

## Board Report for September 2011

September 9, 2011

Dear Chairman Lengwin and Members of the Board,

Hidden Valley is a busy, engaged place in August and September. We had a very steady flow of students registering for classes, signing up for co-curricular activities, arriving for practices for fall sports, and problem solving with counselors and administrators. In the first 3 days of school we have had very good work with our students by providing for their due process rights and setting the tone for the year. At present we have 685 students without counting the MAC or TRACT students. Students are already engaged in lessons and homework.

Patty Dickens-Turk has done an excellent job of preparing our PBIS lessons and setting up TEAM. This will be one of her primary roles as our new assistant principal. She also will coordinate services to our ERC and alternative education students. She will oversee the professional development work in Language Arts. Mike and I are pleased to have her as a partner.

Our professional development week (actually 4 days) was useful and full. Proficiency based learning is our primary focus for the year and our English and Math teachers are setting the pace for secondary teachers in grades 6-12. Our staff is doing well in pooling their efforts in a more unified manner in comparison to the last couple of years. The reduction in staff has actually had an energizing effect on our teachers. In spite of higher numbers in all classes, our faculty has taken seriously the challenge that we will engage every student in learning.

Like many schools our classrooms are very hot with little relief available for staff and students. This ongoing influence will be present until it cools off in mid-October. It is a significant hurdle to high quality teaching and learning.

I commend our teachers and classified employees who are making every possible effort to welcome and know our students. I am inviting members of the board to come and visit us on a school day and see our staff and students in action.

Sincerely,

Dennis Misner