

Progress Report for Sunny Wolf Charter School

February 13, 2012

ACADEMIC GOALS AND OBJECTIVES:

1. Curriculum Alignment

All curriculum adopted by the Sunny Wolf Charter School (SWCS) for math, language arts, science and social studies is closely aligned with the Oregon content standards.

2. Assessment Tools Implemented

The SWCS utilizes DIBELS, CBM Math and OAKS testing as our assessment instruments. SWCS has completed two rounds of DIBELS and CBM Math testing so far this year and most recently completed our first round of OAKS testing in grades 3-5. SWCS is currently awaiting notification of our application for designation as a Title I School-Wide program and plan to include **Read Naturally** in our battery of assessment instruments. Because of numerous technological challenges and elimination of 2nd year Implementation Grant funding the SWCS is requesting that MAPS testing be eliminated.

PROOF OF INSURANCE:

Attached is our proof of insurance as required under the SWCS Charter.

POLICY DEVELOPMENT:

1. Policy Adoption and Revision

The SWCS Board initially adopted the bulk of Three Rivers School District policies. Since that time, the SWCS Board has been revising those policies so that they better reflect our needs. As an example, there are many policies that are appropriate for a district the size of Three Rivers, but may not be necessary for a small elementary school. The SWCS Board has approved policies in the area of governance/administration, facility use, emergency preparation and student behavior.

2. Continuing Revision

There are still areas where policy revision will continue to be needed including: instruction, personnel, support services and students. Policy adoption and revision will be an ongoing process as the Board encounters new situations that will arise as the school matures.

STUDENT DISCIPLINE AND STUDENT ATTENDANCE:

1. Discipline

The SWCS Board has adopted Positive Behavior System (PBS) as its program of discipline and has implemented this program school wide. This policy is attached and provides clear guidelines for all students. The guidelines relate to expected student behavior school-wide as well as in certain areas and functions throughout the school. The system stresses positive behavior but also spells out specific consequences for behavior that is outside of acceptable student behavior.

In conjunction with PBS the school has implemented a **Kind Wolf** incentive program to reward positive student behavior. Students can receive a Kind Wolf ticket for exhibiting positive behavior. The student then places the ticket in a classroom bucket. At the end of each week, the class can choose an activity or prize that is based on the number of tickets earned by the class during that week.

As of this date, there has been one student suspended and no school expulsions during the 2011-12 school year.

2. Attendance

Student attendance to date has averaged 94% during the 2011-12 school year.

FACILITY:

1. Roof

The facility is badly in need of a new roof. A roofer in the community volunteered his time to inspect and patch portions of the roof that were in critical

need of repair. With the onset of the wet season leaks are showing up in several parts of the facility. We will trace them down and make repairs. The school is currently researching potential grant funding.

2. Kitchen

SWCS was awarded a \$8,250 grant from the Four Way Foundation during the spring of 2011. The grant was for purchase of a dishwasher, milk chest cooler, pots/pans, cooking utensils, storage containers and serving trays and resulted in the kitchen being certified by the Josephine County Health Department. This allows meals to be prepared at the school site rather than being cooked off-site and then transported to the school.

3. Heating System

The school continues to use the original steam boiler system that has been in place since the opening of the school some 60 to 70 years ago. Needless to say, the system is quite inefficient and could fail at any moment. The school is researching possible funding sources to replace this antiquated heating system.

4. Playground

SWCS was awarded a \$23,000 grant from Meyer Memorial Foundation to upgrade and refurbish the school playground. Parent/Community Volunteer work days were scheduled over several weekends to prepare the site for placement of the new equipment and provides another example of community involvement and participation at the school. A total of 27 parent/community members donated 346 hours toward the accomplishment of this project. The playground project has been completed and is now being used and enjoyed by the students.

5. Interior of School

The interior of the school including all classrooms, hallway, office, Principal's office, and special education room have all been painted by professional painter/community volunteer who provided literally hundreds of hours and thousands of dollars of free service to the school.

FISCAL HEALTH:

The Sunny Wolf Charter School was informed in September by the Oregon Department of Education that the school would not be receiving the second and third year funding of the Charter School Implementation grant. The SWCS was expecting approximately \$225,000 from this grant for the remaining two years of the grant. The loss of this funding is causing the school to re-evaluate our financial and programmatic plan with the result that expansion of enrollment to grades 6-7 will no longer be considered.

Additionally, the SWCS receives only 80% of the ADM funds designated for our student's education, while the TRSD retains 20%. This reduction combined with aging facilities and the concomitant issues associated with this concern combine to pose real fiscal challenges for the SWCS.

Despite these fiscal challenges the SWCS remains within budget and anticipates a small surplus at the end of FY 2011-12 barring any unforeseen financial expenses (Boiler, Roof etc.) This has been accomplished with very frugal spending practices that have been utilized since the inception of SWCS.

The SWCS Board of Directors are very interested in the recently adopted legislation SB 453 that the legislature approved for Remote Elementary Schools. This legislation has a correction factor that increases the ADM formula for remote elementary school funding. We would request that the TRSD Administration meet with several of our Board members to determine eligibility and equitable financial adjustments/corrections to our ADM funding.

FISCAL IMPACT ON THREE RIVERS SCHOOL DISTRICT:

The SWCS understands and appreciates the difficult financial situation that the TRSD is facing in the current economic climate. The potential of decreased ADM funding from the state and continuing declining enrollment places you in a position of having to make difficult choices every day.

The closure of the Wolf Creek Elementary School was a profound loss to the Wolf Creek/Sunny Valley community and resulted in an exodus of students from the TRSD. The community is very appreciative of the TRSD Board of Education's decision to approve our charter and feel that it was a wise decision to reach.

We believe that we are having a positive fiscal impact on the TRSD for four reasons. First, a very significant number of our current students would not have enrolled into a TRSD school even if SWCS never opened. Secondly, SWCS has attracted students from the neighboring communities of Glendale and Azalea, that are part of the Glendale School District. Third, TRSD is receiving 20% of the gross ADM funding for all students attending the SWCS, revenue the TRSD would not have realized without the opening of the SWCS. Lastly, when the Wolf Creek School was closed down, the facility was deteriorating. The abandonment of that facility served to exacerbate the progress of deterioration.

Today, the former Wolf Creek School is vibrantly alive. The building has been painted inside and out, a new playground has been installed, the school kitchen has been refurbished and certified by Josephine County Public Health and a security system is used to ensure that vandalism is eliminated. The SWCS is

transforming what was an increasing liability to TRSD into a real asset for the District.

CONCLUSION:

The SWCS has grown from 44 students when we opened in September 2010 to our current enrollment of 58 students, an increase of 32%. Major goals have been accomplished with a new playground and a refurbished and certified Kitchen. The Service and Project-based Learning activities are growing as the children look outside the school to community involvement and serving the needs of seniors and the pre-school community. In addition, the school/community garden and the riparian reforestation projects are being expanded to demonstrate student involvement in improving conditions in the community in which they live. Today, we stand in partnership with Three Rivers School District. A partnership that we believe is benefitting our students, Three Rivers School District and the communities of Sunny Valley and Wolf Creek.