



District Office E-Letter

District E-Letter
June 10, 2009



No Major Budget Woes!!! by Conrad Robertson

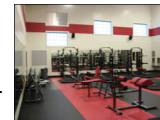
Riverview School District is pleased to advise that, unlike other school districts, we do not have any reductions in certificated staffing. With increasing enrollment, increased transportation ridership, a strong ending fund balance, and a balanced operating budget over the years, Riverview was able to withstand the state's budget cuts for 2009-10. In order to sustain our stability though, we will be increasing lunch prices, extended day fees, all-day kindergarten fees, special education preschool fees, sports participation fees, and facility use fees. A thank you to all for your patience as we worked through the state's budget delays.

Construction Update by Conrad Robertson

As we end year one of construction, I want to give a **BIG THANK YOU** to all staff, especially at Cedarcrest and Tolt, for their patience, flexibility, teamwork, professionalism, and fortitude. I know the noise, dirt and dust, moving classrooms, restroom closures, walkway closures and lack of parking, to name a few, have all contributed to a very difficult year for teaching our students. Through this, we have new additions, new fields, new bathrooms, new gyms, etc., of which to be very proud. Thank you again for all your support.



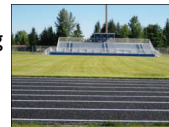
Cedarcrest High School Remodel is completed. This included replacement of flooring, painting of the exterior, installation of a new boiler, renovation of the gym and bleachers, addition of a weight and dance room, addition and renovation of office spaces, renovation of sports medicine room, and the pipe lining project.



Tolt Middle School Remodel is tracking behind schedule but the plan is to have most everything finished, except for punch lists, by the time school starts in the fall. The project included addition of office spaces, computer lab, music room expansion, improvements to restrooms in Buildings A, C, D, and K, a renovation of the gymnasium and locker rooms, rebuild of the covered walkway, and roof overbuild of Building L.



Tolt Middle School Field Improvements are finished. The project replaced the bleachers, replaced the track surface, improved the existing grass field, developed new playing fields, installed new sound system and scoreboard, and relocated the shot put/discus and long jump areas.



Cedarcrest High School Field Improvements hope to go out to bid in the near future. This includes building a new baseball field, improving the softball field, adding bleachers at the existing football field, and increasing parking capacity.

Riverview Learning Center has been delayed due to Site Plan discussions with the City of Carnation. We hope to have the RLC ready for occupancy by August 2011. This involves the construction of a new facility to house the PARADE Program, the CLIP Program, the alternative high school and middle school programs, restrooms, offices, and a multi-purpose room.



Carnation and Cherry Valley Elementary Modernizations are both in the Schematic Design Phase, with construction to begin next summer.

Inside this issue:

<i>Teaching and Learning Updates</i>	2
<i>Food Service Delivers</i>	3
<i>Riverview School Board Notes</i>	3
<i>End of Year Clean-Up</i>	3
<i>2009 Legislative Session</i>	4
<i>Payroll Odds and Ends</i>	4

Did you know???

- Employee reimbursements are now available by direct deposit; contact Regan Doyle at 4511 for more
- Our buses scored 100% in the annual state inspection!
- 67% of our teachers and specialists have a Master's degree
- The average number of years a certificated employee has worked in Riverview is 9.57; and average of total teaching years is 13.29
- The average number of years a classified staff member has worked in Riverview is 9.44 years
- Our principals have a grand total of 188 years of teaching and administrative experience. The average is 23.5 years!

Teaching and Learning Updates by Dr. Anthony Smith

**Celebrate
your victories,
however
small.**

Assessment data will be more accessible to teachers: Work has already started to interface a new student assessment data repository system starting this fall. The system is called SOAR which stands for *Student Online Assessment Resource*. SOAR will be available through Skyward and teachers will be able to access it just like accessing attendance. The system will house data including the state test scores, student learning plans, CBAs/CBPAs, our district writing assessment scores, district mathematics test scores, and in the future, reading scores. Teachers will be able to view all scores on their class roster at a glance instead of spending hours upon hours data mining to discern student areas of strength and challenge.

MAP to be implemented: The Measurement of Academic Progress (MAP) online assessment system will be implemented as part of SOAR so we can accurately measure students' mathematical progress from kindergarten through 12th grade. The district Mathematics Adoption, Assessment, and Intervention Committee unanimously supported testing of all students three times each year for three purposes:

1. To be able to accurately measure student learning over time using the same metric.
2. To provide timely interventions for those that need help to attain grade level mastery of math concepts and at the same time provide acceleration opportunities for those functioning at or above grade level.
3. To provide a source of accurate strand data for placement in math classes along with using other criteria such as teacher recommendation and grades.

CBAs/CBPAs: A wonderful job was done in all schools and programs with CBA/CBPA implementation in the Arts, Social Studies, and Health/Fitness. We will continue this work together and have an opportunity for vertical teaming to align our work, primary to intermediate, intermediate to middle school, and middle school to high school. This work will take place in October. Teachers are encouraged to save student work samples to share at the October meeting. This will enhance professional development, articulation, alignment, and assessment practices district-wide.

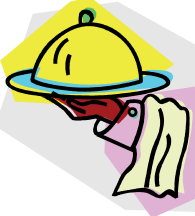
Curriculum Adoption

Mathematics: The Mathematics Adoption/Assessment/Intervention Committee recommended four math curricula for field testing or piloting during the 2009-2010. A careful job has been done to complete national research, look at best practice in the Puget Sound area, and attend presentations by math evaluators at the OSPI January Conference. While this marks a shift to a more traditional math curriculum, the Adoption Committee feels strongly that these programs provide a blend of conceptual and procedural mathematical operations with opportunities for integration of technology as well as parent engagement. During the 2009-2010 school year, we will be field-testing Math Expressions at the elementary level, Math Connects at the middle school level, and piloting Holt Mathematics and Discovering Mathematics at the high school level. This will allow us a year to identify additional supplementary curriculum needs and professional development opportunities.

Fine and Performing Arts: This committee was able to identify curricular needs and equipment needs. Highlights were having more in-depth conversations regarding CBPA implementation, finding a funding source for elementary art supplies, providing equipment and instruments at the secondary level, and having an articulated art and music curriculum at the elementary level for the first time in district history. Training on the new art curriculum will be provided for all elementary teachers in September-October of 2009. K-12 music teachers have shared technology integration needs with the Tech Steering Committee in anticipation of the next Technology Levy.

Health/Fitness: Much needed textbooks and equipment were provided at the high school level. At the middle school level, the focus was on equipment and supplies to round out station activities for physical education, such as mats, bats, balls, racquets, etc. We also purchased videos on harassment and other health issues to supplement curriculum already being taught through Michigan Model Curriculum in the Health classrooms. At the elementary level a decision was made to more intentionally teach body systems K-5, but do it in a way that would be "user friendly" and easily integrated with other content areas. This involved recruiting classroom teachers to complete another year of work on researching resources and implementing this in a way that is efficient and effective.

The RSD curriculum committees continue to have high teacher enlistment, typically comprising about 80% of membership. At the same time the committees have achieved a healthy balance of parent/community participation, curriculum experts from the field, and adequate administrative participation. Thanks to all stakeholders for their care and excellent input toward teaching and learning outcomes in the Riverview School District.



Food Service Delivers by Kaye Wetli

Are you planning a meeting and offering food and beverages to the attendees? Riverview Food Services Department would be happy to provide the food and beverages that fit within your budget.

The following is a selection of types of items we offer for delivering in district:

- Boxed meals which include sandwiches, salads, fruit, dessert
- Tray selection of cheese and crackers, fresh vegetables or fresh fruit
- A large variety of snack foods
- Continental breakfast
- Coffee service
- Beverage assortment

Please contact Kaye Wetli at 4560 or wetlik@riverview.wednet.edu to discuss your food and beverage requirements for upcoming events.

Riverview School Board Notes

- Greg Bawden, Lori Oviatt and Danny Edwards are running for re-election in November 2009.
- The Board announced its 2009 Community Service Award recipient: Cascade Community Theatre.
- The Board will hold their annual review of the Strategic Plan next week, reviewing each Objective and Task.
- The District will be holding a Strategic Planning Community Forum on the next 5-year Strategic Plan on March 27, 2010.
- The District will be planning an M & O Levy, Technology Levy, and Transportation Levy for February 9, 2010 election.
- The Board is very pleased to be able to have all staff at the August 27th Welcome Back!



End of Year Clean Up: Staying Safe

by Puget Sound Workers' Compensation Trust

Congratulations! You made it through another school year and now it's time to enjoy the summer break! Soon enough the hallways will be blissfully silent, but while you clean up the remnants of another school year and prepare your building for the summer, be sure to keep in mind some common safety precautions. Since the only break we want you to have is a vacation, remember that using chairs in place of a ladder is a leading cause of injury to school workers. The same holds true for lifting and moving heavy boxes and other materials.

A few simple tips:

- Work with your colleagues whenever possible to manage major tasks such as relocation of classrooms
- Plan the task; take five minutes to think about the best and safest way to do the job; e.g., organize assistance, get the right equipment, clear your path of travel
- Ask for help; there is a big difference between what you can lift and what you can safely lift.
- Always think of your personal safety and assess the risk from what you propose to do
- Remember that school furniture was not designed for you to stand on. Chairs, tables, and bookcases are not ladders.
- Be aware of slippery surfaces, particularly stairs
- Wear appropriate clothing and footwear for the job; e.g., bring spare "work" clothes and suitable footwear for moving or "clean up" days
- Don't over fill waste paper baskets—remember that we expect small baskets to be light to pick up. Placing heavy books or items in these bins increases the risk of injury for the person emptying the bin.

2009 Legislative Session by WASA



The 2009-11 Operating Budget finally passed on April 25, cutting \$1.4 billion from K-12 programs that were funded in the previous biennium. No COLAs were provided (I-732). The other school initiative passed by the people in 2000, I-728 (The Student Achievement Fund) was reduced from \$458 per FTE to \$131 in 2010 and \$99 in 2011. Stimulus dollars were used to backfill state reductions, but precise information about how to use and report these funds was not available from the federal education office, leaving school districts with the difficult job of making their program and staff decisions as best they could given the uncertainty of the budget details provided. Some of the Education-Related Bills of interest that passed are listed below:

- ESHB 1018—Modifying When a Special Election May be Held (The February special election date changes from the first Tuesday of the month to the second Tuesday of the month.)
- SHB 1110—Prohibits Advertising and Marketing to Students Receiving Home-Based Instruction and Their Parents
- HB 1288—Exempting the Annual Parental Declaration of Intent to Home School from the Public Disclosure Act
- HB 1322—Repealing Scoliosis Screening in Schools (The first unfunded mandate to be repealed in years.)
- ESHB 1741—Expanding the List of Crimes that Require Dismissal or Certificate Revocation for School Employees
- EHB 1824—Requiring the Adoption of Policies for the Management of Concussion and Head Injury in Youth Sports
- ESHB 2261—Concerning the State's Education System (Redefines basic education)
- ESSB 5263—Prohibiting Devices in Schools that are Designed to Administer to a Person or an Animal an Electric Shock, Charge, or Impulse
- SB 5580—Concerning School Impact Fees (Increases the time to expend or encumber impact fees from six years to ten years after receipt)
- 2SSB 5675—Providing for Career and Technical Education Opportunities for Middle School Students
- ESSB 5967—Prohibiting Unfair Practices in Public Community Athletics Programs by Prohibiting Discrimination on the Basis of Sex



Payroll Odds and Ends by Cindy Sage

As yet another school year comes to a close, here are a few payroll reminders and items of interest:

- June and July paychecks and direct deposit advice for all school-year only employees and building custodians will be mailed to the mailing address on record.
- If you do NOT want your June and July paychecks mailed, you must notify the payroll office in writing by June 19th of your intent to pick up your paycheck at the district office on pay day.
- You must personally come in to the district office to pick up your paycheck or send a signed note authorizing another individual to pick it up for you.
- Summer paychecks for year-round maintenance and district office employees will be available at the usual location.
- August paychecks will be available as usual at your building on August 31.
- The benefits fair is scheduled for Thursday, August 27th, immediately following the Welcome Back. Plan to check out your benefits options!
- Open enrollment for your health insurance runs from September 1 through October 15. It is not too early to start thinking about whether your current health plan suits the needs of you and your family. If you want to make changes, contact the payroll office for the necessary forms.
- You might want to take a few moments this summer to evaluate your federal withholding status to ensure that your withholding is appropriate to your personal situation. (see the year to date information on your pay stub or direct deposit advice) You can submit a new W-4 at any time throughout the year to change your federal withholding status.
- Have a fabulous summer! See you in the fall . . .