

The notes below were written by the chair of the WLCSC Board of Trustees, Rachel Witt, and sent to the members of the WLCSC board of trustees, the Superintendent, and CFO of schools, date as noted. They were written as documents to aid collaboration and contain both informative and deliberative items. They are informal communication, written with the sole purpose of information to board members to facilitate individual members' ability to execute the task each were elected to do. They were not written for any form of publication.

Writing of these weekly notes and distribution to the board is voluntary and can be stopped at any time. A school board may decline to distribute information that is deliberative. Deliberative is defined, in part, as expressions of opinion or thoughts that are of a speculative nature, and that are communicated for the purpose of decision making. Nearly all language in these notes exactly fit that description.

The Board Chair, in consultation with corporation and board leadership, is releasing these documents, only minimally redacted, as part of our ongoing work for transparency. Names/pronouns are redacted to ensure a first-person voice. Other redacted language could include: Legally protected information, ie. personnel or student names or reference, deliberative information where release of the information could potentially cause harm to a person or group of persons, or inhibit the ability of the board to conduct the business of the board.

Redacted Text is noted by <Redacted Text>

Even on summer break, students are our focus. Thank you! As always, these notes are confidential. If you have any item you are interested in more conversation about, please let me know. I will set up a time with you. You are also always welcome to add comments to these notes if you have additional resources that would benefit the board. Rachel

Board/Development - Training

- (Reminder) ISBA Prospective Member Training, July 11, 6-8pm. Distribution to schools and community is now complete. I will be present as "host" to welcome community members, but board members are not expected to attend.
- (Reminder) Summer Board/Administrative retreat August 3, 5-9 pm.
- ISBA put out notes from the State Board of Ed June meeting, you should have received those in your Wednesday email. Concepts are starting to surface for the next legislative session; <Redacted Text>

Meetings of the Board

- June 6 Regular meeting. Thank you all again for supporting the honoring of our retirees within the meeting.
- I anticipate there will be an executive session scheduled for the WLES principal search with a fairly quick turnaround at the end of June/beginning of July. Please watch for that from <Redacted Text>

Community/Patron Feedback

- Followed up with patron comment at the board meeting with superintendent <Redacted Text> who was working with building administrators to better understand this patron's concerns. Here is an excerpt of context provided <Redacted Text>

The 3 RDP principles are: Responsible, Determined, Present. The RDP Principles idea was not originated by any administrator, but, as with all truly effective school improvement planning, has been 100% driven by the professionals who work most closely with students. The teachers proposed and developed it as a faculty in their self-initiated professional development this spring. Refinement continues this summer with staff members on the Professional

Development Steering Committee volunteering their time to help their colleagues prepare for August. Examples cited by the patron were taken from a list of 30-40 bullet points/examples which came from the brainstorming of teachers and the committee members in their spring meetings. It is not clear how this patron became aware of the bullet points as we have not shared that outside our staff, but that doesn't particularly matter. The list is intended as possible talking points that individual teachers may or may not wish to use, in their own fashion in class discussions, to help illustrate for students what R-D-P might mean for each of them and for that particular class. Each teacher will determine, first, if they even want to adopt R-D-P in their classroom. It will be like many other aspects of the school business where we entrust the teacher's professional judgment on how that discussion ensues. We have great respect and faith in our staff; they are in the best position to know the most effective ways to work with kids in sensitive ways while respecting the diverse strengths and challenges of individual students. This is what we are doing here. Effective school leadership means that the Principal does not dictate or uses their authority to micromanage how teachers teach. It is an easy oversimplification that non-educators can make in jumping to an assumption that top-down leadership is how effective schools operate. But anyone who's been fortunate enough to work in this business in a successful school as I have been knows that this is far from the truth. From my seat, I'm especially proud of this staff for taking the reins of leadership by recognizing the disaster that COVID has caused in the learning process and saying enough of this, let's try something different with a concept to help with a re-start for a new school year. This is really what the R-D-P principles are all about and as the school leader I support it and am excited to see how this unfolds when we return for the new year.

- Followed up with a patron potentially interested in running for the board with information regarding the ISBA event.

Student Success & Safety

- There have been numerous studies conducted that draw a clear connection between effective school board behaviors and student success. I know many of us have already had the opportunity to familiarize ourselves with this research through the NSBA conference and other ISBA resources. As we continue the (never ending!) job of evaluating and adjusting our work as a board in cooperation with a new superintendent and central office staff, I thought it might be helpful for us to refresh our understanding of that research and coalesce our thoughts around common themes. These are links to the first two of a four part article series through the ISBA.

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General Business

- SBOA Exit Conference. Reviewed response communication. Our central office staff continue to represent our schools well.
- Interviews set and reference checks underway for Legal RFP. Members *<Redacted Text>* We are working through the process. I still anticipate this recommendation will come to the August meeting.
- WLES, Principal Search. Thank you to members who have nominated potential search committee participants and/or questions.
- Working with member *<Redacted Text>* to set up a preliminary planning meeting of the Communications Committee. It is our objective to develop a framework for conversation on a communications plan.
- (Reminder specific members) Scheduled a training meeting 6/24 for members *<Redacted Text>* regarding background of negotiations process.
- (Reminder officers only) Fiscal Review with *<Redacted Text>* . Board officers will attend and then information will be shared with board.