

La Center High School Board Report

June 15, 2015

Dear Board Members,

As I reflect back on this school year I find many successes for both the student learners and educators at LCHS. So many students and teachers had outstanding accomplishments, awards and recognition for the work done throughout the year. The 97 graduating seniors have proven to be very successful receiving an amazing amount of scholarships from organizations which offered our students almost \$2.5 million. This is an outstanding figure and a clear reminder of the hard work and rigorous classes we offer our students at LCHS.

Students of all abilities have found success at LCHS. One of the classes we piloted this year was the Focus class for struggling 9th graders. We learned from these students which additional skills are required for students to find success entering high school. Thank you to Mrs. Grotte and her senior mentors for working with these students. Next year Mrs. Eiesland will teach the Focus class.

In addition to helping our incoming freshman the English Department, with the help of middle school English teachers, has identified a small group of students that could use additional support in writing. Next year, Mrs. Gozart will teach a smaller 9th grade English class to work specifically on writing skills, while addressing the state standards for 9th grade English students. This will better enable our school to meet the goals of bridging the gap between 8th grade and 9th grade.

Summer School - This summer the Linx program will remain open until the end of June for only Linx students needing to complete their online classes. This first year of the Linx program, we have found students in the program are successful of completing the classes, but each go about it in a different way. Some students register for four classes and work a little on each of them all week, while others work on 1 class at a time. This year we have had three graduates from the program. A big 'thank you' goes to Bonnie Poffenroth, Bob Hill and Kris Soske for their work designing the program as we moved through the year. They have identified specific items and/or processes that will be modified for next year to improve student success rates. I believe this is a wonderful program for those students that need a different way of learning the material other than in the traditional classroom. Next year Bob Hill and Rebecca Morris will be the teachers of record with Kris Soske continuing her work with the students as well. Ruth Schrock will join the team as the new Home School Academy teacher, which involves working with the Linx students for two periods a day.

Mrs. Gozart is teaching the online Health class this summer. 24 students have enrolled in this class; many of the students are incoming freshman that want to get a head start on their graduation requirements. Students are excited about taking an online class. It is great for students to know how to be independent learners.

LCHS is also offering four sessions of credit recovery with Mrs. Marshall overseeing the program which offers a variety of classes. 40 students will participate in these online courses over the summer. This is a great way for students who have fallen behind to get caught up.

New Hires – This coming year there will be several new faces joining our LCHS staff. Kurt Gray comes to us from the Longview School District and is our newly appointed Associate Principal. He brings a wealth of skills including 24 years of teaching with 18 years as a science teacher at Mark Morris High School. Many of those years he was the head football coach. The past three years he has been the instructor of their alternative learning program. He is a wonderful addition to help with our Linx and

Home School Academy programs. Kurt is eager to get started and has already met the incoming freshman at the 9th grade BBQ. We look forward to having him join our team.

Mrs. Kristin Krem is out on maternity leave for next year and will be returning for part-time at the middle school. The high school is welcoming RaeJean Hendricks as next year's counselor. She is new to school counseling. Mrs. Hendricks brings lots of positive energy and compassion to the position. I believe she will be a great fit in the Student Service Center to help our students.

Mrs. Miranda Brothers is our new Special Education teacher to LCHS, coming from Heritage High School. She is nationally board certified and has many years of experience working with special need students. As our special ed. department continues to grow, Mrs. Brothers is a welcomed addition.

Additional Para 1 and Para 2 Aides new to the staff are Andrew Johnson, Angie Thompson and Shari Lathem. We look forward to working with each one of them this coming year.

Phoenix 10 is already scheduled for next year, September 25-27. I am so pleased to have this wonderful opportunity for our students to reflect on their skills and abilities while they grow into stronger leaders. Students come away from the program with tools that help them throughout their life when confronted with a challenge, be it personal or within a group setting.

Because the Phoenix program is so important in the developing of our culture and climate at school, I have hired DeAnna Pickett, one of the directors for Synergo, to conduct the 'Welcome Back' workshop for the LCHS certified and classified staff on August 31st. With so many new staff joining LCHS over the past three years, it is important to develop stronger communication skills between all employees. As we work together to create a positive learning environment for all students and staff, every individual at LCHS needs to participate collaboratively in order to accomplish this task. As we continue to work together toward meeting the Ends policies for our students, this will pay off throughout the years.

Athletic/Activities - This has been a very successful year for LCHS Extra-Curricular Activities. Out of the 15 sports teams, all but 2 teams qualified to the state championships. Along with these teams, FBLA, Knowledge Bowl, and our Chess Team represented La Center at the state championships. This year, we have 6 graduates that were offered scholarships to play sports at the next level for their colleges. Max Hiller will be playing football for Montana Tech. Alex Firl is going to BYU Hawaii to play soccer. Amanda and Rachel Moudy were offered scholarships to play softball for Concordia University in Michigan. Katie Whitten will be on the basketball court for Centralia College. And lastly, Katlyn Bigley will be playing soccer for Lower Columbia College. These student-athletes were all given full-rides or partial scholarships to continue playing a sport they love while working towards a degree.

Softball

The last board report that was submitted in May left off with 3 teams still competing in post-season. The Softball team was headed to the District Tournament as the #1 seed from the Trico League. In the first game, we defeated Tenino 11-1 in 5 innings. Our next match up was against Montesano, which we lost 0-3. Montesano was this year's 1A State Champions. It was a close game and the girls played very well. We went on to defeat Kalama 4-0, and then Elma 13-3, to place 3rd in Districts. The following weekend, the team faced Connell in the first round of the state championships and won 5-2. The next game, the team

faced Seattle Christian Academy and lost 2-4. Mt. Baker was the next school that we played and won in an exciting fashion. We were down 5-6 and ended up scoring 2 runs in the bottom of the 7th to win the game. This win qualified the girls to play on the 2nd day of the state tournament. The Wildcats faced Lakeside (Nine Mile Falls) and lost a heart breaker in the bottom of the 7th, 5-6. The team only loses 3 seniors (Emily Muffett, Amanda Moudy, and Rachel Moudy), so the expectation is that we will be playing again in the state championships next year as long as the girls do what they need to in order to accomplish this task.

Soccer

The soccer team had just been named the District 4, 1A Soccer Champions when last month's board report was submitted. We were able to host the first round of the 1A State Championships at Kalama HS. The team faced Klahowya HS, which is up near Bremerton. They were a very solid team and defeated the Wildcats 0-3, which ended our season. (On a side note, no teams from District 4 won their first round games in the state tournament.) The team started 4 freshman and 3 sophomores. This is exciting as we should continue to have success within the Trico and District 4 next year.

Track

The track team was headed to the District 4 Meet after the last board report was submitted. Out of the 13 schools in District 4, 1A, the girls placed 7th and the boys placed 3rd. We had 5 individual champions at this meet: Jenna Melanson (100m Hurdles and the 300m Hurdles), Philipp Tistov (100m Dash), Nate Beed (800m), and Mathew Sheldon (High Jump). Along with these athletes, the following students also qualified to the state championships: Grace Nelson (100m Hurdles), Shelby Vermeulen (100m Hurdles and Discus), Jeremy Scott (110m Hurdles and 300m Hurdles), Jacob O'Donnell (4x100m Relay), Mark Tistov (4x100m Relay), Max Hiller (4x100m Relay), and Philip Tistov (also qualified in 200m, 400m, and the 4x100m Relay). You may have noticed that we had 3 girls qualify in the 100m Hurdles. There are only 4 spots that District 4 has allotted to the state meet. It was pretty awesome to see 3 LC athletes cross the finish line in the 100m Hurdles within the top 4 placers. It was very warm on The Inferno over in Cheney. The Inferno refers to Eastern Washington University's red turf field, where the 1A State Championships were held. Shelby Vermeulen placed 6th with a 5 foot improvement on the discus. To improve this much at a state meet is quite spectacular. Jenna Melanson placed 6th in the 100m Hurdles and 7th in the 300m Hurdles. Philipp Tistov placed 8th in the 100m, 8th in the 200m, and 6th in the 400m. To bring home 3 medals is quite the feat for an athlete. And lastly, Mathew Sheldon placed 4th in the High Jump with a height of 6' 2".

Respectfully submitted,

Carol Patton
LCHS Principal