Emily Alder-Storm—Washougal Schools Foundation Scholarship
- Jared Anderson—Camas Washougal Rotary Scholarship; Multnomah University Founder’s Scholarship; Odd Fellows Lonnie Belz Scholarship; Ward Hoxsie-John Sindin Memorial Scholarship; Washougal PSE /SEIU Local 1948 Scholarship
- Megan Anderson—Washougal Lions Club Scholarship; WSU Future Cougars of Color; Washougal Association of Educators Scholarship
- Valentina Arias—The Evergreen State College Merit Award; The Evergreen State College Scholastic Achievement Award
- Nikayla Banks—Oregon State University; Washington State University Destination Scholarship; WSU Future Cougars of Color Scholarship; Citizenship Award
- Kayla Cayton—Camas Washougal Business Alliance Scholarship
- Caleb Elesnohn—Hope International University Dean’s Scholarship; Hope International University Room & Board Scholarship;
- Nicole Gamble—Clark County Youth Achievement Award for Career Development; Barry University Scholarship; Camas Washougal Business Alliance Scholarship; Drew University Civic Engagement Award; Drew University Dean’s Award; Drew University Tuition Grant; Southern Oregon University WUE Scholarship; Rider University Provost Scholarship; Western Washington University Western Scholars Award; Westminster Founders Scholarship; Westminster Theater Scholarship
- Emily Field—College Bound Scholarship; The Kings-Way Presidential Scholarship; Skills Center Scholarship
- Felicia Harrison—WAHSET District 3 Scholarship
- Jessica Hatton—Edge Hill University Scholarship
- Sydney Hickey—Clark College Dorothy Bray Scholarship; Camas Washougal Business Alliance; Joyce D Cox Memorial Scholarship; Comcast Leaders and Achievers Scholarship; Odd Fellows Lonnie Belz Scholarship; University of Portland President’s Scholarship; Washougal Lions Club Scholarship; Washington State University Regents Scholarship
- Heather Koblan—Clark College Alan Webb Auto Group Scholarship
- Kelsey Lagerquist—Camas Washougal Chamber of Commerce High School Scholarship; Kaiser Permanente Health Care Scholarship
- Tristan LeBaron—Pacific Northwest Regional Council of Carpenters 2014 Scholarship
- Adrienne Leon—Camas Washougal Rotary Scholarship; Washougal Lions Club Scholarship
- Rebekah Luthi—Brigham Young Grant; Fred Ensmann-Virginia Oliver Evergreen Education Association Scholarship
- Ashley Oakes—Gonzaga University Dean’s Scholarship; Gonzaga University Grant
- Polly Pace—University of Utah Freshman Academic Achievement Award; Utah State University Nonresident Waver
- MacKenzie Pfeifer—Camas Washougal Garden Club Scholarship; Oregon State University Nonresident Scholarship; Oregon State University Provost Scholarship; University of Washington Engineering Scholarship; University of Washington Undergraduate Grant
- Megan Sharp—Camas Washougal Rotary Scholarship; George Fox Biology Scholarship; George Fox Presidential Scholar Award; University of Portland President’s Scholarship; Ward Hoxsie-John Sindin Memorial Scholarship
- Nicholas Stevens—AP Scholar Award; Admission with Distinction at Western Washington University; Clark County Youth Achievement Award for the Arts; Pacific Lutheran University International Honors Scholar; Camas Washougal Business Alliance Scholarship; Camas Washougal Rotary Scholarships; Chelsey B. Wadell Nenirauk Voice Award; Odd Fellows Lonnie Belz Scholarship; Pacific Lutheran Artistic Achievement Award; Pacific Lutheran President’s Scholarship; Pacific Lutheran Q Club Scholarship; Vancouver USA Singers 2014 Scholarship; Washougal Eagles 4390 Scholarship; Washougal Lions Club Scholarship; Washougal Schools Foundation; Western Washington University President’s Scholar
- Alan Stogin—Eastern Oregon University Theatre Tuition & Fee Remission Award
- James Stout—Washougal Association of Educators Scholarship
- Adam Thomas—Gonzaga University Dean’s Scholarship; Montana State University Achievement Award; University of Idaho Discover Idaho Scholarship; University of Portland President’s Scholarship; Western Washington President’s Scholarship
- Jorge Trujillo-Pineda—Cheryl Trent Memorial Scholarship
- Hannah Wright—United Airlines Scholarship
- Jacob Wright—Washington State University Visit Award; Washington State University Merit Achievement Scholarship
- MacKenzie Wright—Clark County Music Teachers Scholarship; Western Washington University Ada & Don Walter Endowment

Hathaway celebrates young scientists

Hathaway Elementary fifth graders shared their science experiments with the entire school, staff and families on Friday, June 6 at their Science Fair. Projects included creating engineered hybrid parasytes, creating a battery, growing grass in different soils, seeing the different weight of molding cheeses, producing plastic from milk, exploring surface tension, and measuring distances different ninja stars can be thrown.

Hathaway student Kendall Doenm with her project.
A fond farewell to retirees

Pam Lehn, server, Gause Elementary and Jemtegaard Middle School
Favorite memory: “I will really miss the great kids at Jemtegaard.”
Retirement plans: “The first thing I look forward to on my retirement is not having to get up at 4:30 a.m. My husband is already retired, so now we will have time to travel and stay for a month if we want to.”

Kathy Loney, teacher, Washougal High School
Favorite memory: “I have been blessed to watch many of my students who thought they would never be able to graduate, walk across the stage and receive their diplomas. I hear from them from time to time. After 22 years, I have many pictures I can look at to remember how blessed I am to have the privilege to know these special people.”
Retirement plans: “My husband and I plan on traveling in our RV around the United States and visit states where our families lived. We are very big into family history and want to gather more genealogy. My husband is related to Rebecca Nurse, just one of his ancestors hung for being a witch in Salem, Mass. She is a character in Arthur Miller’s book, The Crucible.”

Mary Lou Rogers, secretary, Hathaway Elementary
Favorite memory: “Children are always going to be quirky and adorable, but I have had the pleasure of working with Joan Rose, Billie Olsen and Mindy Smith. This District has some of the nicest people to work with at the schools. I will miss their camaraderie and the laughs we shared. The cherry on top of leaving is Hathaway. It is the last school and it has been a hoot.”
Retirement plans: “I am excited to live in Kennewick in my new house and ride my jet ski on the Columbia River, especially every day the first week of school. I will be salmon fishing, snow skiing, gardening, traveling with my husband, Ken, and our dog, Lucy. Playing with grandkids and just enjoying life.”

Barbara Samojedny, teacher, Washougal High School
Favorite memory: “Washougal High School has always felt like the right place to be. The faculty, students, and community as a whole, are wonderful. I think I will always remember the students in “Food and You” when they prepared food. They were always so proud of themselves, and rightfully so. I would complain about the students having their phones out during class, but often, they were taking pictures of their creations. Success and friends are great memories to keep in cell phone pictures, so I didn’t mind! I will miss our school. It feels a bit like graduation. I’m looking forward to the next chapter.”
Retirement plans: “I have been vacationing in Jackson Hole, Wyoming, almost every year since I was five years old. I inherited land 35 miles from there and my husband and I have been building a cabin on that property. We will be spending as much time there as we can, depending on the weather. The altitude is 7800 feet, so we are really ‘up there.’ It is beautiful with lots of animals. We had a family of foxes on the property. My husband saw a grizzly walking along the river that he said was ‘as big as a Volkswagen.’ It is like going back in time 100 years. Heaven.”

Bruce Stanton, teacher, Washougal High School
Favorite memory: “I will remember my students, my fellow teachers, teaching and explaining and discussing chemistry, solving problems, answering questions, and especially chemistry labs and demos! I won’t miss grading papers.”
Retirement plans: “I have no particular plans! Every day will be like vacation; I will figure out what I want to do and do that, and I will change my mind all the time!”

Lisa Townsend, server, Jemtegaard Middle School
Favorite memory: “My favorite memory, of course, will always be the kids and the teachers here. There’s not a better group of teachers anywhere, and I’ve loved working in the kitchen and getting the food ready for the kids...6th, 7th and 8th graders are so fun and I have loved seeing them go through all the fads and they’ve kept me up to date on all the trends. Also the year we had Larry Bunnell as our Chef was the best year of food ever.”
Retirement plans: “I can’t imagine anything changing from what we already do...we’ll probably go to the beach more often but it’s kind of hard since we have chickens and rabbits (all pets!) and our Pug and Chiuhuahua to take care of. Maybe lots of day trips!”

Kathi Vaagen, teacher, Gause Elementary
Favorite memory: “My 23 years working in the Washougal School District have provided me with many happy memories of colleagues and students. My favorite teaching moments are the times when students realize that it is their individual effort and engagement that moves them forward as a reader and writer. Helping children learn and searching for ways to make that journey enjoyable for each of them has made my years at Gause incredibly rewarding. I am happy to say that I still look forward to coming to work each day. I will miss the dedicated, professional staff in Washougal.”
Retirement plans: “Dave and I have a new home in Klamath Falls, Oregon where we will be close to family. We have a large woodworking shop and enjoy finding exotic or unusual woods and turning them into bowls, vases, pens, furniture and decorative pieces. I will also have more time for gardening and fiber arts.”

Donna Nickerson, teacher, Gause Elementary School
Favorite memory: “I love it when ‘big’ kids come back to visit and tell me I look just the same as I did when I was their teacher eight years ago!”
Retirement plans: “I will be visiting relatives in Maine and Florida. I am from the Maine coast and I miss the salt air.”

Others who retired earlier this year: Linda Peters, paraeducator, Jemtegaard Middle School, and Sarah Floyd, Bus Driver.

Congratulations to these two schools!
Japanese programs recognized by Consul General

Washougal High School and Jemtegaard Middle School were recognized June 3 by Hiroshi Furusawa, Consul General of Japan in Portland. Furusawa bestowed the Consul General’s Commendation to WHS and JMS to express his sincere appreciation for the long-term efforts to facilitate the development of Japanese language education at these schools.

Washougal is the only school district honored that provides a bridging program of Japanese from a middle school to a high school. Additionally, JMS is one of only three middle schools out of 48 individual schools across Oregon and Southwest Washington receiving this recognition. The WSD recently received a “Salary Assistance Grant for Japanese Language Courses” from the Japan Foundation to help sustain the popular JMS program. The WHS Japanese program started as a satellite program in 1991.

After the ceremonies, Japanese students practiced their skills with Furusawa, including singing a Japanese song. WHS and JMS Japanese Language teacher Shoko Parker said, “I think this is an amazing opportunity for my students to realize that they are getting closer and closer to becoming successful global citizens.”

Currently there are over 110 Japanese companies operating in the Portland/Vancouver area providing over 5,000 jobs, with plans to expand. Japanese companies are drawn to the area because of its well-educated workforce and the high percentage of those familiar with the culture and language of Japan.

“We are very fortunate to have this opportunity in Washougal,” said Parker.

Consul General Mr. Furusawa presented a certificate of commendation to WSD Superintendent Dawn Tarzian and WHS Principal Aaron Hansen. (JMS Principal David Cooke also received a certificate.)

District seeks to fill board vacancy

The Washougal School District is accepting applications to fill a position on its Board of Directors. The successful applicant serves Director District 1, succeeding Jocelyn Lindsay, who moved out of the area.

Applicants must be a registered voter and reside within District 1. This appointment will be in place through the end of 2015. At that time, the appointed board member may file for a four-year term.

For more information about the position, residency requirements, and application materials, please contact Cassi Marshall, (360) 954-3005 or cassi.marshall@washougalsd.org. To view a map of Director District boundaries, visit our website:
http://www.washougal.k12.wa.us/schoolboard/boardzones.htm

WASHOUGAL SCHOOL DISTRICT RECEIVES ENERGY REIMBURSEMENTS THANKS TO LIGHTING EFFICIENCY PROJECTS

Washougal School District received energy incentive checks totaling $79,804.50 from Clark Public Utilities after replacing lighting fixtures at four schools.

Older, less efficient light fixtures were replaced with more efficient ones at Gause Elementary, Hathaway Elementary, Jemtegaard Middle School, and Washougal High School. The new fixtures will save the district a total of 387,364 kilowatts annually and will improve interior lighting quality at these schools.

The energy incentives are used to defray the upfront costs of the energy conservation projects.