

La Center School District

Annual Report to the Community

2011-2012 School Year

Unless otherwise noted, the data contained in this report is from the 2011-2012 school year. The complete ***DISTRICT PERFORMANCE REPORT*** may be accessed from the La Center School District website (www.lacenterschools.org) or on the Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction (OSPI) website at <http://reportcard.ospi.k12.wa.us>. The report card includes detailed information and statistics about education in La Center.

OUR MISSION

The mission of the La Center School District is to create a supportive environment that empowers students to reach their fullest potential. We will do this in partnership with families, the community, and employees to create life-long learners who can adapt to a changing, more technologically advanced and diverse society.

Policy E-1

2011-2012 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

| | |
|---------------|-------------|
| Criseda Yaw | District #1 |
| Todd Jones | District #2 |
| Robert Taylor | District #3 |
| Wendy Chord | District #4 |
| John Parsons | District #5 |

SCHOOL POPULATION

The 2011-2012 school year began with an understanding that current economic times may be the least of our challenges. We are charged with educating a population of “digital age natives” and, as digital age “immigrants” many of us don’t even speak the language! Of course, we have seen this coming and been working for several years now toward creating learning environments that will meet the needs of today’s student. Still, as more of our students come to school with global awareness and access (via iPads, smart phones, etc.) to unfathomable amounts of information, we as a district are putting on our learner hats, grabbing our own digital devices and (some more reluctantly than others) waving a fond farewell to the “industrial age” way of thinking.

Change of this sort is never easy. What we have always done may no longer be the best practice. One thing is certain, there will be no lack of learning opportunities as we navigate our way right into the 21st century.

WHO WE ARE BY THE NUMBERS

ENROLLMENT

2011-2012 enrollment as of 10/01/11 is 1,547

2012-2013 enrollment as of 10/01/12 is 1,563

DEMOGRAPHICS

American Indian or Alaskan Native 1%

Asian or Pacific Islander 0.5%

Black or African American 0.5%

Hispanic 6%

Caucasian 91%

Other/Non-Specified 1%

STUDENT PROFILE – CLASS OF 2012

Total Graduates – 84

Of those graduating:

College Bound (4 yr) 29%

College Bound (2 yr) 45%

Vocational School 8%

Military 11%

Work 5%

Undecided 2%

Average GPA 2.73

Percent on Honor Roll 30%

High School Activity Participation

Average Percent of Students:

Sports Participation 29+%

All Other Activities 38+%

Students who participate in athletics and activities at La Center High School continue to excel and bring pride to our school. Our successes come from the dedication of students, coaches and advisors. Results from participation can easily be seen across our campus and throughout the student body as well.

Middle School Activity Participation

The La Center Middle School Boys Basketball team was a shining light in a very dark time at our district with the passing of one of their players, 8th grader Cody Sherrell. This event led to a group of boys thrust into the spotlight not only in the community but by the media. They were also a beacon of hope and pride while we were coming to terms with the loss of Cody. Their play on the court and the way that they carried themselves in La Center and in other towns during the season was incredible and will never be forgotten.

Elementary School Activity Participation

Children are the highest priority of all staff members. All work is directed towards meeting the individual needs of our students. We recognize that no two individuals are

the same; therefore, every effort to accommodate the unique talents of each student is made.

This year a group of students from 3rd to 5th grade participated in a science competition. The tournament tests the students' knowledge and understanding of scientific concepts. They competed against 19 other teams from area schools. This was their first year of competing and they did an outstanding job. The team won the fourth place prize for the "barge building" event. The coaches were Ms. Sawyer, Mrs. Bussler and Ms. Smith. Congratulations to the team!

STAFF PROFILE

Teaching Staff

| | |
|---|------|
| Classroom Teachers | 73 |
| Average Years of Experience | 17 |
| Teachers with at least a Master's Degree | 75% |
| Percent of Teachers who meet Highly Qualified standards | 100% |

Student-to-Teacher Ratio

| | |
|------------|----|
| K-3 Grade | 22 |
| 4-5 Grade | 25 |
| 6-8 Grade | 22 |
| 9-12 Grade | 19 |

Administrators

A continued focus on classroom learning environments, professional development needs for our staff and increased partnering with parents and community members has changed the landscape of what we need and expect of our administrators. Gone are the days of "managing" staff, student and building needs from behind a desk piled with papers. If you hope to see one of our administrators (unless you have an appointment of course!) you best go look in a classroom....or on the playground....or in the cafeteria/commons. You will find them (iPad in hand) where the students are and they will be listening, watching and learning.

Support Staff

In addition to our teaching staff and our administrators are those people who work hard to meet the day to day needs of the district and students. Custodians, kitchen help, playground monitors, secretaries, para-educators, coaches and bus drivers all take pride in providing a safe, clean and friendly atmosphere for our children to learn and grow in.

Like our teaching staff, all of our support staff are finger-printed and their backgrounds screened as part of our efforts to assure the best care possible for our students.

La Center is fortunate to have many dedicated parents and community members who give of their time and resources for the benefit of our students. Volunteers undergo a background screening by the Washington State Patrol as well as training sessions to help them best meet the needs of staff and students.

FINANCIAL DATA

| | Per Student Amounts | Percent |
|------------------------|---------------------|---------|
| Total Revenues | \$8,516.40 | 100% |
| State | \$6,271.42 | 74% |
| Federal | \$ 269.89 | 3% |
| Local Tax | \$1,584.11 | 19% |
| Other | \$ 390.98 | 5% |
| | | |
| Total Expenditures | \$8,363.25 | 100% |
| Teaching | \$5,348.78 | 64% |
| School Level Admin | \$ 777.25 | 9% |
| Maint/Util/Insurance | \$ 737.61 | 9% |
| Food Ser/Pupil Trans. | \$ 484.17 | 6% |
| District Level Admin | \$ 500.19 | 6% |
| Libraries & Technology | \$ 273.41 | 3% |
| Extra-Curricular | \$ 241.83 | 3% |

ACCOUNTABILITY

In 2006 the La Center School Board chose to make a change in the way they governed the district. The goal of the Board was a higher degree of accountability in their service to the stakeholders of the district. With that in mind, the Board went to a system of Policy Governance, using the Carver Model as a guideline. Under Policy Governance the Board has created and published an Annual Agenda, which includes meetings with stakeholders. Each fall the Board holds a Community Town Hall to provide an open forum for discussion of topics ranging from over-crowding solutions to graduation requirements. Each spring the Board meets separately with both staff and students to gather their input on needs of the district. These meetings have proved to be very beneficial and have led the district in academic directions that are a direct result of student input.

In addition, Policy Governance requires a high degree of accountability from the superintendent via monitoring reports about specific compliance with Board expectations district wide. All of this requires the explicit expression of Board expectations *in writing* allowing for a higher degree of continuity of purpose in the event of changes in board personnel or the superintendent. This process has helped staff determine areas of both strengths and weaknesses resulting in improved performances across the board. In addition, the ability to be proactive vs. reactive has created strong bonds of trust between all stakeholders. That trust, exhibited by the creation of “maneuver boxes” for staff & students is spawning creative ideas for dealing with old problems. People feel “free” to take responsibility for making suggestions, sharing ideas and working collaboratively rather than just looking to non-specific remedies such as needing more “time or money”. The La Center School District is moving toward the accomplishment of our Mission with “revolutionary” speed. For more information on what is happening with learning in La Center, please contact any building administrator or the district office.

MORE DETAILS

More detailed information is available by following the links listed below:

State Test Scores & District Report Card: <http://reportcard.ospi.k12.wa.us/>

2011-2012 School Year Revenue Analysis: www.lacenterschools.org

2011-2012 School Year Expenditure Analysis: www.lacenterschools.org

2011-2012 Annual Reports by School: www.lacenterschools.org and click on the specific school of your choice (i.e. High School, Middle School, Elementary School)

STRATEGIES FOR SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT

At the elementary level we are looking closely at assessing student skill levels in math and reading. Our philosophy is that students struggling in skill development should receive support. This effort to support students in their individual need continues to be our focus. Teachers are finding that learning what the needs of their students are is resulting in opportunities for them to become better teachers.

Middle School continues to work to improve learning environments, improve parent communication and support groups, create a school wide and community support system for struggling students, especially in the area of mental health and improve the efficiency of emergency procedures.

High School goals include improving student, parent and teacher communications, improving student awareness of and reduce incidents of bullying and harassment and improving student learning through varied approaches of student to student interactions and higher cognitive demand within each classroom.

As always, to request a paper copy of any of the above listed information, please contact the district office at 263-2131 or PO Box 1840, La Center, WA 98629.