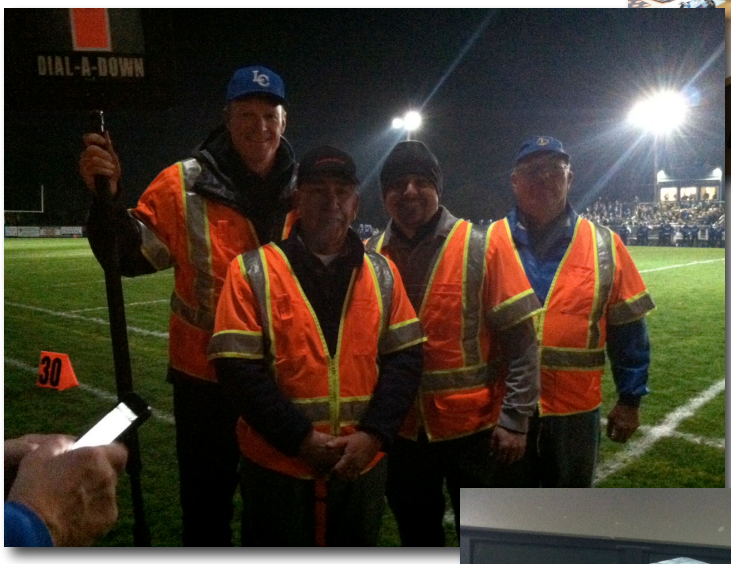
Superintendent's Report

November 22nd, 2013

LEARNING UPDATE

- **Relationships Are the Core of Our Work** – I know that Bob loves to see photos in my superintendent's report so I have learned to take a few photos throughout the month on my phone of interesting events. As I was searching through some of these photos I found a few that caused me to reflect upon the topic of relationships.

As you know, this is my 9th year as your superintendent. It is also my 16th year as a superintendent in the state of Washington and my 21st as an educator. Every year I believe my awareness of the importance of relationships in the creation of strong learning teams increases. As adults, the quality of these relationships as we work together cascades into the classrooms in so many ways and impacts the relationships we have with the children we serve.

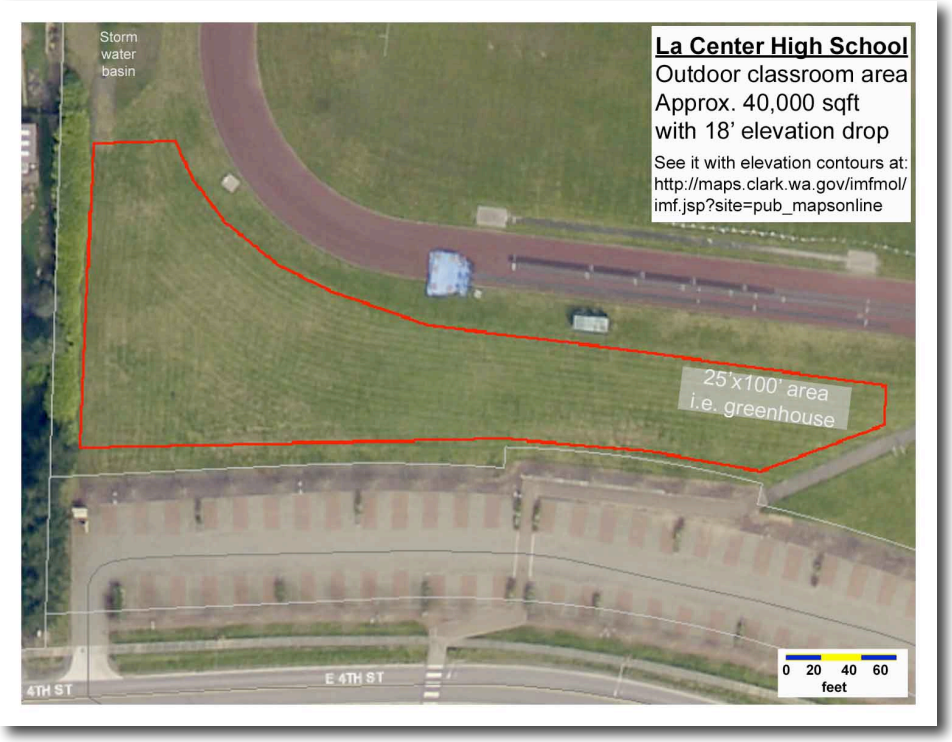


All of the people in these photos caused me to consider the importance of relationships so I thought I would share them with you in my report this month. I know this is not my traditional report so thank you in advance for allowing me to deviate a bit.

BOARD UPDATE

- **KWRL Transportation Facility** – The construction crew continues to plug along with the new transportation facility at the La Center Junction. They remain optimistic in meeting the goal of having operations start right after the Christmas break. Paving is scheduled to begin next week so that will be a huge step in the process. We believe the driver facility will not be ready until early February, but a temporary facility will be provided in order for operations to begin with the new year. FYI.

- **Community Garden** – We had a terrific meeting this week with staff at the high school that may be interested in being part of the creation of a community garden. This idea seems to easily resonate with people so I am encouraged by the interest. This is an overall photo of the space that could be available for such an outdoor learning laboratory for students. The potential for community partnerships is very strong with this endeavor so I am pleased with the collective enthusiasm. We will have to see where it goes from here, but I wanted to make sure you were aware this conversation is gaining momentum.



- **1,080 Requirement for Grades 6 through 12** – Next year (2014/15), the state will be providing additional revenues to school districts that can certify that they are providing 1,080 hours of instructional time for students. Currently the requirement is 1,000 hours of instruction. We only fall short of the 1,080 hours per year by approximately 36 hours. This shortfall is directly related to our regularly scheduled late student arrival (RSLSA). I believe

that the additional revenue can create opportunities to rethink RSLSA and return this student teacher contact time back to instruction. At the same time, we can offer additional compensation to teachers as a result through the additional funding. I will be providing more information on this to the Board in the near future. Without a doubt, it could be a win-win for everyone if it all works out.

- **Successful Fall Sports Season and the Financial Impacts** – I just wanted to share that we have had a very successful fall sports season. We are all very proud of how our student athletes have taken advantage of the learning opportunities these experiences can offer. Their actions have made me very pleased and I am confident they have truly benefited from them beyond the winning.

  With that in mind, there have been additional costs associated with these experiences that we are managing. Matt has done a terrific job of overseeing these efforts and has made some wise decisions (with a little coaching) to still keep the experience a quality one, yet do it in a thrifty manner. Even though our costs are up for fall athletics, I am not concerned that these funds have not been a wise expenditure for valuable learning nor am I concerned that it will cause budgetary issues for us. I just wanted to share my perspective on this matter and inform you of the value I believe these experiences are providing our kids.

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

Mark