

Superintendent's Report- 9/12/14

**Enrollment-** I have linked the latest enrollment spread sheet to the board agenda. Overall we are currently down 45 students from the end of last spring and down 245 students from last fall at this time. This is certainly not ideal but is not as impactful as it might have been. We are up about 17 students over our budgeting number and a little over 100 up over our estimate that we gave to the state for budgeting. What this means in simple terms is that we are in good shape for this year's budget and things may improve slightly for next year beyond what the state may do with dollars per student increases.

There are a few spots across the district that we need to consider staffing increases for. Hidden Valley HS has a number of classes that are over 40 students per class. We have begun addressing those issues by buying teacher prep periods in key areas and periods. This is not ideal but it is the best alternative currently. We have 3 elementary schools that have multiple class sizes in excess of 30 students. I would ask for permission to use the full portion of the contingency fund that was previously set aside for this purpose to address these issues in the most impactful and fair way. I will present details at the board meeting.

**Test scores-** I have linked a spreadsheet to the board agenda for this item as well that gives a very nice representation of our school testing results by level awarded. The levels range from 1 to 5 with 5 being the highest. This ranking by the state lets districts compare their schools performances against other schools across the state. A school that has a level 5 distinction is one in which students outperform 87% of the other schools across the state. We had all of our middle schools along with Fruitdale elementary achieve this ranking. We had 4 elementary schools achieve level 4 which puts them in the top 30% in the entire state. All of our high schools and our two remaining elementary schools were all level 3 which places them in the top 53% of the state. Even though our goal should always be to have all of our schools be level 5, these are good results. You will notice that both Hidden and Illinois Valley were level 2 in the subsection of graduation rate. You will also notice that this subsection is weighted the heaviest for high schools. This is just another indicator of the work to be done in this area.

**District newsletter-** Our first edition has been published and is linked on our home webpage. Karreen Ghena who is working with me on public relations did a very nice job pulling this together. We will publish this on a regular basis.

**Maintenance-** We have made significant progress over the last month and a half to both get school up and running but to also knock out a number of items on the long range facilities "top ten" list. I will have a new top ten list for construction excise projects ready for review at the October board workshop.

The Fleming WWTP upgrade is going well. We have removed all old and damaged parts from the “back-up” plant along with sand blasting and coating the tank. Mike Bollweg has created drawings for a retrofit which have been approved by the DEQ. Replacement pumps and parts are on order. I expect to have the “backup” plant up and running before the holiday season. We are working with DEQ to monitor the nature of the effluent coming from the industrial park which continues to be problematic. We have the meter on order to gauge the effluent coming from the rest area into our system at the NVHS plant and are preparing to install it. I’ve made contact with a company to evaluate the most effective and economical way to replace or re-hab the pipe coming from Manzanita elementary to the Fleming plant. Bottom line, we’ve made significant strides in this area and will continue to do so in the future.

We lost our hot water heater at Lincoln Savage and are currently working to install propane for a new replacement tank that will be far less costly and more efficient to run than either the old boiler tank or a new electric unit. I would suspect that we’ll have this completed in the next couple of weeks.

The moisture study on the roof at Fleming was completed this week and we should be ready to receive bids for repair this coming week.

There are many, many little projects going on all over the district and we’re trying very hard to meet everyone’s requests in a timely manner using in-house resources wherever we can to conserve budget.

**The “Edge” program-** You may or may not have heard that we had an outside group come to Lorna Byrne to give an anti-bullying presentation. This group was used last year without issues or conflict so they were rescheduled again this year. The presentation had a particular activity that was too personal in nature for the schools comfort and/or goals as well as those of many of our parents. As a result we cancelled the same assembly at IVHS and **will not** have this presentation back. I want to note that Scott Polen did a very good job of reacting to this situation and communicating timely with parents and staff.

**Teaching and Learning-** I want to let everyone know that the late start time on Fridays is being used wisely and has been incredibly beneficial to teachers and administrators as they work to improve student learning in their classrooms and schools. I attended the Ft. Vannoy meeting the first Friday and I was at the Madrona meeting this last Friday. Both of these meetings were very focused and highly productive. Directors and curriculum support staff have been spreading out and covering by attendance as many of the schools as possible for Friday late start meetings and they have reported back to me the same successes as I’ve observed in the two schools I was at.

**Food Service-** I have been to every kitchen during serving hours across our district over the first two weeks to observe and gather input. Our new food service manager, Brian, has been working very hard to make significant changes to the flavor, presentation and desirability of the food we serve. I believe we will see results in our participation rates very soon.

**Customer Service Survey-** I will have a customer service survey draft available to the board for review early next week. Since it is electronic, I will send the board the link and I will simply ask you to give me input on additional questions or deletions. Initially we will gather input electronically in this manner and then determine how to gather more wide spread input from stakeholders beyond the electronic version.