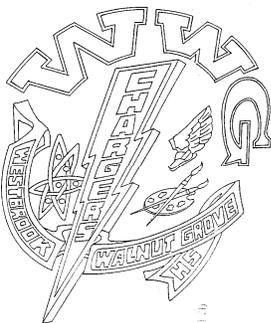


Westbrook Walnut Grove School 2898



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April 14, 2013

Good evening all WWG Employees and School Board,

I wanted to take a few minutes of your time to take a look ahead to next year and put some closure on our budget discussions as we head into the home stretch of this school year. I want to thank all of you for your great conversations and your openness to new ideas as we chart a future for the district. I hope that most of you can attend a planning session when we get it scheduled for some time during the 4th week of May. As I stated in a recent article, we are facing exciting times with an uptick in our Kindergarten enrollment as well as many young families returning the area. With that in mind, our reductions can be made in a slower, more methodical manner utilizing natural transitions. Updates include:

- We welcome the lovely Adrienne Kletscher to replace our lovely Beth Kleven in Secondary Language Arts. She lives in Walnut Grove and her handsome spouse Adam teaches in Walnut Grove and coaches FB and GBB. Adrienne also will be involved in our theater programs.
- We welcome the lovely Shannon Helgeson back to teach in the Social Science Department. Shannon will also get back into her involvement in the BOLT program and extra curriculums.
- We give many thanks and sadly say goodbye to our lovely Hannah Holt and our lovely Jennifer Stevenson. They have served us and our children well and we wish them nothing but the best in their future endeavors.
- We will share the lovely Mona Ourada with the Wabasso School district next year. She will serve full days in each district and will develop a schedule that will work best for her and the districts.
- We will say goodbye to the lovely Marcia Erickson and the lovely Deb Berg as they retire from many years of great service to our elementary school. We will juggle our sections and not replace the positions.
- We made a statement to prioritize small K-3 sections and to leave our secondary electives alone. On the other hand we did reduce a social science position. We will need to shift our credit recovery classes to other instructors and make it work as best as possible. This leaves our core classes of math with 2.0, Social Science with 2.0, Science with about 2.5, and Language Arts with about 2.75.
- We have said goodbye to the handsome Jeff Harnack and wish him well as he moves on to other adventures in the area. We will look at how to best replace the position to complement our handsome Dale and the building's needs. We might be able to save a little money in this area.
- We will reduce our K-12 music program from 2.75 instructors to 2.5 instructors for next school year. We will look at schedules and do some shifting of handsome Tom, lovely Brenda, and lovely Connie duties.

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- We are always looking at different administrative structuring and at this point, it will look much the same for next year. As Superintendent, I have served at 4 different systems other than WWG in the past 6 years. I am flexible and I will see what adventure may lie ahead if I recommend other changes in Tracy.
- We will spend about the same on capital outlay as we have in the past few years. They are large amounts and we will focus our summer projects on the following major projects along with the normal yearly purchases:
 - A facelift for the main building's restrooms in Westbrook by the gym and the NW corner of the building.
 - Continued work on the bathrooms in WG by the gymnasium.
 - We will continue our purchases with technology. Besides the usual staff and lab computer purchases, we will purchase 40 additional IPADs and for next year. This will put our elementary at 10 IPADS for every grade level and 10 IPADS for our elementary sped department. At the secondary level we will keep one main computer lab next to the library and replace the other two labs with mobile labs. We will purchase 23-25 additional laptops and 2 additional carts to have 1 mobile lab at the tech campus and 3 mobile labs in the main campus.
 - We will not have any classrooms on the Westbrook second floor next year and I will look for options for that space in the next few years.
 - We will purchase a new walk in cooler / walk in freezer combo for the Walnut Grove building and move the new 2 door freezer to Westbrook. We should find out this week if a grant covers part of the costs.
 - We will install a new sound system in the Westbrook gymnasium with ½ of the funds coming from donations. It will be somewhat like the system we put in WG 10 years ago.
 - We will move the fitness center in WG to a more friendly area of the school to the SW portion of the building. We will divide the building from the classroom portions and have 6 different rooms / offices available for the public. ½ of the money for this move will also come from donations.

These updates are the Lion's share of what will be changing in the next few months. We will make up our snow days at the end of the year and the administration will keep you posted on the schedules. Thanks again for the great communication and the good attitudes as we go through the many changes. In the next few years we will be looking at going to the voters again and will explore a larger operating levy as well as a possible capital facility levy. The future is bright so spread the word!

Thanks,
Loy