Superintendent's Report

March 22nd, 2013

BOARD UPDATE

- **Mr. Cooke** – As you know Mr. Cooke is leaving our district after nine years of service (eight years at the MS and one at the HS). His passion, energy and enthusiasm for learning and supporting learners (students and adults) have been much appreciated. He will definitely be missed in our district and our leadership team. We will also miss his humor and his affinity for motivating students in interesting ways. The La Center Family owes Mr. Cooke a huge debt of thanks for his self-less and positively impactful service.
- **FCRC Concept** – FCRC stands for Family Community Resource Center and is a concept that was developed by the Vancouver School District within schools with the greatest poverty to support students to build internal and external (relative to the school environment) learning assets.

  Sherri Birgensmith (elementary counselor) and I have been working on an idea based on Vancouver's FCRC model as well as the Boys and Girls Club concept. Sherri, Scott Lincoln, David Cooke, Kristin Krem (HS/MS counselor) and myself have made visits to Vancouver to see how FCRCs and their Boys and Girls Clubs work. We observed first hand how these programs are making a difference in the lives of children and their families that directly relate to student learning.

  We certainly don't have the levels of poverty that Vancouver has, but the concept of increasing the learning assets for all students and their families we serve is the foundation of our research into FCRCs. But imagine taking many of the current supports/opportunities students now have available to them after school on our K-8 campus (i.e. ASK, Community Education, Math is Cool, Science Olympiad, Chess Club, etc.) and put them together in a way that is more intentional at providing learning experiences that build skills and knowledge as part of a more complete program rather than stand alone efforts as they are now.

  We would build the La Center FCRC using a STEM framework (or better yet STEAM – Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts and Mathematics) mixed with tutoring supports using more of a seminar like format. Students would be able to choose to participate in a variety of learning experiences that interest them thus building greater learner success that translate over into their regular core classroom work.

The funding for this would come from a variety of sources including student tuition (on a sliding scale from Free to amounts equal to ASK funding). We could also use LAP funding, Talented and Gifted (TAG) funding or Levy funds to provide these additional supports. Furthermore, we could possibly enlist volunteers to teach special classes such as bicycling, computers, writing, etc. or maybe even provide experiences such as author visits or other special guest presenters, which will help us keep our costs lower.

In addition to these types of STEAM experiences, the La Center FCRC could also engage community resources to help students of poverty by providing food, clothing, school supplies, etc. necessary for students to be successful in school. Parents could also receive assistance through the La Center FCRC regardless of financial need in classes such as Love and Logic training, Suicide Prevention, Internet Safety, Help Your Student with Math Homework, Job Interview Skills and so on. Both parents and students could also be supported through outside partnership with Mental Health or family counseling, job assistance or any number of needs based services that will build the external (to school) learning assets that supports student learning.

Finally, building a La Center version of an FCRC would be a terrific way of engaging community partners and volunteers in a new way. These partners could include businesses, Faith Based groups, Service Clubs, HOAs to name a few. We could also use the FCRC concept to harness the power of volunteers available to us now to a greater degree. These volunteers could be other students, parents and/or community members. If nothing else, this research effort into the FCRC model has made me stop and reflect upon how we are engaging volunteers currently and there is a lot of room for improvement in this area.

In closing, we are actually providing many services to students and families currently, but we can do even more if we become more connected and intentional with our vision for building external learning assets for students. This is the foundation of the La Center FCRC concept. Our FCRC effort won't happen overnight, but I believe this is a project we need to begin moving on. I just wanted to share this concept with you so you have a better understanding of what we are working on as we begin this journey. Like much of our successful efforts over the past eight years, first comes the idea in concept, then the organization will begin to move towards the goal in an organic and powerful way… The La Center Way!

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

Mark