

Superintendent's Report

August 26th, 2014

LEARNING UPDATE

1. **District Leadership Retreat** – We had our annual retreat with our new leadership team (Amy Nieman, Jennifer Blechschmidt, Peter Rosenkranz, Matt Cooke, Kristin Lawrence, Carol Patton, Lauri Landerholm, Scott Lincoln, Dan Bentson, Laurie Kansanback and myself) on August 11th through the 13th. This year we were able to return to an old practice where we took several days and traveled to Long Beach, WA. We used to do this many years ago, but over the last five years or so due to funding reductions we stayed here in La Center. I felt with so many changes to our team we needed to spend more time together. It was a terrific experience for us to spend time together learning together. I feel the dividends from this investment in time and money will be significant.

If we don't care for one another on the district leadership team beyond our work responsibilities, I don't believe our team can for our students and staff to the level necessary to meet the Board's Ends.

Therefore, forming a strong team bond is absolutely essential to the mission of the district. One small example of how I am seeing our team becoming closer

as a result of our retreat is when Peter Rosenkranz recently had a birthday. What started as a few people wanting to take him to lunch turned into an almost complete leadership team outing. In short, I am very pleased with their work and energy for each other and our students and staff. This is going to be another fun year of service even though we are building a brand new administrative team.



BOARD UPDATE

1. **HS Field Improvements** – We continue to see tremendous progress towards all the various projects that comprise our HS field improvements. Scoreboard



work, D-Zone curbing, ticket booth, electrical and water runs, walkways, flag pole, goal posts, fencing, grass watering, temporary scoring/announcing booth (A.K.A. Lions Fireworks



Booth) and so much more all seem to be going on all at the same time. It is simply phenomenal all that has occurred to date and the energy and passion people of our community have put into this effort. I believe everything will be ready to go for the September 12th opening game (Football against Woodland). If anything doesn't get quite done on time it won't be for a lack of trying. We are very fortunate to have such a caring, hard working community that stands behind our students and staff.

2. **Summer Maintenance Progress** – There have been so many projects that we have worked on this summer it is getting hard to count. Our maintenance, custodial and technology staff have worked so hard this year to get everything ready for students and staff. I am in such awe of them and their dedication and commitment to the work.



Power washing roofs, refinishing gym floors, the renovation of two portables, landscaping, painting, all the carpet work and so, so much more. Wow! This has been a summer to remember. A huge thank you to all of them for their hard work and tireless effort to maintain the facilities that are entrusted to us.

3. **Staff Working Hard to Prepare for Students** –Our teaching and support staff have been very busy working on preparing their classrooms for students. I have been so impressed by their



hard work. The schools are a buzz with activity on so many



fronts. Everything from decorating bulletin boards, to organizing materials and supplies; from moving furniture to greeting students and parents, our teachers and staff are hard at work preparing for our students' first day of the 2014/15 school year. A huge thank you to all of them!

4. **New roofs on district buildings –**

We put on several new roofs this year. New roofs were put on the two portable buildings next to the K-8 cafeteria and round building as well as the maintenance barn and our new ticket booth. They were definitely needed on the buildings located on the K-8 campus and I am very glad to have these repairs completed for the new year. All these projects are clear examples of the long-term care and maintenance of the facilities our community entrusts to us.



5. **La Center Bicycle Program is getting off the ground –** We have received to date 48 of our bicycles (12 more to arrive) for our new addition to our PE program. These bicycles are of high quality and should last us a good long time. There is a lot of work left to do to prepare the bike barn and safety course, but getting the bicycles is a huge step forward. Lots more to come on this exciting new program in our district. FYI.



On a personal note, as if life was not busy enough, I received an ALS Ice Bucket Challenge from the superintendent from the Camas School District (Mr. Mike Nerland). By now I hope you know me well enough to know that I love a good challenge. So we decided to Go Big or Go Home and do the challenge La Center style... I got a tractor bucket of ice water dumped on me. It was a lot of fun and all for a great cause☺

I think that is all for now. I am so glad that school is starting tomorrow and our kids will be back with us! I really miss having them here.

Please give me a call if you have any questions. Talk with you later.

Mark

