Teaching and Learning Update March 2013

Curriculum/ Materials Adoption- Math, math, math! This will be my presentation to the board on Tuesday night. I will cover the process to this point, the data I've collected and the next steps.

Professional Development- 21 teachers and administrators spent the last two Saturdays working with Mark Church the author of the book, "Making Thinking Visible". This was one of the best workshops I have attended in years. Staff learned specific techniques designed to improve or increase the cognitive demand of their lessons and their learning environments. The staff will now spend the next five weeks apply these techniques in their classroom. We will meet again on Saturday, April 27th to share what we learned and make plans to lead a district wide summer institute in August around these same techniques which will be led by these 21 staff members. This is a perfect model of peer leadership, collegial sharing and ownership of ones professional abilities and improvement.

ELL- There is really nothing new to report here. Having lost one family of 6 students our FTE's have dropped to a more manageable level but we now have to watch our funding and staffing level very carefully through the remainder of the year.

Career and Technical Education (CTE)- We have completed our second or mid-year "Community Advisory" meeting for this year. The group approved the proposed Perkins grant fund expenditures presented by Mr. Lambert and Mr. Neiman. We will be purchasing a new laptop (pc) for the business lab that will allow Mr. Lambert to monitor all workstations from one location. (In addition to other applications) We will be purchasing a number of tools and smaller items for the bio-diesel program and the automotive class in Mr. Neiman's area. In addition we talked about and took initial steps toward creating a better connection with the Student Services Center to facilitate job shadows, mentorships and tours for our CTE students in local businesses that relate to our classes.

Title I/LAP- We just learned this past week that we were able to re-coup a large portion of last years budget that we believed had become unavailable in this budget cycle. This will allow us to not only continue our traditional summer school for K-1 students but we are now able to create a second summer school opportunity for incoming kindergarteners who we identify as needing a "leg-up!"

Highly Capable- The 5th grade group of "Math is Cool" students placed 4th in the county in our first ever contests at that grade level. Our 6th grade group previously placed 4th also and our 4th grade students are now beginning their work with Mr. Holland, Mr. Grotte, Mrs. Smith and Mrs. Alanko. A big thanks you to those teachers for their time and energy to offer this opportunity to our students. Our weekly chess club continues in the K-8 library under the watchful eye of Mrs. Sawyer. We will be planning a few field trips this spring when the weather clears and "Math is Cool" and Chess club end. UL laboratories in Camas and the acoustics lab at WSUV are two or our initial destinations for trips.

Testing/Assessment- Having just completed the high school HSPE (high school proficiency exam) in reading and writing on March 12th through the 14th, we will now be looking toward the MSP (grades 3-8) testing window between April 24th and May 16th. This will be followed by the EOC's (end-of-course assessments) in math and Biology for high school at the very end of the year. This last round of HS HSPE testing went very well from an organizational and student focus perspective. So, a big thank you to Lauri Landerholm and Julie Bentson for their organization and a thank you to the HS staff and the student services center for their work to prepare students!

Thanks, Dave.