

### **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 28<sup>th</sup>, 2015.

Dr. Mark Mansell, 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 with the community stakeholders in a positive and supportive manner. In general, using the district’s learning model to engage the learning energy of the community in a similar way that we expect staff to use it for students. Operating in this way 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**

I believe we have done an excellent job of building upon the positive image of the district over the past year. Whether that occurred through the media stories about achievements of our students or our technological enhancements and the impacts it has in the lives of students, to the tremendous partnerships that have occurred as a result of the work to improve our sports fields; our district enjoys a very positive opinion of the services and value we provide to the citizens of our district. That said, there are times when issues occur and we need to take a stand on issues that gain attention in the media. We cannot control the media, nor where the information will travel and therefore lose our ability to equitably communicate our work and reasoning. All we can do is remain true to our organizational beliefs and processes so as to not get swayed off course. This in the long run will

give us the best chance of achieving this expectation. I feel confident that is what we have done over the years and will continue to do in the future. Therefore, I believe strongly that we are in compliance with this expectation regardless of short-term media reactions.

**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**

Over the past year, our key sources of outgoing communication with stakeholders has occurred through our website, school and classroom newsletters, as well as parent emails. We have also worked to revamp our district newsletter and more closely connect it to the district website. Additionally, we have used School Messenger (telephone communication system) on several occasions to inform parents of important news such as when we had a student who brought an airsoft handgun to school. All in all, we receive very positive feedback from stakeholders about our communications and responsiveness to inquires.

To facilitate inflowing of feedback from stakeholders as part of essential two-way communications, we have organized many different 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 technology, curricular material adoptions and/or scheduling ideas. Therefore I am confident there is ample evidence of not only reasonable steps have been taken, but that significant opportunities have been implemented 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 year, we have worked closely with different stakeholders to discuss and make decisions around our special education services. By listening to and interacting with these stakeholders, we decided to transition from the ESD managed program into our own in-house program. The effort has been a lot of work, but one that was much smoother as a result of stakeholder participation.

Additionally we continue to work closely with a group of stakeholders to enhance our sports facilities at the high school. These individuals have worked tirelessly and with great passion to see the dream of having a quality field here at the high school comes to fruition. This effort didn't happen without a supportive structure and openness to engaging their energies to accomplish these ends.

**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 many opportunities to interact with the media this past year. This has been through media initiated requests as well as district initiated ideas for articles/stories. The primary media connection over the past twelve months has been with the Reflector Newspaper, but have also provided information support for the Columbian as well as television stations from Portland.

Because of the recent matter at the high school, we have been provided the opportunity to interact with a very wide variety of media. To say the least this sort of media attention is not something that we are used to. But I believe we have worked well to support reasonable media contacts (especially local sources) so as to provide accurate and timely information.

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

Probably the greatest example this past year of meeting this expectation is our partnership with LCEF and the many community and regional partners that helped build our new athletic facility at the high school. There have been so many successful outcomes from these partnerships. This includes funding, grants, equipment, expertise, and technical expertise. We could not have reached the point we are at currently without all these partnerships.

Another tremendous partnership we enjoy is with the Lions of La Center. They have helped in so many ways to enhance the learning experience for our kids and make our school community stronger. From their Health Screen Van to partnering with our student food drives; from providing resources for making available student backpacks with school supplies to making available the crew for football chain gangs, the Lions have worked tirelessly to support our students.

We have also enjoyed many other positive relationships that have occurred over the years to enrich our school community including the Community Foundation, the Casino Charitable Trust, ESD 112 and La Center City and La Center Police Department. All these organizations help make our school community better, stronger and safer through their selfless contributions of resources, manpower and expertise.

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

Our schools provide so many learning opportunities and experiences for students it is a real challenge to get to them all. Then when adding in the learning opportunities and meetings of staff on top of this, it is easy to see how “being visible” is more than a full time job in and of itself beyond completing the tasks of leading and managing the district.

With that said, I work hard at staying connected in many ways. Visiting staff meetings and eating lunch with staff is something I enjoy doing. I also visit classrooms and talk with staff on my regular walks around the campuses. These walks also allow me to see facility needs and review work in progress whether it is for maintenance, custodial or technology. I also do my best to attend events and games regularly. Some events are easier to get to while others are more challenging.

Over the past year I have attended concerts, performances, competitions, classrooms, parent teacher conferences, orientations, outside of the regular school day learning experiences, community events/meetings, city council meetings, county councilor meetings, ESD meetings and state meetings on behalf of the district. All these events/meetings allows for me to learn a great deal about how our schools are serving students and meeting the expectations of stakeholders.

**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.