Superintendent's Report

July 22nd, 2010

LEARNING UPDATE

- **Book Study Discussion** – I want to begin by thanking each of you for reading *Making Learning Whole* as I believe it helped us discuss from a different perspective the types of learning environments we are working to create. I also want to thank you for the perspectives you shared as they were very helpful in my own understanding of the lens we collectively use as we approach learning endeavors. Just like our students and staff, we are on our own learning journey as I believe we are heading down a road to a more powerful learning opportunity for all learners (adults and students) that is unique to La Center. Yes there are many other examples of a shift in the types of learning opportunities, but I believe most are still built upon a "content delivery mindset" rather than a "learner mindset". When learning becomes our focus rather than making sure the content is delivered, everything changes. The resulting internal energy that occurs is amazing to watch and helps accelerate the learning of others. This is the essence of the *Learning to Learn* classroom that we are working to create. Your leadership and governance framework is the foundation that the entire organization is building upon. Thank you again for all you do!

BOARD UPDATE

- **Budget Update –** We have finalized the budget and as you can see from the agenda we are seeking your approval at this meeting. As we present and seek approval of next year's budget, we are in the final stages of wrapping up this year's budget. The good news is that even though we had planned (conservatively I might add) for the possibility of drawing into our reserves to complete the 2009/10 school year, it appears as though we will actually end up with about $100K to the good. This is a credit to our staff, administrators and to Brett for continuing to make responsible and prudent expenditures of the public's money. I am very proud of their efforts as not only does it help us now, it makes our position for facing the next wave of state budget cuts that much stronger. Believe me, this next year will be even more challenging than in the past so we will need to be prepared to tightening up our seat belts even more as it could be even more bumpy.
- **Summer Maintenance Efforts** – Rob and his crew continue to work on various projects to ready district facilities for the upcoming school year. Beyond the usual painting, cleaning and floor polishing, the maintenance department has taken on various extra projects this summer. If you remember, the water runoff line in front of the elementary school clogged last winter and a temporary drainage system had to be put into place. This old line was not replaced in the remodel and finally collapsed. The new line is now installed and is ready for the upcoming winter. Additionally, our crew will be working on cleaning building gutters and continuing their power washing efforts, which is needed more than ever due to the very wet winter and spring we have had. Our crew does a very good job and they are definitely an important part of the behind the scenes work that makes everything go smoothly throughout the year.
- **Gym Lighting Retrofit –** Because we have had a significant amount of problems trying to keep the lighting operating in both the gyms on the K-8 campus, we had Clark Public Utilities come and help us explore options to address this issue and become even more efficient. After

their analysis, it was determined that it would cost about $14K to replace these lights with similar ones to those we recently installed in the high school, and because they are much more efficient, the PUD would pay for half the cost. Because of the problems we have been having of keeping them operational (at significant expense) and for the additional energy savings, I have given the go ahead to have these lights replaced. Additionally, the lighting quality will be much better as well. For about $6,900 (our share) it will pay for itself in short order. FYI.

- **Clark County Recycling Grant –** Brett and Rob have been working with Clark County and with our Food Service Advisory Committee to explore how we could do a better job of minimizing our refuse costs and recycle food waste better. The result has been a new program that we will participate in this next year where we will collect food scraps away from the other recyclables and refuse. The challenge to getting this done was where to place these food scrap bins. The county stepped in and paid for costs to pour concrete pads and fencing near both the K-8 and HS kitchens. The K-8 area is directly across from the horseshoe area next to the cafeteria as you come up the lower entrance. The high school's storage area is in back of the school behind the exterior cooler (Back by the band room and shop). Thanks to the county's support, we will be becoming more efficient with our waste (a.k.a. more "green") and will be lowering our refuse costs in the process. FYI.
- **Board-City Council Linkage Meeting** – I have another meeting with Mayor Irish near the end of August and plan on working with the city council in early September to help them understand Policy Governance. My goal is to have a Board-council linkage meeting scheduled by the end of September. I will keep you informed as to how this prep work progresses.
- **District Office Windows** – As you probably recall, I try to personally take on a construction project each summer. This year it was adding four windows to the district office on the football field side of the building. The light and the cross-breeze has been a real positive and definitely worth the effort. Thanks for allowing me to take these projects on. Doing these projects is not only great therapy, but it allows me to think about the rest of our work, how we can become an even stronger organization and provide better value to our students, parents and community. I'm pretty sure that last sentence sounds odd, but it really is true. So thank you for all your support. FYI.

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

Mark