Superintendent's Report

September 18th, 2009

LEARNING UPDATE

- **District-wide Learning Initiatives** – This year we have several district-wide learning initiatives that I would like for you to be aware of.
    1) **Lab Classroom Project (LCP)** – This effort involves approximately 30 staff from across the district organized in five different teams. Each team is working on a specific problem of practice and a team-created action hypothesis. They have at their disposal eight half-day release time (supported by grant funding) to work on their specific problem of practice. Five teacher leaders (Denise Skufca, Sharon Bussler, Andrea Austad, Kristy Schneider and Kathy Bounds) along with building administrators will develop solutions to the problem they have identified. The focus of their work is to expand their awareness of how to create high cognitive demand student centered learning environments. What is learned from these teams will then be shared with other staff in their respective buildings and with the other four teams involved in this project. I am very excited about learning what they discover about improving their practice.
    2) **Washington State Leadership Academy (WSLA)** – Our entire district leadership team will be joining six other districts in our region to work on our problem of practice as administrators. The bulk of the cost of this effort is paid for through state funding and private grant dollars. It will provide us the time and space to go even deeper as learners ourselves on how we can get better at fostering cognitively demanding learning environments across the district.
    3) **Universal Design for Learning (UDL)** – In a joint effort with ESD 112 Special Education Cooperative staff, we will be working on learning how to provide a higher quality learning experience for our students with special needs. We will begin this work by observing learning environments at the high school that include students on IEPs (Resource and Life-skills students). The initial focus will be in the content area of social studies (the teachers involved will be Shawn Link and Kathy Bounds). This effort will be very interesting, because we have a lot to learn in this area.

BOARD UPDATE

- **Presentation to the State Board of Education on our Graduation Requirements** – Yesterday I presented to the State Board of Education our Pathways to the Future model and our new graduation requirements. We are the first district in the state to change our requirements to meet these new expectations. Attached is a copy of the article from the Columbian. Since the Associated Press wrote this, the article can also be found in other papers across the state including the Seattle Times. FYI.
- **Start of School** – It has been a very busy, but great start to school. All of our staff is very busy, particularly our administrators. Being down what has turned out to be nearly a full

administrator with the reassignments to save costs, everyone is pulling extra duties, but learning a lot. We are also down 0.6 FTE in the district office, which especially this time of year (initial payroll and all the purchasing to get school up and running) is keeping them very busy. We are also down a full FTE in technology as well. I just want you to know that we are "great swimmers", but we are definitely busy☺

- **Portable Bleachers** – Thanks to funding garnered by the La Center Education Foundation (approx. $40,000), we are now the proud owners of a new set of portable bleachers. I am told these portable bleachers have a 300-seat capacity and are very mobile. The lower section hydraulically folds up on the upper section so it can be pulled around with a truck. Our hope is to use them at fields on both campuses and possibly allow them to be used for other community events.

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

Mark