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**BOARD OF EDUCATION REPORT**  
**OCTOBER, 2013 – SHARON NELSEN**

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***CURRICULUM –***

- English Language Arts Benchmarks for the Elementary, Middle, and High School grade levels were determined during work sessions scheduled on September 30, October 1, and October 2.
- Mathematics Benchmarks for the Elementary School grades were set last spring. The Middle and High School grade levels met during work sessions scheduled on October 8 to set theirs.
- All of the above groups will need to meet again to identify the benchmark assessments and achievement expectations.
- Planning tasks to be accomplished – determine a) a recommendation for implementation of the new Career and Technical Education standards, b) a blending of the Science Wisconsin Model Academic Standards and portions of the Next Generation Science standards, and c) identify linkages of Early Learning Standards for 4K with the Kindergarten program.
- Common Core English Language Arts and Mathematics transition instruction (this year) is accommodating significant changes in content learning expectations along with best practice instructional strategies. For many teachers it feels like their “first year” of teaching all over again. Their diligence and efforts are commendable!
- Carl Perkins Designees met at CESA 11 on September 25 to address enrollment trends, curricular needs, voucher procedures, etc.

***ASSESSMENT -***

- WKCE preparations are underway (preparation of test books by room, schedule determination for the MS and HS, proctor training sessions, test security provisions, etc.)
  - PALS assessment administration continues in 4K and Kindergarten. PALS administration has concluded in Grade 1.
  - The WINSS public data website has been replaced by the WISEdash (Wisconsin Information System for Education) public portal (accessed off the DPI website).
  - The WISEdash private portal is a rich data dashboard that contains critical and essential group and individual information on enrollment, attendance, ACT, post-secondary attendance, WKCE, and more. The entire teaching staff was given a site tour on October 11 and usage training was given to the guidance counselors and the teachers of reading and special education. Principals and other district leaders were trained previously.
  - SBAC (Smarter Balanced Assessment Consortium) – this online assessment will replace the WKCE beginning in 2014-2015. I just completed an online readiness assessment for the district and anticipate the district will soon be requested to conduct a speed test. These components assess our electronic readiness in terms of hardware access, scheduling plans, bandwidth, etc.
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**Curriculum Feature of the Month**

***What is a benchmark and why do we need them?*** Teachers should have a clear understanding of what learning results are expected. For this purpose, Learning Targets are set for units and Benchmarks are set for the entire course. Benchmarks are concise and measurable statements of the desired results. Not only do they guide teachers in their understanding of student progress, but they are important tools for communicating with students regarding subject matter expectations and the progress of the specific student. Common assessments are given across the grade level at strategic times and the data from these assessments is critical for guiding instruction. Here are a couple of sample benchmarks:

- Tell time to the nearest minute.
- Cite several pieces of textual evidence to support analysis, determine a theme or central idea, and analyze elements of a story.