Teaching and Learning Update September 2011

Testing/Assessment- Here are some highlights from the final scores on our "Measure of Student Progress" (MSP) and the "High School Proficiency Exam" (HSPE). We met "annual yearly progress" (AYP) in math in every grade tested K-12! Our high school scores on the new "End Of Course" (EOC) math assessments were awesome, outpacing the state averages by 10-12% on both EOC 1 and 2. Our 5th grade math scores that were such a concern last year at 32% almost doubled to 58%! This is a direct result of the hard work of our teachers, their focus on that curriculum and another year of experience creating successful learning environments in math. Our science scores were at the highest levels ever in all three grades tested, 5th, 8th and 10th. In addition we again out-paced the state averages by large percentages!

On the other side of the ledger, our reading and writing scores were a mixed bag. In writing we were better than the state average in two of the three years tested and maintained relatively high success especially at the high school. In reading we were close in all grades to previous years scores, up in a few down in a few more. Overall we failed to meet "Annual Yearly Progress" (AYP) in reading at the middle school and elementary school as our AYP bar was raised this year to 87.5% per "No Child Left Behind" (NCLB) law. Not to be a pessimist but we will likely not meet the NCLB AYP goal again as it will be at 100% in 18 months. That 100% as you are probably aware includes all special needs students as well as regular education students. Got to love federal mandates!

For anyone who wants to look at our results in-depth you may go to www.k12.wa.us and click on the "State Report Card" link. From there, use the pull down menu at the top left to select our district.

Curriculum/ Materials Adoption- I should have two textbook adoption approvals to you for the October board meeting. We have reviewed an AP statistics book and an anatomy physiology book; the teacher and parent/community members have reviewed both of these and our IMC (instructional materials committee) should be reviewing the choices right before your October meeting. Both of these texts are for new classes this year at the high school. (these are being piloted right now) In addition there will be a number of miscellaneous literature books for your approval.

Professional Development- Our summer PD opportunities for staff were very well attended and I am extremely pleased with the results which I perceive that we gained. This fall I have a second Google Doc's class scheduled for Monday, 9/26 and a second round of iPad's for educators happening on 10/10. Anyone interested and has the time available, there is space in the Google Doc's class and you are invited to

attend. We will be doing a 3rd round of the summer institute learning opportunity on 10/14, which is the state in-service day.

Lastly, we are in the process of forming this year's "Lab Classroom Project" (LCP) teams around common problems of practice. (POP) As in years past those groups will be granted substitute time to pursue collegial work, observation and planning opportunities.

CTE (career and technical education)- We have our first CTE parent/community advisory meeting set for Wednesday night 10/5 @6:30 pm in Mr. Lambert's room. We will be among other things, discussing bringing back student of the month and year programs along with expenditures of Perkins grant monies.

ELL- Upon Sally Doss's resignation we posted the ELL position and have hired Kellie Braaten as our new provider of services. Kellie has hit the ground running and is doing a really nice job taking ownership of her new position.

Grants- Are done!

Community Linkage- Tammi Honeycutt from AWARE will be presenting their newest material on Internet safety/ sexting and teen sex trafficking along with bullying and harassment in the social media. You are all invited to attend this evening event which will be on Wednesday, 9/28 @7 pm in the middle school choir room.

I am again holding volunteer training classes this year. I have a number of them completed and more scheduled for the rest of this month. Sheri Bergensmith is up and running early with her D.O.G.S (dads of great students) volunteers. I've seen many of them at class already and they're already getting into the schools.

Dave.