



## District Happenings April 2008

Winter made one last attempt to remind us that nature is a powerful force. The picture of snow falling outside of the high school commons while we held an input activity on March 28<sup>th</sup> for the Navigation 2020 plan with certificated staff was quite a sight. There are a number of initiatives in process for enhancements to our school district, so this month I am providing some comments regarding the progress of each.

### **Navigation 2020**

The certificated staff input on the Teaching and Learning area on March 28<sup>th</sup> was very helpful. The trading of the day by SWEA members was deeply appreciated. Our new facilitator, Dorothy Baumgartner, is making an excellent transition into her role. Please consider putting Saturday, May 17<sup>th</sup> on your calendar for a full day workshop to tie the components of the plan together.

### **Long Range Facility Use Recommendation**

The Board has appreciated the input from three board work sessions, and one school session. They will listen to the faculties and support staff from each school during April and May. The board wants to have the Navigation 2020 plan in hand and hear from all stakeholders prior to rendering a decision on this matter. In general, the board is looking to summer/fall for this important decision.

### **Nutrition Initiative**

Registered dietitian, Cassandra Borck, was involved for a month with Veronica Schmidt in the recall of beef from our food service program. Cassandra has been working alongside of our food service people to learn first hand the demands of their work. The goal of her work is to help with central purchasing, nutrition, enhancement, and ultimately more participation in the lunch and breakfast programs to help the programs become more cost effective.

### **Emergency Preparedness**

This committee has met every two months during this school year and will be making a presentation at the April 23<sup>rd</sup> board meeting and will be requesting funding for basic emergency preparedness material kits in each school.

### **Science, Mathematics, and Literacy**

These curriculum development initiatives are proceeding forward. We have had experts in science and mathematics visiting these committees with the latest research and best practices for working with our people.

### **Calendar**

We have a calendar as of the February 27<sup>th</sup> board meeting for 2008-2009 that includes parent/teacher conferences on Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday prior to the Thanksgiving holiday. There will be a continued effort to reach agreements for the long term on calendar formats for the future.

### **Community Engagement Team/Community Partnerships**

Over 80 volunteers from the community have agreed to listen to senior projects and benefactors are helping the school district's programs and students. Mr. Guise is a pleasant, positive, dedicated presence in our schools.

### **Technology RFP/RFQ**

We have solicited proposals for a baseline assessment of technology use in our school district. Prior to finalizing plans for expending ¼ million dollars on technology over the next two years, the district wants a very specific inventory of existing technology and plans for adding to existing technology in a well-planned sequential and systematic manner.

### **Seismic RFP/RFQ**

A seismic RFP/RFQ has been announced for seismic studies of Langley Middle School and the Primary School to inform the Facility Use Planning Recommendation and decision by the school board in the future.

### **Finance/Staffing**

We are beginning to build next year's budget. Presentations have been made to the administration and school board and will be made to the faculties and staff. Our enrollment is projected to decline 74 FTE for next year. The district will have to reduce \$658,536 due to the cumulative effects of enrollment decline, unfunded costs, grants terminating, and under-funded programs. These will be difficult decisions. We will provide as much information as possible to every employee and take as much input as possible before final recommendations for staff and program reductions are presented to the school board.

### **WICA Lease**

A renewal and extension of WICA's lease of property from the school district is being crafted by legal counsel representing both parties. WICA wants to renew its lease to expand and enhance its facility through a capital campaign to better serve the community.

### **Bayview Driveway**

Legal counsel from the school district and Goosefoot are clarifying a mutual use of the driveway into Bayview School and adjacent to Goosefoot property.

### **Custodial Routes/Standards**

The maintenance department is working on standards for custodial services and designs for routes to optimize cleaning of our schools and to maximize limited resources to clean the classrooms and common areas of each school.

### **SEIU Bargaining**

The SEIU (Service Employees International Union) contract expires this August and negotiations for a renewal of the Collective Bargaining Agreement with the South Whidbey School District will begin shortly.

### **Building Administrator Agreement**

The agreement between the building administrators and the South Whidbey School District expires this summer and the district will shortly begin to meet and confer with its administrators to renew an agreement for the future.

### **Substance Abuse Prevention Coalition**

The fourth and final Substance Abuse Prevention Coalition for 2007-2008 will be held on April 16, 2008 at 7:00 am at Langley Middle School. The coalition seeks to involve students and adults in creating substance abuse free communities on South Whidbey.

### **Leadership Academy Completed**

Five administrators are completing a leadership academy they have been participating in this year at NWESD 189 in Anacortes. The Academy included professional reading, planning with other school districts, and coaching by an experienced retired school administrator.

### **LACEP Program Grant**

The three year LACEP grant is coming to a close and there is a need for the grant to be given to a different lead agency. It is possible that the grant will be re-funded for a neighboring school district and our district could receive some of the services LACEP has provided. These services have been very valuable to many students and families in our school district.

### **Annual Report**

A newspaper format Annual Report is available for the preceding year (2006-2007) and provides performance data for the district. Each school has a section for reporting progress with respect to their school improvement plan. A summary of district financial and human resource data is included.