

News release



Everett Public Schools

Dec. 6, 2010

For more information:

Mary Waggoner, 425-385-4049

School board to hear recommendations of district management review

Team leader calls district review the largest and “most extensive” in his experience

In October, a team of 22 from the Washington Association of School Administrators (WASA), Washington State School Directors' Association (WSSDA), several school districts, educational service districts, and an insurance underwriter spent two days in Everett Public Schools and offices. They interviewed between 250 and 300 parents, members of the community, and staff members, conducting a [“Management Review.”](#)

WASA Management Reviews are conducted in various districts throughout the state – especially in a district with a recently hired superintendent. Dr. Gary Cohn has been superintendent since July 2009 and requested the review in part because of the district's soon-to-be-completed strategic planning work and because the Fiscal Advisory Council soon will be making budget recommendations for the next school year. “Having solid, baseline information about what we do well and what we can improve will be extremely helpful as the board approves long-range strategic plans and prepares for what everyone knows will continue to be challenging financial conditions,” Cohn explained. “Even though I've found Everett to be a very, very strong district, I believe we can learn from this independent, outside review by experienced professionals who can suggest ways we might improve our district.”

Cohn noted that this review is unusual for three reasons – the larger-than-normal review panel team which came to Everett, the combination of both WASA and WSSDA representatives on the review team, and the inclusion of risk management professionals from the insurance industry responsible for evaluating the district's special education program risks.

Dr. Mike Boring led the WASA review team and will present the Management Review report to the school board and superintendent on Tuesday, Dec. 7, at a board work study session following the regular school board meeting. Boring explains, “The report includes both perceptual and factual information – what people told us they felt and believed as well as reports from documents, programs and activities that we read, visited and/or watched. We have both commendations and recommendations for the district. Our recommendations are not mandates; they are items for the district to consider. We found this district to be very well managed and with a clear, deliberate focus on student learning.

“Our team's 500 years of combined experience in education brought expertise and practical insight to this process. This is the largest team WASA has ever brought together. Our report of interviews, examination of records and reports and observations represent a thorough and broad review of how this community's schools operate and how they focus on the success of each child.”

---more---

Superintendent Cohn stated that he and his leadership team are looking forward to what they can learn from the report, “and how it might guide the strategic planning work in process now. We invested a lot of valuable time preparing materials for the review, providing access to documents, school staff, parents, and community members, and ensuring the WASA/WSSDA team had correct facts about the district,” Cohn explained. “We are also very interested and eager to begin work with the final report and the team’s suggestions. This review involved hundreds of hours of interviews, document reviews, and analysis. We must now devote sufficient time to thoughtfully consider both the recommendations and the observations before drawing premature conclusions about next steps.”

The [65-page Management Review report](#) is available on the district website for review or to download as a PDF.

---end---