

Charger Notes July 27, 2016

Greetings from WWG Schools,

I am honored to give everyone school updates as I begin my 16<sup>th</sup> year in the district. Let's call it the **WWG 2016 State of the School Address**. I am a very lucky man to be a part of a church family, a school family and 4 great communities! My family has spent a majority of their lives here and Sheryl and I have spent nearly 2/3 of our 24 years of marriage here. Employees of this district stick around and also call it home. I have never been around 4 communities that more welcoming than Dovray, Revere, Walnut Grove and Westbrook. In these crazy times, **our district** offers students and the communities the last hope at "the good old days", at values, and what we want the world to be.

- July 1<sup>st</sup> I began yet another "administrative career" while based in WWG since 2001. This 6<sup>th</sup> change will keep me in WWG full time as your Superintendent and 7-12 Principal. I will be in Westbrook 90% of the time during the school day with the other 10% sneaking up to WG to see our amazing elementary staff being led by Paul Olson as he enters his 14<sup>th</sup> year. Paul gives all these kids another stable father figure. He knows them and they know him and what he expects.
- It took years of following in Steve Kjorness footsteps and now I am looking at digging out my 6 layers of socks to fill Bill Richards shoes. He is a man of many talents that lended itself well to our school. Bill is a great sport and I know that he will continue to assist with theater, mentor young directors and be a part of the Walnut Grove and WWG theater legacy. I think Bill started around 1978 so doesn't 50 years in theater have a nice ring to it?
- School board filing begins August 2<sup>nd</sup>. I think we are looking at only 1 of our current 4 openings refiling. I/we need good people that love this school. We need people that are ok with 1 meeting a month for a couple hours. We need people that **don't have** to worry about coming on during a crisis or dealing with staffing or facility disasters. Please consider stepping up to the plate to continue the legacy!

Here are 5 things we need to know and need to share about WWG as we head into the 2016 – 2017 school year:

1. This will be the 27<sup>th</sup> year that we will be the "Chargers". Those first graduates are in their early to mid 40's now. I am happy to see that we have Wildcat and Logger History Centers and that our alumni are able to have a place to reminisce. Our Charger History Center is now being housed in the Westbrook Lunchroom and we are always looking for unique items from the last 27 years. I have some neat ideas for the lunchroom to make it a more comfortable atmosphere that students want to be in throughout the day.

2. Our enrollment is steady to down a few. We are somewhere in the 385 student range K-12. Our rural areas have bounced back in the last few years with a few of our young people moving home and that is crucial to our success. Our K-3<sup>rd</sup> grades will number in the 30's for each class. We take a dip with classes of 20's in grades 4-7. 8<sup>th</sup> grade will be in the 30's, 9<sup>th</sup> in the 20's and 10-12<sup>th</sup> grades in the mid 30's. Each child equates to nearly \$10,000 of Federal, State and local funding. Therefore as you can see we have to keep our staffing somewhat level through the dip of the 20's because classes in the 30's are coming again.
3. I will do everything possible to ensure that our students have all the arts, academics and career tech opportunities that we all grew up with. We have a full menu of staff and are very lucky to have the quality of teachers that are at a premium across the nation.
4. I feel that in the fall of 2017 we will look at revoking our new passed referendum and replace it with an amount similar to our neighboring districts. We treasure our full menu of offerings and we also treasure our facilities. Our employees get paid a fair wage but surely are not overpaid when we compare to many other professional careers. Without going into detail, we simply do not have the option that other districts have in closing a building. There will always be schools in Walnut Grove and Westbrook. I will continue to explore options of utilizing our buildings and leasing space whenever practical.
5. We have a thriving Education Foundation for all of Westbrook and Walnut Grove and have received some great donations over the years. Please check out the website and if you have facebook, please get connected to it. PLEASE get a school calendar and please get involved in YOUR local school. If you have "fallen away" or are new to town, make the time to attend 2 events and see first-hand why I am so proud of our kids and employees. We are not a sports powerhouse but we know how to win, we are good sports and we are fun to watch! Our other activities are fun to watch as well. Nobody better in FFA and theater than our Chargers! Our music concerts are fun to watch and will continue to shine. You don't have to have kids in this district to get out and take in the entertainment!

If you have questions or comments about our district please contact me at [lwoelber@mntm.org](mailto:lwoelber@mntm.org) or call me anytime at 507-828-6608. I am here to serve you and look forward to a great year!