

STATE OF THE DISTRICT

2014 – 2015

Cottonwood
DREAM IT.

LIVE IT. LOVE IT.
Union School District

David Alexander, Ed.D.

Superintendent

Superintendent's State of the District Message

The Cottonwood Union School District has a rich and treasured history in the community of quality schools with honored core values. CUSD offers a quality educational program and is currently developing new plans to make our schools even stronger. We are excited to begin this journey together. Our community strategic planning provided a solid framework for the 2014-15 school year work. Goals were developed for the 2014-15 school year in four major areas:

- Increase Reading Proficiency
- Provide Safe Environment
- Increase Effective Communication/Connectedness
- Fully Implement State Standards

2015-16 LCAP Update: This year as we updated our Local Control Accountability Plan (LCAP), we actively sought input from various stakeholder groups throughout the 2014-15 school year, including board members, teachers, parents, E.L. Advisory group, Site Councils, Parent Advisory, District Leadership (superintendent, teachers, classified employees, confidential employees, management, and heads of departments), Foster Parent Advisory group, Student Advisory groups, teacher association, Shasta County Office of Education, and community members to create the 2015-16 LCAP. We actively seek to engage all stakeholders in the LCAP process and are guided by the vision and direction of creating a more collaborative culture for the benefit of all students. This year, one of the primary foci throughout the process has been to seek consultation from stakeholder groups in preparing the LCAP annual update. Specifically, we sought out strengths of our district and areas of improvement. In addition, our goal was to establish baseline data, with an emphasis on building academic measures, to utilize for future analysis. Taking a step back from the initial LCAP process to look for reoccurring themes throughout the process proved to be valuable. This process reconfirmed the specific areas of improvement for our school district. The outcome slightly shifted the goals in words only and focused on the themes that evolved. These themes are:

- Increase Academic Proficiency and Support Learning,
- Increase Effective Communication/Connectedness and Promote a Positive Culture/Climate
 - Provide a Safe Environment (facilities)

The engagement process has shaped the LCAP by assisting our district focus goals and services to best meet the needs of all students. I appreciate the support of our dedicated Board of Trustees, administrative team, teachers, classified staff, parents, community members and students. As a team we will continue to work together to build a new future for our students and our district.

The following document provides specific accomplishments in each area of the four 2014-15 goals as well as a summary of other accomplishments for the Cottonwood Union School District.

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Increase Reading Proficiency

All students will achieve grade level reading proficiency by third grade and maintain grade level proficiency throughout their school career. (K-8)

North Cottonwood Accomplishment's and Celebrations

- Established State Adequate Instructional Minutes as prescribed: 120/150 minutes K-3/4-5 for ELA and 60 minutes for math K-5 five days a week.
- Established an additional preschool in partnership with YMCA
- Continued recognizing the AR Million Word Club
 - Students that reach 1 million AR words are rewarded by having their name announced on the all call system, having their name put on the marquee and receiving a \$10 Barnes & Noble gift card which is provided by the parent club. There were 16 third and fourth graders that reached this goal. There were 6 students this year that reached 2 million AR words read.
- Established reading incentive for 1st grade creating 100,000 AR Word Club
 - We introduced this goal in the spring and 16 first graders reached 100,000 words or more by the end of the school year. For reaching this goal the students were treated to a pizza and ice cream party.
- Established reading incentive for 2nd grade creating 250,000 AR Word Club
 - We introduced this goal in the spring and 16 first graders reached 100,000 words or more by the end of the school year. For reaching this goal the students were treated to a pizza and ice cream party.
- This year the students of North Cottonwood School read 115, 428,266 AR words.
- Established an assessment matrix and implemented end of the year trimester assessments for grades 1st – 4th for STAR and Dibels.
- Established Book Fair at Open House
 - Jackie Shelp with the help of Cammi Crandall put on a book fair from Scholastic the week of Open House. The book fair generated over \$3,000 in cash and books for the library.
- Implemented new ELA and math curriculum
 - Treasures for English Language Arts and Math Expressions for mathematics in all grades K – 4.
- Training for new curriculum
 - Teachers received training from the publisher for both ELA (Treasures) and Math Expressions.
- All students in grades 1st – 4th were assessed at the beginning of the school year using Dibels.
- Introduced new computer tablets

West Cottonwood Junior High School Accomplishment's and Celebrations

- Working toward established state Adequate Instructional minutes for ELA and Math
- Continued recognition of AR Million Word Club (5-8)
- This year West students earned a total of 35,749.9 AR points and a total of 256,184,634 words

- 6th grade student broke the standing school record of AR points by reading over 9,000,000 words and total of 1,326.1 AR points.
- Encouraged 5th through 8th grade students to attend Book Fair at North Cottonwood School
- Implemented new ELA and math curriculum
 - Treasures (5th grade) for ELA / Go Math (5th and 6th grade)
- Training for new curriculum
 - Teachers Treasures (5th grade) for ELA and Go Math (5th and 6th grade)
- Established an assessment matrix and tested 5th, 7th and 8th grade students at the end of the school year.
- Continue advisory period, academic support, for students

District-wide Accomplishment's and Celebrations

- Developed a model for collaboration and professional learning communities.
- Established a model for continuous school improvement
- Provided curriculum, instruction and assessment direction, support and resources
- Implemented adequate instructional minutes
- Provided a data-driven district-wide plan to deliver intervention and enrichment services for all students
- Reviewed, evaluated and refined intervention services and special education processes and practices including referral and support through a Response to Intervention Model (academic and behavior) for all students.
- Created an assessment matrix (with benchmarks) and establish assessment baselines
- Provided professional development to support district goals.
- Explored plans to offer extra-curriculum activities.
- Provided a summer school learning experience through a collaborative venture with the YMCA

Provide a Safe Environment

Students will be provided clean, safe, & maintained learning environments Safe Environment (facilities)

North Cottonwood Accomplishment's and Celebrations

- Installed new fencing on eastside of campus
- Replaced light switches in all student bathrooms
 - Regular light switches were installed in all student bathrooms when the school was built. To keep students safe and comfortable in the bathroom so other students could not turn the lights off on them, alternate switches were installed.
- Installed new swings set as a result of a Healthy Shasta grant written by Mr. Ray. principal

West Cottonwood Junior High School Accomplishment's and Celebrations

- Resurfaced and repainted gym floor
- Installed 4 new swamp coolers in the gym
- Installed new signage throughout campus
- Installed new digital marque in front of campus
- Updated planters and foliage throughout campus
- Resurfaced and restriped parking lot in the upper and lower parking lot and playground area
- Rebuilt pool boiler
- Implemented "School Info App" to assist in communications with staff and parents in the event of emergencies.

District-wide Accomplishment's and Celebrations

- Reestablishing School Site Safety Plans through active site councils at each site. Provided training and support.
- Created a sustainable long range facilities and maintenance plan.
- Established a local measure to collect data on safety and school learning environment.

Increase Effective Communication /Connectedness

Parent, family and community stakeholders will become more fully engages as partners in the education of our students.

North Cottonwood Accomplishment's and Celebrations

- Established site leadership team
- Increased collaborate on opportunities at North to 4 times a month
 - The site leadership team met after school on the first Wednesday on the month. The second and fourth Wednesdays were for grade level collaboration and the third Wednesday for the monthly staff meeting.
- Parent Volunteers
- Held Movement-a-thon at North
- Cowboy Up Assembly
- Wild Things Assembly
- Cottonwood Pharmacy Backpack Food Program
- Canned Food Drive
- Student-driven Food Drive
 - Instead of presents on his birthday, third grade student, sponsors a canned food drive. The class with the most food donated gets a pizza party paid for by Alonzo's parents.
- Parent club donations
 - Barnes & Noble gift cards for Million Word Club

- Elegant Bean gift cards for those who volunteered to work a station at Math Night
- KinderMusic for grades K-2 paid by Parent club
- Plays/Performances
 - Christmas – Kizer, Booth, Kostelec, McNeely, Bailey, Barber and Boyle
 - Spring – Kizer, Booth, Kostelec, McNeely, Bailey and Boyle
- Principal for the Day
 - Kyle Haas, Anderson Cross Fit
- Movie Ticket fund raiser
- Six Flags Read to Succeed
- Raising a Reader
 - Implemented in our kindergarten classes through a grant from the Masons and First 5 Shasta
- Release time
- Running Club
- Fourth grade student was a Punt, Pass and Kick Regional Champion
- Basketball Camp for 3rd through 6th graders ran by the principal and a parent
- UC Nutrition Program...Food tasting, classroom activities and Nutrition Olympics
- Coyote Pack
 - Fourth grade leadership program
- Mr. Ray and Coyote Pack were Guest Readers at the Anderson Library
- Eleven Perfect Attendance students at this year
 - Each student received a draw string bag, certificate, certificate for a free milk shake, three pencils and a perfect attendance dog tag
- Field Trips
 - West Valley HS Pumpkin Patch, Adventure Creation, KinderPals, Haas Pumpkin Patch, Lean & Green Day, Cascade Christmas, Turtle Bay Exploration Park, Coleman Fish Hatchery, Shasta Caverns, Shasta Dam, REU, Carter House and Gold Panning, Whiskeytown Falls Hike, Gaumers, Gas Point Store
- Ice Cream Social
- Rodeo BBQ
- Mother's Day Spa
- Monday Morning Flag
- Veteran's Day Assembly
 - North Cottonwood School puts on an amazing assembly highlighted by our Veteran's Walk to the cafeteria.
- Dr. Seuss Day
- Class t-shirts in Kindergarten and First Grade
- Mrs. Spoto's 4th Grade Class published two of their own books
- Kindergarten Graduation
- STAR Parties
 - DJ Dance, Enterprise Starship, Movies, Bowling, Peter Pan, Swimming, Extra Recess, Ice Cream
- Special Kids Rodeo
- SDC Christmas at Redding Elks Lodge
- Living History in Kindergarten
- Nine Perfect attendance for year at North

- Attended Plays i.e. Peter Pan, Turtle Bay Exploration Park, Carter House Museum, Shasta

West Cottonwood Junior High School Accomplishment's and Celebrations

- Established site leadership team
- Site leadership meetings once per month
- Teacher Collaboration twice per month
- Staff Meeting four times per month
- Implementation of the School Info App
 - CWUSD started using the School Info App that will send push notifications directly to parents and staff cellular devices for any upcoming events and or emergency situations.
- Father/Daughter Dance (K-8)
- Turkey Trot – Thanksgiving School wide running event
- Student of the Month Assembly
 - Nine times per school year each teacher recognizes a student and they are surprised at a school wide assembly where they are presented with a certificate. They are also invited and acknowledged at our monthly CWUSD Board Meetings and are presented with a gift certificate.
- 100 Mile Club – fall through spring school wide walking/jogging activity
- Cowboy Up (Anti-bullying) Assembly
- Canned Food Drive
- Parent Club Donations
 - The Parent Club donates Barnes and Noble gift cards for all 1 million word club students and \$100 teacher grants
- Christmas Out Reach
 - Twenty in need West Cottonwood students were given Christmas gifts with the help of the Anderson Christian Church
- Principal for a Day – Karli Janc from The Elegant Bean
- Electives Offerings: cartooning, French, newspaper, cooking, reading for pleasure, public speaking, art, assembly entertainment, sign language, science Olympiad, Creativity and Spanish Vocabulary
- Athletics
 - Cheer, Soccer, Volleyball, Cross-Country, Basketball, Baseball, Softball and Track
 - West has two 8th grade students (Natalie Rogers and Payton Fuller) who will be attending the Jr. Olympics in Florida for Shot Put, both students broke the standing school records
- Red Ribbon Week
- Math Night at North Cottonwood School (5th grade)
- Chieftain Crew
 - A team of 8th graders who serve as a leadership team on campus
- Perfect Attendance award consisted of three 8th grade students
- Field Trips
 - Cascade Theatre three times per year (5th grade), WVHS Ag. Day (8th grade), Sierra Logging (5th grade), Seussical Musical (6th through 8th grade), Water Works Park (6th

- grade), Sun Splash Water Park (7th/8th grade), Oakland A's Baseball game (8th grade), Six Flags (8th grade), Sacramento Kings Basketball game (8th grade basketball team), WVHS Freshman Invasion Day (8th grade), Crescent City (8th grade boys basketball team), Eureka (8th grade girls basketball team)
- Veteran's Day Lunch and walk of fame down the main hallway
- Renaissance Program - Academic/Behavior Reward Incentive
 - 4 field trips per year (Big League Dreams, Movies, Bowling and Roller Skating)
- Day on the Green
 - 5th through 8th grade enjoys a day on the school grounds with water play, music, bounce houses, snow cones and a dunk tank
- Implementation of Pizza with the Principal / Caught Ya' Being Good
 - 10 students per month are pulled out of all the Caught Ya' Being Good recipients are treated to pizza with the Principal
- School wide Talent Show
- 8th Grade Day Time Academic Awards ceremony
- State Float Presentation Parade (5th grade)
- Hosted 4th grade invasion day for incoming 5th graders
- Special Education Christmas Program at the Elks Lodge in Redding
- Special Education Olympics at Red Bluff High School
- Dances
 - Four times per year the 7th and 8th grade students are able to attend a dance with a DJ and snacks.
- 8th Grade Graduation ceremony
- Attended Capturing Kids Heart conference with 7 teacher s and principal
- Crowley Gulch Project
- PE Grant: Carri Longnecker received Healthy Shasta Healthy Students Initiative grants. Mrs. Longnecker's project includes the purchase and utilization of Tchouckball in Physical and after school program programs for amount of \$1,300.

Fully Implement State Standards

District-wide Accomplishment's and Celebrations

- Purchased new curriculum for math district wide and provided 2 days of training from the publisher.
- Provided 2 days of ELA (Treasures) curriculum training.
- Shasta County Office of Education (SCOE) provided three trainings on Effective School Research, School Site Council Training and support to build our school site safety plans

Other

- Developed a district strategic plan and processes (including revision of Local Accountability Plan (LCAP) based on effective school research and Essential Program Components to ensure school system supports all students' learning.
- Reviewed, evaluated and refined processes and protocols that support organizational goals.
- Established and built leadership teams. Establish regularly scheduled meetings with agendas that support district goals. Teams include cabinet level, district leadership team, principal level, Intervention Services/Special Education, and committees to support district goals
- Built capacity in leadership (common language and best practices)
- Provided professional development in leadership through book studies, training, conferences, workshops, and benchmarked proven models.
- Reestablished the process to create Single Plans for Student Achievement (SPSA) through active site councils at each site. Provided training and support.
- Reviewed, evaluated and refined Human Resources practices including the hiring and retention of highly quality employees.
- Provided retirement incentive, the Golden Handshake for five retirees
- Mr. Don Ray, Principal at North completed the ACSA Superintendent's Academy
- Ensured fiscal stability and stewardship to support student achievement and long term stability.