Superintendent's Report

April 19th, 2014

BOARD UPDATE

- **Bicycle Grant Training Program** – As you know, we received at $28,000 grant from OSPI (Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction) to implement bicycling and safe walking to school into our PE programs in the middle school. To get ready for implementing this new program we needed to go through a bicycle training program. We were allowed to have ten people be part of this program. Four teachers (Rob Bucklin, Tammy Brightbill, Katie Kipp and Mark Totten), two community members (Jen and Tod Surdam) as well as four administrators (Lauri Landerholm, Scott Lincoln, Dave Holmes and myself) completed the course on April 16th and 17th. The course included classroom instruction on lessons and background information as well as outdoor experiences just like our kids will get to experience. Despite the rainy weather, it was a fun experience and everyone involved is really excited to have this opportunity available for our kids.

- **Bicycle Purchase** – The bicycle grant will pay for a fleet of 30 bicycles, a trailer to store/haul the bicycles, training (see above) and curriculum/supplies to bring bicycling into our PE programs in the middle school. I know you won't be surprised, but we will be doing things a bit differently. We have a storage facility (the old maintenance shed) so we will be purchasing two smaller trailers as transporters for off-site trips. They will be pulled behind our new vans. Also, we are partnering with Vancouver Cyclery to purchase our 30 bicycles, but we have worked out a better deal where they will not only sell us the required 30 bicycles, but will donate 10 additional bikes that are smaller in size. We

will then buy 20 more bicycles of the smaller size from another funding source, which will give us two fleets of 30 bicycles. This will allow us to expand our program from middle school (grades 6 & 7) to include fourth and fifth graders as well. A huge thank you to Vancouver Cyclery (www.**vancouvercycleryinc**.com) for their generous support of our new bicycle program.

- **New Executive Limitation Policies** – We have been working hard to ready the new Executive Limitations for first reading since the last Board meeting. This work included not only the rewrites of these policies, but many other connected policies that delineate the process of using the ELs, the superintendent evaluation rubric and associate process as well as the annual agenda for organizing the work to get it all done. I am sure there will be corrections and/or adjustments that will need to be made as there always is with these sorts of efforts. This has been a good opportunity to review and rethink our processes. I hope as a Board, you will find it to your expectations.
- **Bicycling In Texas** – On a personal note, over spring break I flew to Texas for a four-day bicycle tour leadership training from Adventure Cycling Association (a nationally recognized touring and bicycle advocacy organization – www.adventurecycling.org). It provided an opportunity to meet people from around the country interested in bicycle touring and bicycle advocacy). I met retired teachers, business owners, entrepreneurs and even a nuclear engineer, all passionate about bicycling. I had a chance to meet and learn from a person who has led many groups of teens on bicycle tours including across the country rides. What was also interesting, the model they used to create these tours aligned very well with our district learning model, which I found fascinating. It was not only a wonderful get-away, but it was a terrific learning experience that I have already found has impacted my practice. There is no doubt that you will hear me talk more about this wonderful learning opportunity.

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

Mark