

### **BOARD POLICY EXPECTATION**

With respect to interactions with the community (parents, students, and the general public), the Superintendent shall not fail to ensure that all stakeholders are treated with respect and dignity at the district level, within each school and classroom.

### **CERTIFICATION**

I hereby present my monitoring report on Executive Limitations Policy EL-2 “Community Relationships” in accordance with the monitoring schedule set forth in board policy. I certify that the information contained in this report is true as of April 14<sup>th</sup>, 2020.

Dave Holmes, Superintendent

### **SUPERINTENDENT’S INTERPRETATION OF POLICY**

I interpret this expectation regarding community relationships to mean the Board believes the district must interact, support and communicate to all community stakeholders in a positive and supportive manner. By operating in a manner that is proactive, transparent and sincere, we will increase the likelihood that a positive and supportive learning culture will be developed for students and therefore maximize the opportunity students will have to accomplish the expectations set forth in the Board’s Ends Policies. This process will also build the capacity of the district to serve students and meet the overall community expectations for the success of us all.

### **REPORT**

There are seven specific areas described in this policy. The following will address each specific area of EL-2 as best as possible. At the time of this report, I believe that the district is in compliance with all the Board’s expectations.

1. ***The superintendent shall not fail to build upon the positive image of the district.***  
**IN COMPLIANCE**

Our entire district team continues to do a very good job of building upon and protecting the positive image of our district. We have many traditional events, practices, communications and interactions that occur each year. During the current year, we’ve continued to have many positive news articles on topics such as our athletic teams, and our efforts to build a new middle school and deal with the growth of our district and community. I’m not aware of any published articles this past year that were critical of the district! Many of our traditional events that bring the community into our schools are in the spring and have been cancelled due to the shut down. There are events like Kindy-Cub nights, incoming freshman orientation,

senior auction, etc. We did get to do the district backpack event and Veterans Day assemblies in the fall. We continue to partner with our parent support groups to continue many popular events such as fall carnival, Christmas bazaar, family movie nights and book fairs. All of these events were a huge success and provide both parent and community involvement, and also enhance the image of the district.

2. ***The superintendent shall not fail to take reasonable steps to communicate with stakeholders through regular communications (e.g. newsletters, website, email, etc.). IN COMPLIANCE***

We continue to expand and upgrade our electronic platforms. The latest example being the rollout of our app. We have improved and maintained a “well visited” facebook page, expanded our webpage and increased our email and electronic communication with parents. We have transparency in everything we do. We continue to use School Messenger (telephone communication system) to inform parents of important news beyond school weather delays and closures. All in all, we have received very positive feedback from stakeholders about our communications, changes to formats and responsiveness to inquiries.

3. ***The superintendent shall not fail to appropriately involve stakeholders in an advisory capacity in important issues which impact them directly; nor fail to provide to district advisory groups, such as those formed for curriculum, facilities, and levy/bond matters, a formal charter document advising each such group of its purpose, organization and functions. IN COMPLIANCE***

We continue to have positions on our IMC committee to maintain broad community representation on curriculum adoption. Over the past year, we have worked closely with different stakeholders to discuss and make decisions around continued changes and improvements to our special education services. Our administrative team continues to represent the district with attendance and participation in outside support groups such as the music association, the booster club and the PTO. The CTE advisory committee has continued their participation and work. We have done a number of parent surveys this year around technology, school climate and other issues. I have sent numerous parent/student emails this year via Skyward and I always invite everyone to contact me, email back and communicate any issue they might have. All of this creates two way communication that is used to gain input from a variety of special interest stakeholders that in turn increases the capacity of our district.

4. ***The superintendent shall not fail to build positive relationships with the media as an important conduit of communication with the public. IN COMPLIANCE***

As the district spokesperson, I continue to have opportunities to interact with the

media this year. The primary media connections over the past year continue to be with *The Reflector* Newspaper and *ClarkCountyToday.com*. The district continues to build a very positive relationship with Ken Vance, the editor of *Clark County Today* while he was the editor at *The Reflector* in prior years. He continues to write positive, interesting and informative articles about our district. We have had many media interactions about the exciting happenings in the district that included stories on our students, activities, sports and educational achievements/opportunities. All of these news stories continue to give information to stakeholders as well as build on the positive image of the district, many beyond our district. Good relationships pay off!

5. ***The superintendent shall not fail to build positive relationships with community businesses, service and community groups and other community groups involved in building a positive school community. IN COMPLIANCE***

We continue to enjoy many positive relationships with community businesses and organizations that have been cultivated over the years that enrich our school community. Some of these include the La Center Community Foundation, ESD 112, La Center United, Citizens for La Center Schools, the Lions Club, the city of La Center and the La Center Police Department to name a few. All these organizations help make our school community better, stronger and safer through their selfless contributions of resources, manpower and expertise. Two particular relationships have been improved and are becoming key to our current district goals this past year. Our relationship with LCU and their new coordinator, Mercedes Zahler, has really become a positive working partnership especially around social-emotional issues and addressing student use of drugs and alcohol. Our relationship with the city and Mayor Greg Thornton continues to be invaluable in our new school construction process.

6. ***The superintendent shall not fail to be visible and approachable as the CEO of the school district. IN COMPLIANCE***

I continue to see this expectation as having two distinct parts that work together. Being visible is about being where students, teachers, parents and community are and then being approachable while at those events or in those areas.

I pride myself on being both approachable and frequenting places and times where the district is conducting our business of teaching and learning. I believe that being approachable and inviting of conversation, criticism, and ideas is built over time with trust and building of connections. I've worked for over two decades to build those community connections and continue to do so everyday. I feel like I know almost everyone in our district. Many of our current parents on the K-8 campus and a few at the HS are my former students and/or athletes. This gives me a huge advantage in making connections and building trust.

Over the past year, I have attended concerts, performances, competitions, classrooms, athletic events, orientations, community events/meetings, city council meetings, county council meetings, ESD meetings and state meetings on behalf of the district. I've met with our local legislators numerous times and have corresponded with them on an ongoing basis during the most recent legislative session. All these events/meetings allow me to learn a great deal about how our schools are serving students and meeting the expectations of stakeholders while building lasting relationships and sending the message of approachability.

7. ***The superintendent shall not fail to prepare annual school and district progress reports to the public. IN COMPLIANCE***

The annual reports are completed in the fall of each year for the previous year. The current annual report for each school is available online at each school's website and in hard copy in each office. Each report includes all items required by state law at a minimum, but goes beyond that in many areas to share the successes with stakeholders. I believe we were highly successful in this regard. This was the third year that the district has had a "district improvement plan" that was built upon the three "building improvement plans." Our annual report was done in a professional manner that was used to also promote our levy and build a positive view of the district. We not only published our annual report, but a very thorough improvement plan as well.