

# Superintendent's Report

August 21<sup>st</sup>, 2015

## BOARD UPDATE

- 1. HS Field Improvements** – We continue to work with the City of La Center and the La Center Education Foundation (LCEF) on implementing the state grant received to improve community facilities (which includes our athletic fields). The city is sorting through how they meet their obligations for fiscal controls and manage the funds from the state. I have been appreciative of the city's effort and doubly pleased with the leadership of LCEF to get this work done. We will just need to see if we can get any projects done this Fall or whether they will need to wait until next spring. Positive thoughts!
- 2. Summer Maintenance Progress** – There has been a tremendous amount of work done by our maintenance, custodial and technology staff this summer. That said, there is much left to do. All the gym floors are refinished, walls painted, floors polished and many repairs made. Still left to go on the work list is the painting of the exterior of the middle school gym, finishing conversion of a storage closet (in MS near vending machine) and replacing the roof on the bicycle barn behind the elementary. We also have a lot of work to do relative to the work of upgrading the networking throughout the district. Beyond all of this work, our summer staff has moved more than 13 classrooms due to staff changing assignments or realignment of teachers so we minimize student movement. Kudos to all of our summer crew for their hard work.



3. **New Data Analysis Tool Tested** – We are starting the review and testing of a new data analysis tool called Homeroom. This software solution takes a variety of data sources (primarily Skyward data) and creates an interface that will allow very sophisticated analysis of student performance data. What is even more exciting is Homeroom will allow us to organize the data using our district’s Learner Success Indicators (LSIs) that we have been developing over the past few years.

As a refresher, LSIs are key data points that are direct indicators of student success moving through our system in route to graduation. LSIs begin with Kindergarten readiness assessments and end with students walking across the stage. Along the way, for example, if a Freshman earns six or more credits in the 9<sup>th</sup> grade year (an LSI), he/she has a nearly 90% percent likelihood of walking across the stage in La Center on time.

Our research shows that even 0.25 credits under the six credit target dramatically reduces the on-time graduation rate via the traditional route. In other words, they more often will still graduate, but not earning six credits as a Freshman increases the need for an alternative pathway or some sort of special support to help them graduate on time.

Paying attention to the LSIs allows us to be proactive and find solutions and make adjustments in the students programs earlier in their educational journey. This is because the LSIs are all linked together. Put another way, success at an LSI increases the success at the next and so on. It is this work on LSIs that have helped us create programs such as Hawks Landing in the middle school, Kindy Cub nights in the elementary, and LINX at the high school.

We are very excited about this new program called Homeroom, because it may help us get more accurate and timely information to help us become more predictive with our student supports earlier in the process. It should also help support our efforts to follow groups of students relative to our LSIs so we can provide better feedback to both staff and students. Time will tell if Homeroom can do that, but it is by far the best tool we have seen yet in this effort. And the best thing about this testing year is that there is no cost to giving it a try for the full year. More on Homeroom as we learn to use it throughout the year.

I think that is all for now. Please give me a call if you have any questions. Talk with you later.

*Mark*