

# La Center High School

Board Report  
September 21, 2015

The high school staff started this year with a “Welcome Back” all-day training at Summit Grove Lodge with members from the Synergo team, who run the Phoenix programs for our students, leading the workshop. Over the past four years LCHS has welcomed several new teachers and paraprofessionals to our staff. The workshop was designed to provide opportunities to build positive relationships and develop effective communication skills. Woven into the lessons were activities that helped individuals identify their styles of communication. This awareness was beneficial to the group for communicating with one another and more importantly with students.



Activities took place both inside and outside. An awareness of the best way to build positive working relationships with students had to start with our awareness of some of the issues students are addressing upon entering high school. This year we have close to 175 new students, which include the freshman class and other first-year students at LCHS. We made a conscious effort to address several of the needs I had anticipated prior to the students' arrival on the first day. This was a great day for all staff members - certified and classified alike!

Welcome to the new LCHS staff this year:

Kurt Gray – Associate Principal  
Miranda Brothers – Special Education  
Joyce Mosby – Health  
Nicolas Montoya – Speech/Language Therapist  
Andrew Johnson – Para Educator  
Brent Mansell – Para Educator

David Williams – Band/Choir  
RaeJean Hendricks – Counselor  
Lynn Cooke - Librarian  
Shari Latham – Para Educator  
Angie Thompson – Para Educator

**College Prep** is off to a wonderful start! There are 32 seniors who are up for a 7:00 a.m. class with Mr. Timm DiStefano to learn about colleges, application processes, FAFSA, writing various essays, and of course applying for scholarships. By the end of last year the Class of 2015 completed a total of 755 scholarship applications. Students from LCHS were offered \$2,507,240 in scholarships, military stipends, and free tuitions. This is amazing for our size school. This year Mr. DiStefano has raised the challenge and has set the goal for the Class of 2016 to complete 1000 high quality scholarship applications. Included in that goal is to break the \$3,000,000 mark. Wouldn't that be something?

Already this year, three weeks into school, three of our students have been accepted into a college for the fall of 2016. They are:

Haley Stinson – WSU Pullman

Ashley Ding – Bel Rea Veterinary School in Denver, CO

Jake Morris – Northern Arizona University

Congratulations to these students!

**Teachers** are scheduling a meeting with their evaluator to discuss their self-assessment worksheet and to develop their goals within their own practice from the Danielson Instructional Framework Rubric. The learning plan is developed prior to the meeting by the individual teacher which shows each teacher's plan on meeting the goals. The discussions have been very rich as many of the educators show that they are finding ways to improve their practice, which ultimately is designed to improve student learning. I am proud of our teachers who are focusing on finding way to use the Learning Model. Through our discussions I have seen over the years an improvement of what individual teachers are looking for within the classroom. Their lessons are more interactive and less "sage on the stage" approach. Sometimes a lecture is very important with the work the teachers are doing, but the real learning is by students doing.

Part of my personal goals this year is to continue to work with data when making decisions which include best practices. I'm excited to learn how the "Homeroom" program will help us quickly gather data that can be used to help make these determinations. This year the high school has an accreditation renewal which is not as dramatic as the formal accreditation. Once the School Improvement Planning team gathers the data and works with Building Council and the staff, we will construct SMART goals which have the details of how we will meet each goal. I believe you are familiar with the SMART goals created from last year. These specific and detailed goals hold us accountable to accomplish the tasks before us. It also provides a common goal for the building which is in alignment with the district's and state's goals.

I would also like to share with the Board that I have an opportunity to serve on the board of the Washington Association of Secondary School Principals (WASSP) which is comprised of principals throughout the state who represent the various leagues and regions of Washington. I will represent the Trico 1A league. Meetings take place 3 times a year in various towns throughout the state. I am pleased to be able to help serve and influence the direction of education in our state from the perspective of a practicing school principal.

## **Athletic and Activities Report**

### **Football**

The Wildcats started the season off winless, again, this year. However, we have faced some difficult opponents which will help us in the post-season. Hockinson was the first team we faced, and they were ranked #5 in the state for the 2A Classification. We lost 28-0. Woodland was the next opponent, and it was a great high school football game. This was the first varsity football game that was played on their new field and we came up a couple points short in the end. The Beavers won the game 28-26. The next game played was against Tumwater and they were ranked #1 in the 2A Classification and #5 in the whole state, regardless of classification. We lost the game 49-6. The good thing that came out of this game is the fact that our players never quit and were able to score in the 4<sup>th</sup> quarter. This was the best team that the Wildcats will face this year. Hudson's Bay is our next opponent this Friday, they defeated Woodland this past Friday. It should be a great game.

### **Girls Soccer**

The soccer team has a new coaching staff with Matt Cone as the head coach, Nathan Wallace is the assistant and JV head coach, and Jon Groom is a volunteer and goalie coach. The team started off with 3 losses, much like the football team, against bigger schools: Washougal, Battle Ground, and Mark Morris. But, we have now started league play and the Wildcats won both matches against Kalama and White Salmon. The feedback from the student-athletes and parents has been all positive about the new leadership for our Girls Soccer Program.

### **Boys Golf**

The golf team currently has 1 win and 2 losses. Their one win was over Kalama with a score of 217 to 224. The 2 losses came at the hands of King's Way and Hoquiam, which are 2 of the better teams in our district. Michael Parker and Aaron Huether are in their 2<sup>nd</sup> year as coaches for this program. They are excited for the future of the program as many of the student-athletes are underclassmen. The team takes on Montesano tomorrow at Tri-Mountain.

### **Volleyball**

The Wildcats started the season off well with wins over Hudson's Bay, Seton Catholic, and Stevenson. Their one loss this year has come from Woodland, which has had some success over us in the past few years. This past Friday, Sept 18, the team competed in the SunDome Volleyball Tournament in Yakima. They finished first in their pool play, and then beat Hoquiam in quarterfinals of the bracket play to advance to the semi-finals. Unfortunately, they lost in the semi-finals and placed 3<sup>rd</sup> out of 32 teams. The coach, Cymany O'Brien, was pleased with the girls' efforts and play at the tournament. They are coming together as a team with 3 new transfer students on the varsity squad this year

## **Cross Country**

The Girls' Cross Country Team will be one of the best in the 1A Classification this year, led by Jenna Melanson who placed 2<sup>nd</sup> overall out of 244 runners. At the two invitational meets attended, the team placed 7<sup>th</sup> out of 20 teams for the Ash Creek Invite in Monmouth, OR, and placed 2<sup>nd</sup> out of 14 teams at the Three Course Challenge in Seaside this past weekend. The Boys' Cross Country Team placed 19<sup>th</sup> out of 24 and 7<sup>th</sup> out of 19 teams in those meets. Nate Beed is the leader on the boys' team and he placed 7<sup>th</sup> at Season this past weekend in our division.

**Phoenix 10** leaves this coming weekend September 25-27, with 26 students and 4 adult volunteers. Students and staff volunteers head to the YMCA Camp Collins in Oregon. A big "thank you" goes to our volunteers Kurt Gray, Brent Mansell, Miranda Brothers, and Joan Daugherty. Have a great trip!

Respectfully submitted,

Carol Patton  
LCHS Principal