Superintendent's Report

April 22nd, 2013

BOARD UPDATE

- **Len Quinn and his Leader Dog Ginger** – We had some very special guests in our district this past week. A national representative for Leader Dogs for the Blind visited La Center. His name is Len Quinn. Len is blind and was joined by his wife Kay and Len's Leader Dog, Ginger. Len and Ginger visited classrooms in the elementary for a full day and spent a half a day in the high school. The kids thoroughly enjoyed his presentation, which touched on a number of topics including opportunities in life, "Bully Dogs", what it is like to be blind and service to others. Len is a phenomenal speaker and we are very thankful he was able to visit our schools.

- **FCRC Work** – We continue to progress with the Family/Community Resource Center concept that I touched on last month in my Board report. Sherri Birgensmith, Scott Lincoln, Bonnie Lock, Lauri Landerholm, Kristen Krem, Staci Firl and myself met for an hour and a half last week to sort through our next steps. This included pulling together many community partners (i.e. Clark County Mental Health, La Center Lions, Faith Based organizations, North Clark County Food Bank, City of La Center, etc.) into the process of getting this concept off the ground. It is very exciting and I feel very confident that we will have this program in place starting in the fall.

- **Capital Projects Levy** – The effort to move ahead on the Capital Project Levy is charging ahead. There has been more involvement this time around from other citizens including a number of student-athletes. With that said, our traditional core have been hard at work. Walter Hansen (a.k.a. Ballot Box Man) has been phenomenal in getting the word out. A huge thanks also goes to Josh Soske as well as Kris Soske for their continued hard work and leadership in this effort. I would also like to thank John Parsons for participating in the phone banking this round as well. Another person who has done a lot is Brian Deans who is always at the phone banking station

with his database and friendly phone personality. Thank you to all of them and the many others who are unselfishly working to get this levy passed this time.

- **Budget Update** – We continue to hear positive sounds from Olympia regarding funding for next year. There are many pieces of the fiscal puzzle that are appearing as though the state will finally begin to complete their responsibilities to fully fund education. As these promises begin to be fulfilled in state funding, our flat M&O Levy from the voters begin to kick in so the timing appears to be working out as planned. With that said, the session is not over and we will just have to see what last minute deals the legislators need to work out in order to wrap up this year's session.
- **TPEP Meetings** – I held four meetings with staff (two on the K-8 campus and two at the high school) to discuss TPEP progress and go over our plan for next year. The response has been very positive. Staff were relieved at how we are moving forward, which to me is a strong signal of support for how we plan to make the transition into the world of TPEP. FYI.

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

Mark