

# Superintendent's Report

December 12<sup>th</sup>, 2014

## BOARD UPDATE

**Our New Fiscal Officer** – As I had told you previously, we had made a change in fiscal officers provided via our contract with the ESD. As I shared with you last month our new CFO is named Bernice Sundby. She's just done a fantastic job of pulling everything together and helping us get everything back on track. I am extremely pleased with her commitment, knowledge and her ability to connect with our staff. Bernice has already brought forward many suggestions to make our fiscal system even stronger, more efficient and much more user friendly. All I can say is WOW!

**Leadership Clark County** – I had a chance last week to be part of a panel of superintendents talking about education in our county to a group of regional leaders participating in what is call Leadership Clark County (LCC). This is the fourth year I have been asked to serve on this panel and it is very interesting to meet so many people who are investing their time in learning how to be a stronger leader.



Brett Blechschmidt is a past graduate of LCC and he has served for many years teaching school finance just before the superintendent panel begins.

So I have a chance to see him in action every year. I am pleased to say that he designs his lesson using the La Center Learning Model and as you can see from the photo he even used the documents and models we created right here in La Center. Pretty cool if you ask me☺



**“Carnac the Average”** – For those of you who know of the famous Johnny Carson skit of “Carnac the Magnificent”, this week we had a lower quality version (just the name change to average) that appeared at the high school staff's holiday breakfast. Carol (a.k.a. Ed McMann) and Pete (a.k.a. Carnac the Average) performed a wonderful skit that had everyone in stitches. That said, I encouraged them both to not consider quitting their day jobs just yet. A lot of fun was had by all, even though their superintendent took a few playful shots in the process☺

**Special Education Agreement with the ESD** – Just to keep you in the loop on this effort, I have spent a significant amount of time throughout the Fall and especially this week working to lay the foundation for a deeper discussion about our partnership and subsequent agreement for special education services with ESD 112. We have been part of the special education group (also known as the ESA – Education Service Agency) for many years, but the past couple of years have been significantly troublesome. One piece in particular is the poor performance of our special education students on state testing to name just one example. I just feel as though we may be at a point in time where we would do better making decisions for our kids closer to home rather than having everything be sent down to the ESD for approval. There are certainly pros and cons to going it alone or joining forces with other non-ESD special education district such as Woodland as a partner for special education services. I just believe it is time to weigh our options. More on this effort as we move forward. FYI.

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

*Mark*