

Summary of Goals 1,2 &4

1 The FIRST priority of our school system will be student learning. To this end it is our goal that every student will be taught by skilled, high-quality teachers who provide effective and high quality instruction, and who are equipped with necessary tools and training.

During the 2009-2010 school year the Educational Leadership Team, which consists of the Superintendent, Assistant Superintendent, Director of Special Services, and the five principals did a great deal of work with the Washington State Leadership Academy. The goal of this work was to give us the opportunity to step out of our school buildings and dig more deeply than we previously have into addressing the challenge of improving on the fine work that is occurring in our schools relative to student performance.

The outcome of this work has been the development of a draft work-plan for the coming years that is targeted at two interrelated goals, or “Problems of practice” One goal is system-wide improvement of mathematics learning. Math performance as measured by the WASL is below what we recognize our students are capable of. We are specifically targeting K-12 mathematics as an area of intense focus for the coming years. Interrelated to this is the goal of instructional improvement. We have developed a draft plan that will lead to the development of learning teams in our school district that are focused on deepening all of our understanding of what quality instruction looks like. We plan to utilize the work of Bob Marzano, a respected educational researcher, as the foundation of our work as part of these teams.

This work this year led us to the decision to reorganize the Assistant superintendent position so that it was more intentionally focused specifically on three primary areas: Curriculum, Assessment, and Adult Learning. Many of the responsibilities that took much of Craig’s focus are no longer part of that role. Including: Athletics, Calendar Committee, Title IX officer, Homeless Liaison, Technology Dept oversight, Maintenance/Custodial oversight, and many other duties. Our goal is that with the narrowing of this position Asha will provide much needed focus in the further development of these plans as we move them from “draft” to “Implementation”

One of the areas that at least one board member is interested in is the use of Monday morning late start time. When this time was created it was focused largely by the school district. Over the last five years that time has been well used, but largely defined and designed at the building level. Principals have identified a bit of this in their reports to the board. As we move into the coming year we anticipate that a bulk of the time resource on Monday mornings will be focused around learning teams who work with developing a richer understanding of quality teaching.

The board can anticipate that early in the fall we will formally present the work plan for this work as we refine it this summer and early fall.

2 A Quality Learning Environment is important to effective learning. In order to provide a quality learning environment

In times of financial difficulty maintenance and repair of facilities is often deferred. Ultimately the cost of this can be great. As we have cut \$2 million from our budgets in the current biennium maintenance and custodial support has, like every other area of our operations been impacted. The biggest area of impact has been in the reduction of additional staffing that we have traditionally hired over breaks and in the summer to do additional maintenance and grounds work. This choice was made as an alternative to reducing full-time staff positions in this department. Bill Hanson deserves a great deal of credit for creatively and consistently managing his resources so that the deferral of maintenance is minimized. He has prioritized HVAC systems, roofs, and other core systems, as well as the learning spaces where children are served. At times this shows up as weeds grow in unkempt flower beds and buildings are not pressure washed quite as often.

The replacement of Woodland High School has been relegated to a “back burner” as the economy slowly recovers. Behind the scenes though things are happening. During the current year a traffic study has reviewed the potential impact of the new WHS on the Dike Access Road. As well a great deal of work has been done on Wetland mitigation planning for the Dike Access Site. Over the summer months it is anticipated that a plan for mitigation can be completed so that when the growth pattern returns to Woodlands with an improving economy we will be ready to move forward with a proposal to build a new WHS.

4 Effective, two-way communication with our entire community is essential to maintaining and building trusting relationships with the community. Improving communication through the implementation of methods of communication will be employed as part of a district-wide communication plan, including but not limited to:

The increased use of electronic media for communication has been notable this year. We have increasingly used email, website, twitter, grades online, and the automatic calling system to communicate district-wide. We feel the loss of the ESD Communications coop. The use of print media was much less than it has been in the past communication that did go to our community in print was related to the M&O levy. As well we communicated via postcard information about budget meetings. As we move forward I see it as important to increase the use of conventional media to get out the good news about what is happening in Woodland Schools.