Sunday Evening News
2.22.09

It's a long SEN, but I hope you will take the time to read it....two main topics
1. Budget Update
2. K-12 Late Arrival Plan for 2009-2010

**Quick Budget Update:**

**State**
The legislature is still working through the budget. Last week the forecast showed an even worse budget shortfall (2.5 billion more) than what Gov. Gregoire built her budget on in December. This is not good news for K-12 education since public education is the major part of the state's budget.

**Federal**
The stimulus package was signed last week. The money flows to the state and then hopefully to school districts. We do not know exactly how this could impact our schools yet. There is a press conference Tuesday afternoon in which we should find more information. Please keep fingers-crossed.

**K-12 late arrivals**
One area of budget reductions that we are moving forward on is to begin a conversation regarding the implementation of K-12 late arrivals for staff collaboration and learning. My intent in the next few paragraphs is to outline for you a clear and concise purpose and need for establishing a K-12 late arrival day each week for staff learning. I believe and value
staff learning and collaboration as a direct means to improve classroom instruction and student learning.

**Professional Learning Communities**

Last summer, our school district officially launched becoming a Professional Learning Community. This focus of our work revolves around four key questions:

What do we want students to know?
How will we know if they have learned it?
What will we do if they haven’t learned it?
How will we respond if they have already learned it?

The critical component of truly becoming a system that can call itself a Professional Learning Community is establishing a time in which staff can come together in a relentless way to improve student learning.

**Existing Conditions:**

Currently, Enumclaw High School has a late arrival each Wednesday of a five-day student week. This ranges from 21-24 are a given year. Late arrival days started six years ago as the high school staff was working together to improve the structure and the instruction of our comprehensive high school, ultimately improving student learning.

Our K-8 schools have five early dismissal days each year for a similar reason as the high school.

**Proposal:**

To begin having 75-minute K-12 late arrivals in the Enumclaw School District every Wednesday.
Other Models:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>School District</th>
<th>Late Arrival Model</th>
<th>Day of Week</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Sumner School District</td>
<td>90 minutes late for all schools</td>
<td>Wednesday</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>White River School District</td>
<td>60 minutes late for all schools</td>
<td>Monday</td>
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Our Board of Directors will hear about this proposal at tomorrow night's board meeting. I am in the middle of planning a community meeting to explain this important need for our entire system. When a date is determined, I hope that you will join me, whether in the audience or as a co-presenter. I want so badly to create this time for each of you as I truly believe it is foundational in improving instruction and student learning.

Until next week, Happy Learning!
Mike

You must be the change you want to see in the world.
Mahatma Gandhi