

BOARD POLICY EXPECTATION

The mission of the La Center School District is to create a supportive learning environment that empowers students to reach their fullest potential. We will do this in partnership with families, the community, staff and students to develop confident and self-reliant life-long learners who can thrive in a rapidly changing, more technologically advanced and diverse society.

CERTIFICATION

I hereby present my monitoring report on Ends Policy E-1 “District Mission” in accordance with the monitoring schedule set forth in board policy. I certify that the information contained in this report is true as of October 27th, 2015.

Dr. Mark Mansell, Superintendent

SUPERINTENDENT’S INTERPRETATION OF POLICY

I interpret the district mission to serve as a written description of the overarching purpose of the organization as well as the manner in which district personnel will operate in the process of accomplishing this stated purpose. The results are to be derived from the creation and/or maintenance of a supportive learning environment for students, which connects and harnesses the energy of the adults around the students (staff, parents and community members) in a way that garners a broad based effort to prepare students for a future where their ability to learn will be more valued than their accumulated knowledge.

REPORT – IN COMPLIANCE

Even though there are no specific delineated requirements with this Ends policy, the expectations these general organizational directions place on me by the Board sets a clear message about what is important. To me as superintendent, this expectation calls for engagement of stakeholders to achieve the highest possible value to students in their achievement of becoming confident and self-reliant life-long learners. To me there are two major sections within this statement that I believe serve as the twin pillars of our work as an educational team. Broadly stated, these relate to a *partnership with stakeholders* in achieving the central focus of our work, which is to develop *confident, self-reliant, life-long learners*.

Working in *partnership with stakeholders* is the cornerstone of *The La Center Way* of doing the primary work of developing confident, self-reliant, lifelong learners. As a Board, there are many examples you have witnessed yourself or I have provided throughout the year in my reports and other monitoring documents you receive that demonstrate this commitment to community engagement. These examples could include your annual linkage meetings with all the stakeholder groups (students, staff, parents, city council, levy committee, etc.), a variety of surveys of stakeholders be it with students, staff and/or parents on meaningful topics (almost always aimed at learning topics) as well as consistently being open at all levels of the organization to listen to needs and perspectives of stakeholders.

The second pillar of this expectation is the stated mandate to *develop confident, self-reliant,*

lifelong learners. As you know, this is the backbone of all our work and this effort is not simply aimed at students. We believe in order to achieve this expectation it must start with us as adults as the creators of the learning environments students live in here at school. Simply put, this part of the mission will never be achieved if we as educators operate from a “Do as I say, not as I do” mindset relative to learning. To be a confident, self-reliant, lifelong learner ourselves relative to our practice as educators and as humans, it is essential that the creation of effective learning environments for students be aimed at helping them develop the skills to do the same thing. That is why virtually everything we do in the district must be built on learning.

In the final analysis, I believe we have consistently worked to advance toward accomplishing the expectations articulated in this Ends Policy. We continue to maintain a strong on-time graduation rate (in the top tier of districts in the county) at nearly the lowest cost per student to the taxpayers. This achievement is being done through striving to improve our own practice as learning environment leaders in partnership with stakeholders. To me, The La Center Way is working and is producing positive results for students as expected by this Ends Policy.