Superintendent's Report

September 21st, 2012

LEARNING UPDATE

- **Old Dog V** – Again this year I will be working with a team of teachers (12 this fall) to enhance our collective learning. This year will be focusing on learning about the Danielson Instructional Framework (our chosen TPEP framework) by looking at it through the lens of our district's learning model. In particular, we will be focusing on collecting evidence using technology (i.e. iPads) and designing lessons using iPads. It should be a very interesting group of professionals to learn with again this year and I am really looking forward to it.
- **School Safety** – One of the areas we have and will continue to focus our learning energies this year as a district Leadership Team is around school safety. We will be using school safety as our "content" to become stronger learners using the learning model. This is exactly what we are asking our staff to create for students, so not only will we be enhancing our safety plans and knowledge on school safety, we will be strengthening our ability to create powerful learning environments for ourselves and other as well.

BOARD UPDATE

- **Start of School** – We have had a very smooth start to school (knock on wood). Our students have been great and the energy of staff is exciting. I don't know if you saw this article in the Oregonian about what is occurring in the district with class sizes, (http://www.oregonlive.com/beaverton/index.ssf/2012/09/beaverton_school_district_supe_2.html) but it makes me even more thankful to have such great support in La Center for our students. Our class sizes are in great shape across the district and we didn't need to add any staff in the elementary or middle school. We did have to add a 0.4 FTE science teacher at the high school to handle the additional students.
- **IPad Deployment** – The rollout of our new iPads across the district has gone exceedingly well. I got to use them myself with my Navigation students and right out of the box (or more accurately said… iCarts) they worked flawlessly. Beth Marshall (our high school library tech) has worked very hard to make available an online registration system for check out and check in of the iCarts by staff. This idea has been shared across the district so everyone will be using the same system. A huge thanks to Beth for her selfless work to get this reservation system off the ground. I would also like to say thank you to the tech team for getting everything rolling with the iPads. Kudos to them all!
- **Common Core Standards** – As you know, the state of Washington has begun to roll out the new Common Core Standards (CCS) and our staff has begun to do the same. I was at the Curriculum Night on the K-8 campus (9/20) and observed staff talking about the CCS with parents. To me this is a great sign that staff is working hard to begin to implement these new content standards using the Learner Competencies as the foundation. We will have to fully make the transition to CCS over the next couple of years, but I feel our staff is well on their way.
- **State Revenue Forecast** – The recent state revenue forecast showed their projections were on target (revenue up roughly $22 million). Over the past couple of years, the state economist has had a terrible track record of missing the forecast wildly so to have them hit

the mark feels a bit odd. As I shared at the workshop, I believe the combination of on target budget forecasts and the State Supreme Court holding the legislature's feet to the fire on amply funding public education gives me hope that we have reached a turning point in the downward cycle of funding. My only caution is that if they cannot provide the funding, they will most likely be forced to reduce expectations. I fully expect we will receive additional funding for schools (year over year) over the next biennium. With that said, we will certainly keep an eye on the process especially with some very close elections before us in November at the state level.

- **Leadership Roles** – This year will be another one filled with rich opportunities for me to stay connected with key groups outside of the district. At the ESD I am serving on the Special Education Executive Board (chair), the Risk Management Co-op Executive Council (Chair) and the Legislative Committee (Chair). I will also be serving as chairman for the Clark County Skills Center Administrative Council. On the state level, I will be serving on the Washington Association of School Administrators (WASA) Board of Directors and as the regional representative on WASA's state-wide Legislative and Finance Committee. These roles put our district in the center of the work to shape policy and administrative decisions that impact our staff and students. FYI.

PERSONAL NOTE: As you know, Debbie and I had the opportunity to travel to Tampa, Florida to receive an award from the president of Lions International for the work we did this summer for Leader Dogs for the Blind. It was a terrific experience to be able to put Leader Dogs in front of more than two thousand Lions from across North America (and the world) when I had a chance to speak to them.

Additionally, this leadership conference was a tremendous learning opportunity for me and it provided me somewhat of a capstone experience to pull together the many wonderful Lion experiences I had this summer. I now see so many more opportunities to help make our community become even stronger through my service as a member of Lions International and our local Lions club. I will be sharing more about these exciting opportunities later, but for now please know that I fully expect greater partnerships between our community and schools in the future as a result of this service.

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

Mark