Superintendent's Report

January 18th, 2013

BOARD UPDATE

- **Math Instructional Materials Adoption** – In the fall of 2014, Common Core State Standards (CCSS) will become the new expectations for instruction in mathematics across the state. In fact, CCSS is being used in 47 states so we believe that all math instructional materials will be aligned with these standards in rapid order. Therefore, I have directed Dave Holmes to revise the instructional materials adoption cycle to move math review and adoption to align with this pending change. Therefore, over the next 18 months, he will be leading a process that will review our math instructional materials from top to bottom. This will be a huge task, but one that I have full confidence Dave will do well.
- **One-to-one Technology** – As you know we have been talking about one-to-one technology for several years and this year we made an important step forward with the iPad carts. With the math instructional materials adoption being accelerated, we need to also prepare for the possibility to move up our timeline for one-to-one technology. The reason for this is as the instructional materials industry evolves, it is rapidly moving away from printed material and we need to be ready for this jump too. This will be another huge job, but linking this effort with the mathematics adoption may make the journey even more powerful due to the tremendous energy we all have experienced over the years around the topic of math. Tapping into this energy may allow us to revolutionize mathematics instruction in our district by combining this critically important content area with the customization and portability of digital learning. One thing is for certain; there is a lot of work to be done in this area!
- **Current La Center Bus Barn** – Once the new junction bus site is completed this fall and our buses are relocated, we will be using the bus barn as a maintenance facility and storage shed for maintenance equipment. This will also create much needed additional parking for staff and events. More great news!

- **Middle School Courtyard Project** – As part of our effort to provide meaningful activities for our students, the La Center Lions have stepped up to help by forming a community-based club called LEOs. A very familiar person is leading this effort and that is Shirley Barnes who retired from our staff a short time ago. She is a La Center Lion and along with Lion Steve Fuller are both serving as advisors and mentors to a growing group of middle school students. The students are calling their club the La Center LEADING

LEOs Club. They have many ideas for projects to serve their school and community. They also have a long-term goal of turning the courtyard at the middle school into a place where students can spend quality time rather than it just being a bunch of rock. The LEOs met with Rob Williamson to let him know about their plans and to seek his advice on what to consider. Kudos to our middle school LEOs and to Lions Shirley and Steve.

- **KWRL Facilities Update** – The paperwork for the renovation of the main garage at Woodland has been turned into OSPI and we are waiting to see if it will be formally accepted. Once this process is complete, the architects will begin working on a formal design and be ready in June/July to see if our project is funded. The junction site project is also moving forward with design and then bid. Since this is a totally self-funded effort by the cooperative districts, we are working to determine ways to come up with roughly $1.6 million to pay for this work immediately and then use our annual individual district KWRL capital funds to pay it back. If all goes smoothly, we could have our buses off the K-8 campus by September or October. To do this, through the partnership of the KWRL cooperative, La Center taxpayers are only paying $0.20 for every dollar of cost to make this happen. Great news!
- **KWRL Transportation Director** – As you all know, Chuck Anderson (former La Center superintendent) has served as our cooperative transportation director for the past eight years. Chuck's leadership has been tremendous and has helped us move the cooperative even further forward. Chuck has shared with the administrative council that he will be fully retiring at the end of this school year. He has agreed to assist the cooperative with oversight of the facility projects both in Woodland and at the junction as a project manager until completion. But all day-to-day operations will need to be turned over to a new director. We all want to thank Chuck for his leadership. It has been a pleasure working with him over the past eight years and we all wish him well in this next phase of his life. The administrative council will begin the process of advertising, interviewing and hiring a new director over the next few months. I will keep you informed of the process as it occurs.
- **District Facilities Update** – As I communicated in an email, we have been working on a number of projects on both campuses relative to leaks. Rob and crew have worked very hard at addressing these issues. Two in particular have been significant and are requiring outside contractors to help us. The first is the portable just east of the elementary play shed. We will be replacing the roof on this structure and then will need to remove two sections of drywall that shows signs of moisture. The second project is in the HS gym at the SW corner near the exit doors. The issue here is a poor design and low quality of the cap on the parapet wall where the locker rooms meet the gym wall. We needed to have a contractor come in and remove the damaged wall structure as this has been going on for many, many years if not since it was

constructed. The water drained out from behind the block and not into the gym over all these years. With the significant amount of rain we had in December and early January, the wallboard finally was damaged and caused us to discover the long-standing damage. This project is now about finished while the portable roof will be repaired next week. The roof will cost us about $6,000 (we had a bid as high as $10,000) and the gym is still unknown as it is an hourly rate project with a very trusted regular contractor. FYI.

- **Bus Vandalism on the K**-8 – We had someone cut bus heater cords and extension cords on the K-8 this week. Obviously this is very concerning and we continue to work with law enforcement on the matter of vandalism in district.

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

Mark