Superintendent's Report

February 19th, 2010

LEARNING UPDATE

- **Collecting Learning Evidence** – Our work at the district leadership team level has been focused on collecting more specific evidence of learning that is occurring within the classroom. We are using the work of Anne Davies who is a respected assessment specialist. She talks about looking for evidences within three categories: 1) Observational data; 2) Conversational data; and 3) Student Products data. We are looking for evidences in these three categories relative to the Flow of Information (e.g. teacher centered vs. student centered), Cognitive Demand (e.g. High or Low) and Learning Trust (e.g. the Locus of Control). What we have found is that the lens that each of the principals use to determine what is occurring within the learning environment has been different. This work has allowed us to calibrate both our language and the common examples we focus on when observing in the classroom. We believe that continuing in this direction will strengthen our opportunities to be more aligned and focused on the conditions that support student learning.

BOARD UPDATE

- **Clark County Fire Marshal –** For the past few years, we have been working with a particular fire marshal building inspector who has proven himself to be an "over the top" kind of inspector. It feels as though what he expects is consistently a moving target. After the first year he was assigned to our schools for inspection I worked with his supervisor to bring him back to earth. He was more reasonable last year, but this year he came in with an even bigger list of things we had to change. Some are called for and we are working to address them. Others are unreasonable and I believe are worth fighting him over. I am letting you know this because depending on how hard he is willing to push over this could cause some broader attention to the district. More on this issue if it occurs. FYI.
- **Fiscal System Conversion –** Julie McKee, Nancy Carner and Brett Blechschmidt continue to work on converting our payroll and accounts payable system to the new WSIPC system. There has been a tremendous amount of effort to make this conversion as smooth as possible. There work is similar to trying to fly a plane and at the same time transition to a new plane in mid-flight. Of course, the glue that holds the district office staff is Laurie and she has once again done a stellar job. To say the least I am very proud of them all.
- **Budget Update –** Our current budget continues to remain on firm ground. The staff is doing a great job. We did have a small drop in student enrollment again this month, but we feel confident in our overall budget plan. As far as planning for next year, we continue to watch the legislature and the fiscal challenges they are dealing with. I remain optimistic that when the dust settles, the actual projected reductions are less than what was in the governor's budget. There simply are still too many balls in the air to get too excited at this juncture.
- **Water Runoff Drain Line –** At the elementary building you may have noticed new black flex piping attached to the rain gutter down spouts adjacent to the horseshoe parking area. When the building remodel was completed, this part of the old building did not receive new underground drain lines. Well either these old drain lines have collapsed or are blocked with debris. Rob has had a company come out to try and power clean it out, but it appears to be to

badly blocked. Therefore, as a temporary solution he has made a surface drain line to get the water runoff away from the building. We plan on installing a new drain line during the summer.

- **Washout at the Football Field –** The work is done to repair the washout at the SE corner of the football field. The miss-mash of trees at the east end of the field are now removed and new trees have been planted. We shouldn't have any further issues with erosion concerns after this repair.

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

Mark