Superintendent's Report

March 21st, 2014

BOARD UPDATE

- **National Presenter from Leader Dogs for the Blind** – We had one of Leader Dogs best national speakers in the district this week to present to our students. Len Quinn and his Leader Dog Slyder gave presentations to all of our K-8 students. Not only did Len help our kids learn about guide dogs and the positive impact they have in the lives of blind and visually impaired individuals or what it is like to be a blind person, he shared with our kids a very powerful message of believing that anything is possible in life if they are willing to work for it. Our kids did a tremendous job of listening and learning to take advantage of the opportunity. Way to go Bobcats and Hawks, along with a huge thanks to Len, Slyder and Leader Dogs for the Blind!
- **Bicycle Grant** – As you know, we were awarded a Bicycling Grant from OSPI for approximately $28,000. These funds will purchase at least 30 bicycles, trailers to haul bicycles (we ordered our new vans with trailer hitches in anticipation of this program) and to provide the training necessary to implement bicycling into our 4th, 5th, 6th & 7th grade physical education programs. The bicycle in the photo is a sample of the bikes we will be getting (Trek Shift One). To say the least, we are very excited about being awarded these funds and to be on the brink of having this program dream turn into reality. Staff will be receiving training on the state provided curriculum the week we get back from spring break. We are also working to finalize a purchase agreement that meets the grant requirements and maximizes the opportunity for our kids. The photo to the left is similar to the bikes we will be getting. Our hope is to make the purchase of the bicycles a local one in order to not only keep this money in our area, but also to create a long-term relationship for support with people we know and can easily go and talk to if we need assistance. More on this effort as it occurs.

- **WSSDA Regional Meeting** – I attended the spring WSSDA Regional Meeting in Camas on the evening of Wednesday, March 19th. Other districts in attendance were Vancouver,

Kalama, Kelso, Washougal, Battle Ground and of course Camas and La Center. I didn't learn anything new, but it was interesting to see how the information was presented to other school Boards. FYI.

- **1,080 Hour Legislation** – The legislature did pass a bill that modified the pending changes to the required instructional hours. How they changed the requirements does give us some latitude in our options that under the previous law did not. In the first place, a year latitude was given so nothing needs to be changed until the 2015/16 school year. Additionally, they changed the way the 1,080 hours is calculated. In essence, the law should be changed from 1,080 hour rule to 1,027 hour rule. It is a long story, but they are now letting us average the high school hours over the entire grade band (K-12) instead of 1,080 hours for each and every grade level as was originally the law. This will yield a net minimum requirement of 1,027 hours over the course of year as the new time to beat. Since we are currently above this line right now, I believe the law is essentially a moot issue for us. This then will cause a new discussion about RSLSA where we thought it was a dead issue. So be thinking about your perspectives on our Regularly Scheduled Late Student Arrival.
- **Old Dog Learning Team** – Back by popular demand, my Old Dog Learning Team has requested another session this spring with our first meeting being this week. Once again, I found the experience of learning with our teachers across the district to be both exciting and very interesting at the same time. The team spent the evening connecting what they learned from our Making Thinking Visible work that we started last Fall, with the Danielson Instructional Framework from TPEP and the District's Learner Competencies. Their discussions around these connections was fascinating because it showed me how invested our teachers are in the mission of the district to develop confident, self-reliant life-long learners. I know you would have been pleased with their thinking and their passion as much as I was.

I think that is all for now. Please give me a call if you have any questions. Talk with you later.

Mark