Monitoring Report - Executive Limitations Policy
EL-11, Communication and Counsel to the Board

BOARD POLICY EXPECTATION

The Superintendent shall not fail to give the Board as much information as necessary to be adequately informed.

CERTIFICATION

I hereby present my monitoring report on Executive Limitations Policy EL-11 "Communication and Counsel to the Board" in accordance with the monitoring schedule set forth in board policy. I certify that the information contained in this report is true as of January 26th, 2010.

Mark Mansell, Superintendent

SUPERINTENDENT'S INTERPRETATION OF POLICY

I interpret communication and counsel to the board to mean that I am expected to provide the board with timely and accurate information regarding significant past issues, critical current events impacting the district as well as important data and information in advance of decisions they will be making in the future. I further interpret this expectation to require that all information for the board will be at a depth, quality and form appropriate for the issue and the needs of the board.

REPORT

There are ten specific areas described in this policy. The following will address each specific area of EL-11 as best possible. At the time of this report, I believe that I am in compliance with the Board's expectations.

1. ***The superintendent shall not fail to submit monitoring data required by the Board in a timely, accurate, and understandable fashion, directly addressing provisions of the board policies being monitored.*** **IN COMPLIANCE**
   I have submitted all monitoring reports to the board as per the annual agenda. The feedback received regarding the depth and quality of the information being provided has been positive.

2. ***The superintendent shall not fail to advise the Board in a timely manner of relevant trends, facts, information, and legal proceedings, anticipated significant media coverage, and changes in assumptions upon which Board policy has been established.*** **IN COMPLIANCE**
   Either through face-to-face conversations, phone conversations, email messages, written reports and/or presentations, I believe I have provided the board accurate and timely information as called for in this policy. Examples of my effort to meet this expectation over the past year include information about graduation

requirements, CORE-24 updates, fiscal variables associated with the pending state fiscal challenges as well as personnel issues that have occurred over the past year.

3. ***The superintendent shall not fail to advise the Board of changes which reasonably could be expected to substantially affect the district's financial condition.*** **IN COMPLIANCE**
   Despite the fiscal challenges facing other districts throughout our region and across the state, we continue to maintain a strong fiscal position. Through the monthly board reports, I have provided evidence of the financial health of the district. In addition to the traditional fiscal documents received, we provide the board a detailed information document (January through the end of each fiscal year) that shows the overall cash flow of the district in an effort to provide a clearer fiscal picture of the current year's budget. This proactive effort was to share fiscal forecasting with the board and is clearly aligned with the expectations of this policy. Additionally, as stated in #2 above, I have briefed the board at various points (via board reports, face-to-face briefings, etc.) about the fiscal challenges occurring at the state level and what might the impacts be to the district.

4. ***The superintendent shall not fail to provide for the Board as many staff and external points of view and opinions as needed for fully informed Board decisions.*** **IN COMPLIANCE**
   Over the course of the past year, I have supported the board's efforts to hear from stakeholders through various linkage meetings. The board has met with student leaders of the high school, middle school and elementary schools, with district staff as well as with our annual town-hall meetings with the community and special linkage meetings such as those involving the levy or the new graduation requirements. Additionally, I have worked to support the board's commitment to stay connected both legislatively as well as to the other educational entities such as the KWRL transportation cooperative.

5. ***The superintendent shall not fail to advise the Board if, in the Superintendent's opinion, the Board is not in compliance with its own policies on Governance Process and Board-Superintendent Relations.*** **IN COMPLIANCE**
   To date, I have not yet had a reason to advise the board of failing to follow any of its own policies. This expectation is something that I am aware of, and I believe I am doing my due diligence to be attentive and ready to meet this expectation if the need arises.

6. ***The superintendent shall not present information in unnecessarily complex or lengthy form.*** **IN COMPLIANCE**
   Having served as your superintendent for the past five years, requests to adjust the information provide have diminished over time. I continue to be receptive to feedback from the board on this matter in an effort to provide the right amount of information for the board to effectively complete its responsibilities.

7. ***The superintendent shall not fail to provide a mechanism for official Board or committee communications.*** **IN COMPLIANCE**
   The bulk of information that is provided by the board is done so through the district's website. We continue to provide new and timely information through this on-line source as needed. The district has published twice per year a district-wide newsletter (via in print version mailed out and on-line) that included a board section that is available for specific board communication. Last spring we tried a post-card communication that pointed people to the district website in an effort to save money. However, we just felt that the response to this new method was less than we wanted and have since moved back to the printed newsletter format.

8. ***The superintendent shall not fail to work with the Board as a whole except when:***
   a. ***Fulfilling individual requests for information as long as such requests do not require a material amount of staff time or resources or are not disruptive.***
   b. ***Working with officers or committees duly charged by the Board.***
   c. ***Communicating with the Chair.***

   IN COMPLIANCE
   As stated in #2 above, using a variety of ways to communicate, I believe consistent efforts to provide uniform information to all members of the board has been accomplished. Over the course of the past year, there have been very few requests for additional information from individual board members. I take this as a signal that the information provided through regular communication efforts has been effective to meet the needs of the collective board. With that said, I am always ready to fill any information gap that may occur.

9. ***The superintendent shall not fail to report in a timely manner any actual or anticipated noncompliance with any Board Ends or Executive Limitations policy.*** **IN COMPLIANCE**
   Looking at the record of monitoring reports over the past year, when comparing my interpretation of each Executive Limitation and Ends policies, I have shared where I think we are both in compliance as well as when we are out of compliance. An example of this is when our spring 2009 WASL scores were lower than expected and placed me out compliance for parts of E-2. Even though our district results were far better than the previous year, we still fell short of the full expectation. I provided our preliminary district results as early as possible as well as detailed them within my annual E-2 monitoring report.

10. ***The superintendent shall not fail to supply for the consent agenda all items delegated to the Superintendent that are required by law or contract to be Board-approved, along with supporting data necessary to keep the Board informed.*** **IN COMPLIANCE**

I believe the items included in the consent agenda reflect items called for in board policy as being delegated to the superintendent.