

BOARD POLICY EXPECTATION

With respect to interactions with the community (parents, students, and the general public), the Superintendent shall not fail to ensure that all stakeholders are treated with respect and dignity at the district level, within each school and classroom.

CERTIFICATION

I hereby present my monitoring report on Executive Limitations Policy EL-2 “Community Relationships” in accordance with the monitoring schedule set forth in board policy. I certify that the information contained in this report is true as of April 18th, 2017.

Dave Holmes, Superintendent

SUPERINTENDENT’S INTERPRETATION OF POLICY

I interpret this expectation regarding community relationships to mean the Board believes the district must interact, support and communicate to all community stakeholders in a positive and supportive manner. By operating in a manner that is proactive, transparent and sincere, we will increase the likelihood that a positive and supportive learning culture will be developed for students and therefore maximize the opportunity students will have to accomplish the expectations set forth in the Board’s Ends Policies.

REPORT

There are seven specific areas described in this policy. The following will address each specific area of EL-2 as best as possible. At the time of this report, I believe that the district is in compliance with the Board’s expectations.

1. ***The superintendent shall not fail to build upon the positive image of the district.***
IN COMPLIANCE

As in past years, our entire team has done a very good job of building upon and protecting the positive image of the district. Upon returning to the district after a brief but eye-opening experience, I’ve been able to take a very valuable look at our current and past practices as they relate to our community and stakeholders at large. This includes all of the traditional events, practices, communications and interactions that occur over the year. This year has been a year where we’ve looked at all of these current and past practices with an eye toward modification and improvement. Many of these changes are simple tweaks and some are wholesale re-engineering. During the current year, we’ve had many positive

news articles on topics such as our athletic fields and community garden; to sports teams' success and student achievements. We have also had many, many positive community engagement efforts such as Kindy-Cub nights, incoming freshman orientation and Veterans Day assemblies to name just three. In addition, we've done a great job of partnering with our parent support groups to continue many popular events such as fall carnival, christmas bazaar, family movie nights and book fairs. All of these events are huge successes and provide both parent and community involvement, but also enhance the image of the district. Therefore, I believe strongly that we are in compliance with this expectation.

2. ***The superintendent shall not fail to take reasonable steps to communicate with stakeholders through regular communications (e.g. newsletters, website, email, etc.). IN COMPLIANCE***

During this current year, our key sources of outgoing communication with stakeholders have been expanded and upgraded primarily through improvements to our electronic platforms. We have created and maintained a "well visited" facebook page, totally redesigned and launched our webpage and increased our email and electronic communication with parents. Additionally, we have used School Messenger (telephone communication system) on several occasions to inform parents of important news beyond school weather delays and closures. All in all, we have received very positive feedback from stakeholders about our communications, changes to formats and responsiveness to inquiries.

To facilitate better feedback from stakeholders as part of essential two-way communications, we have organized our usual linkage meetings throughout the year. Whether this is with students, parents, staff, community or elected officials, linkage meetings provide not only the Board, but also the organization with valuable perspectives, ideas and feedback from those we serve. Finally, we have put forward many different surveys to stakeholders on various topics such as calendar, needs for improvement or change, curricular material adoptions and bond/new school ideas and support options. I am confident there is ample evidence of not only reasonable steps have been taken, but that significant opportunities have been increased to provide many examples of strong two-way communication with stakeholders.

3. ***The superintendent shall not fail to appropriately involve stakeholders in an advisory capacity in important issues which impact them directly; nor fail to provide to district advisory groups, such as those formed for curriculum, facilities, and levy/bond matters, a formal charter document advising each such group of its purpose, organization and functions. IN COMPLIANCE***

Over the past nine months, we have worked closely with different stakeholders to discuss and make decisions around continued changes and improvements to our

special education services. We have refilled positions on our IMC committee to maintain broad community representation. We have formed a bond support group that has a membership of over 125 stakeholders. We have had two beginning meetings with that group to pass along information and gather feedback. Additionally, our administrative team continues to represent the district on outside support groups such as the music association, the booster club and the PTO. This creates two way communication that can be used to gain advisory input from a variety of special interest stakeholders.

4. ***The superintendent shall not fail to build positive relationships with the media as an important conduit of communication with the public.*** **IN COMPLIANCE**

As the district spokesperson, I have had opportunities to interact with the media this year. The primary media connection over the past nine months has been with *The Reflector* Newspaper. Based on a past relationship built with Ken Vance at ClarkCountyToday.com while he was the editor at *The Reflector*, we have had a number of positive, interesting and informative articles written about our district.

We have had many media interactions about the exciting happenings in the district that included stories on our students, activities, sports and educational achievements/opportunities. All of these news stories continue to give information to stakeholders as well as build on the positive image of the district, many beyond our district.

5. ***The superintendent shall not fail to build positive relationships with community businesses, service and community groups and other community groups involved in building a positive school community.*** **IN COMPLIANCE**

We have enjoyed many positive relationships with community businesses and organizations that have occurred over the years that enrich our school community including the La Center Community Foundation, the Casino Charitable Trust, ESD 112, the Lions Club, the city of La Center and the La Center Police Department to name a few. All these organizations help make our school community better, stronger and safer through their selfless contributions of resources, manpower and expertise. I have tried to maintain those relationships in the spirit of this expectation and at the same time re-engage our PTO at the elementary. I will be the first to admit I've yet to reestablish my membership with the Lions Club as an active member, but I have supported their activities as they work to support our district in a variety of ways. Most recently I've had conversations with representatives of the Ilani Casino to develop a positive, mutually beneficial relationship with them.

6. ***The superintendent shall not fail to be visible and approachable as the CEO of the school district.*** **IN COMPLIANCE**

I see this expectation has having two distinct parts that work together. Being visible is about being where students, teachers, parents and community are and then being approachable while at those events or in those areas.

I pride myself on being both approachable and frequenting places and times where the district is conducting our business of teaching and learning. I believe that being approachable and inviting of conversation, criticism, and ideas is built over time with trust and building of connections. I've worked for over two decades to build those community connections and continue to do so everyday.

Over the past year, I have attended concerts, performances, competitions, classrooms, athletic events, orientations, community events/meetings, city council meetings, county council meetings, ESD meetings and state meetings on behalf of the district. I've met with our local legislators numerous times and have corresponded with them on an ongoing basis during this very important legislative session. All these events/meetings allows me to learn a great deal about how our schools are serving students and meeting the expectations of stakeholders while building lasting relationships and sending the message of approachability.

7. *The superintendent shall not fail to prepare annual school and district progress reports to the public.* **IN COMPLIANCE**

The annual reports are completed in the fall of each year for the previous year. The current annual report for each school is available online at each school's website. Each report includes all items required by state law at a minimum, but goes beyond that in many areas to share the successes with stakeholders. As with other opportunities for change, this is an area that will be a focus next fall in order to make these reports and documents more meaningful to the board and community stakeholders.