La Center High School January board report 2010

Curriculum- Having completed our 3rd health curriculum adoption meeting and having our 4th scheduled for February, we have clarity around our challenges and some possible solutions. We are currently reviewing the new edition of the Glencoe text that is our current adoption. In addition there is a "Human Sexuality" supplement that is part of the Glencoe adoption. This supplement has also been updated and our students have previewed it and feel it meets their needs. As a result we will finish evaluating this package against the state standards and our local needs and hopefully be ready to make a recommendation to the IMC in May. Our committee also intends to look at the general scope and sequence of the health class in relation to the number of weeks in the course and then prioritize the topics and timeline for what is covered and in what depth. I know the two student representatives are anxious to give you an update on this process at the upcoming student linkage.

Our high school lab classroom participants are arranging to meet with the middle school project group. The goal is to observe their process with an eye on learning what has worked well for them that can be adopted for our process.

Math continues to look and feel better. We have 3 instructional video's up and running and 4 more waiting for the next unit to start. Thank you to Mr. Cooke and Mrs. Arave for taking the time to do these. In addition, the approach to learning in the classrooms by teachers continues to evolve and student's work ethic and focus in those classes also continues to improve. Pass/fail rates in the math A and new bridge B classes, at this point seems to be at historical levels. This not to say we're happy with that level but it is a good indicator that things have changed and are improving at a very fast rate.

Athletics- Congratulations to Justin Feldman who received the Evergreen Wrestling Officials Association Sportsmanship award this past weekend at the Clark County wrestling championships. There were 15 schools that competed on the boy's side and we had two champions and two-second place finishes. There was only one school in the county that had more wrestlers in the finals. Jake Johnson and Patrick Mayolo won championships along with Kaylee Byrd and Jessica Sokolowski on the girl's side. Our two girls champions helped the girls team place 3rd in the county out of 10 schools.

The girl's basketball team continues to win in league play and currently is in first place. The boy's team just beat Woodland and Kalama in back to back games last week, the first time in many years that we've accomplished that feat. Dance team is preparing for their first competition, as is the equestrian team.

Teachers- Mr. Zylstra and his global studies classes raised money to buy chickens for a family in a third world African nation. Now that you've digested that sentence, this was a great way for the students to learn of the societal and economic issues in that part of the world and experience a form of service and giving. The project was done through Heifer International. Nice job Mr. Z and students.

Mrs. Morris and the project study class just received 10,000 salmon eggs for their project to bring a salmon run back to Breeze creek. Now they just have to tend to them through the spring.

The Drama department is currently performing Beauty and the Beast. Mr. Landes-McCullough adapted the script just for our production. I have been able to watch their rehearsals and they are doing a great job.

Mrs. Bounds' US history classes just completed a major project titled "Whose Responsible" which requires students to research the 6+ million civilian deaths from WWII. Students must assign responsibility to countries, political leaders, religions, etc. and give concrete evidence to back up their reasoning. They have produced presentation boards to tie all of this together. Many are on display around school and in particular up stairs in the lounge area if you are interested in taking a peak.

Amy Nieman has done a great job working with our science department to polish our scope and sequence while confirming alignment to the state EALR's and GLE's. They have met on their own time to complete this work and we have now scheduled a 6-12 science meeting the week of February 8th to work on transition issues with the middle school staff.

The math department has a similar meeting scheduled that same week to work on Math transition issues.

Congratulations to the counseling department who wrote and received a "Target" grant that will pay for buses to take our entire sophomore class to LCC this spring for a daylong career fair.

Students- Our student forum group will be taking representatives to the middle school next month to work with Mr. Cooke and the 8th grade class on harassment and bullying issues. The 8th graders involved in the forum have identified this as a current concern and see it as a concern as they transition to the high school next year. Thank you to Mr. Cooke for allowing both the high school and the middle school students to own this issue and giving them the time, forum and support to resolve it.

The general ASB has worked for the past two years to raise monies in a variety of areas in order to afford an expansion to the student lounge. The addition of another couch and a table were delivered this week. Nice job!

Congratulations to our ASB class, and thanks to the generosity of our students, parents and community, we were able to deliver two whole vans of toys to Neighbors helping Neighbors over the holiday break to help families in our community.

Lastly, our Life Skills students enjoyed lunch at the Last Frontier this week as a learning excursion. Thank you to the Last Frontier for donating the lunches. The students learned how to order off of menus, calculate prices, in some cases figure sales tax and tip amounts and practice good etiquette in a public setting, which they did wonderfully. Thank you to Larry Fawcett for helping set up this opportunity.