



Superintendent's Update

Shared with the Corvallis School Board October 3, 2016

Student Transportation Update on school buses and First Student

District staff are scheduled to meet with representatives from First Student on Friday. The focus of the meeting will be the sharing of data on current performance and our ongoing needs. The transportation department is in contact First Student multiple times each day regarding daily operations. This continues to require extensive staff time.

Innovation Team

On Thursday, the district innovation team held its first meeting since last school year. The team continued to focus educational design including the following practices and core values: Inclusive, Community, Real-World, Adaptable, and Relationship.

The focus of the meeting was translating the guiding principles. "Moving the principles from what to how." An example was a discussion of what "real world" looks like in the elementary, middle and high school classroom setting. The innovation team will meet two more times before the end of the November. The final task, related to long range facility planning, will be to assess our school environments from the perspective of guiding principle implementation.

Student Mental Health Support

On October 24 a group of community stakeholders (parents, staff, and organizations) will come together to discuss our shared interests related to youth mental health.

It is critical to create a school environment where all students feel known, included, and supported. We also recognize the importance of community connections to create a web of support for youth in Albany, Corvallis, and Philomath.

The meeting will include time for voices from our community, a presentation on youth mental health from Dr. Caroline Fisher, student data presented by the Benton County Health Department, assessment mapping our current services, curriculum and programs in the community, gaps in services and next steps and coordination. While the school district is convening this meeting, it is my hope that the community as a whole will support our next steps and coordination.

District Website Update

A new, and much improved, Corvallis School District website will go live over the weekend. The URL will remain the same, www.csd509j.net. Staff have worked diligently since last winter to plan, design, and build a new site that is modern and user friendly. This redesign project was coordinated by our Communications Coordinator, Brenda Downum and the design work was completed by Josh Armentano. Josh also teaches at Crescent Valley High School. We are pleased that this work was created in-house and is part of a multi-step plan to enhance school communications. Once the new site is successfully launched, this team will focus on a standardized design for school websites.

Community

As many of you may be aware, the City of Corvallis has been working with a consultant on the Imagine Corvallis Vision 2040 process. The Imagine Corvallis 2040 Steering Committee has met monthly since January 2016. The committee is comprised of 17 community members and three members of the city council. Our district has had representation on the steering committee by our district Communications Coordinator, Brenda Downum.

The first phase of this process involved setting the foundation for the project and inviting public participation. Activities included individual interviews, small group discussions, informational presentations and an opt-in email update list.

The second phase included several community forums, volunteer outreach training sessions, a city of Corvallis staff vision workshop, and the early draft vision statement for each of six focus areas. Information was obtained in the community forums and refined through a series of web based surveys. The vision statements are intended as high level themes that represent the values of our community. The focus areas are as follows:

Innovate and Prosper	Engage and Support	Learn and Thrive
Steward and Sustain	Create and Celebrate	Plan and Change

The current and final phase includes the development of indicators and metrics that are tied to the vision statements in the six focus areas. The steering committee will have its final meeting this month to finalize the recommendation of vision statements to the City Council. The committee will also discuss how community organizations might be engaged to align their own strategic priorities and actions with this vision document.

From the outset, this process was envisioned to provide some guidance to the City to prioritize resources. It also has included a broad reach into all aspects of the community to show the interconnectedness of multiple organizations in our community. We believe that information gleaned from this work will provide additional community perspective for us as we continue to explore the future of learning in Corvallis and the long range facilities planning process. District Involvement in the City of Corvallis 2040 Plan is on the agenda for this meeting. While the school district has not been asked to commit to any specific actions related to this process, Brenda will be available to answer questions tonight.

Student Art Spotlight

Tonight we have student artwork on display from 6 schools including Adams, Mountain View, Franklin, Linus Pauling, Cheldelin, and Crescent Valley. One of the reasons that I am so excited about seeing student artwork in this meeting space is that it serves as a reminder that art builds community. It reaches across cultural, socio-economic, and generational barriers. Art has the ability to create a sense of belonging for all students. Thank you to our art educators for sharing this student work with us!

Presented by Ryan Noss, Superintendent