Superintendent's Report

February 18th, 2011

LEARNING UPDATE

- **AWSP Presentation –** Last Friday (February 11th), David Cooke and I had the chance to present to about sixty administrators from across the state at the Association of Washington School Principals (AWSP) Assistant Principals Leadership conference in Seattle. Our topic was Putting Real Learning into Learning Walks and was centered on our work here in La Center. Not only was this experience a great opportunity to put our learning model in front of other administrators, the preparation for this conference was a great opportunity for David and I to sort through the work we have all done as a leadership team in the district and put it in a format for others to learn from. If you are interested in seeing the presentation, a digital copy of it is on our district website within the administration page.
- **Learning Conditions Mini-Grant Meeting** – As you probably remember, I had the great pleasure of working with eight of our elementary staff and several administrators last semester on learning how to raise the cognitive demand of our learning environment within the elementary classroom. This work was funded by a new program we created for our staff called Learning Conditions Mini-Grant (LCMG) that we started last Fall. This team of educators was so excited about what they were learning that they have all requested to continue to work together this spring. Furthermore, I was asked to test the waters at the high school to see if another team of teachers wanted to form and go through the same learning experience. So we put out the call to all high school teachers and we had nine teachers sign on as well. Therefore I will be part of two LCMG teams that we call the "old dog" team with me being the old dog. I just hope that they don't start calling me "Old Yeller" because we all know how that turned out;-) Anyway, I am very excited about the learning that is ahead of me in this effort. It should be fun!

BOARD UPDATE

- **State Budget Update** – As previously shared, the legislature continues to work on closing the budget gap for the current biennium (2009/11) before they begin to tackle addressing the next big hurdle for the 2011/13 budget. I had shared with you last time that it appears as though all of K-4 enhancement funding would be gone for this fiscal year, which would equate to about $150K in lost revenue. As of this week, it now appears as though we will be receiving some of this money (approximately $35K to $40K) after all. The dust has yet to fully settle, but I am moving forward with the targeted $150K for the time being. Any additional savings will just help us face the next hurdle of readying the organization for the cuts coming for the next two years.
- **Testifying before the House Education Committee** – I went up to Olympia on February 10th to testify against HB 1325, which calls for school districts throughout the state to reorganize from 295 districts currently into no more than 150 districts. This bill is

couched in the notion that larger is more efficient, but the research shows just the opposite. This bill is pure and simple an effort to centralize control in Olympia and minimize local control yet at the same time the state is expecting local districts to pay for its constitutional requirement to provide for public education. There were so many people there to testify that I didn't get to speak, but the message was clear HB1325 is a bad idea. My hope is that the bill doesn't make it out of committee, but we will have to keep an eye on this one.

- **Transportation Funding for Next Year** – Starting in the Fall, the transportation funding formula will begin to change and this will start to impact how we currently provide transportation services. Currently, we receive funding for students outside of a one-mile radius from the district, out to 17 miles. The new formula will be based on road miles instead of "as the crow flies" miles. Additionally, we will need to complete a process this spring to determine safe and unsafe walking areas of the district. Some areas in town will now receive funding (e.g. student who live on the other side of Pacific Hwy. in town) because of unsafe walking conditions. All these changes are good, but this new money must come from somewhere. We believe other funding will be shifted from transportation to cover these new revenue streams. Therefore, in the long run our changes will not necessarily generate new money only shift them around. We will need to change to meet these changes so as to maximize the revenue. More on this later.

Please give me a call if you have any questions. Talk with you later.

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