Linn Benton Lincoln Education Service District · 905 4th Avenue SE · Albany, Oregon 97321-3199 · Phone: 541-812-2600 · Fax: 541-926-6047 · www.lblesd.k12.or.us

MEMO

DATE: April 20, 2012
TO: Oregon Education Investment Board (OEIB)
FROM: Valley Coast Superintendents Association (VCSA)
(Representing Eleven of the twelve Component Districts of LBL ESD)
RE: Achievement Compacts

The member Superintendents of the VCSA met on April 17th to discuss a regional approach to completing our achievement compacts. In the discussion it was requested that we provide some feedback to OEIB regarding the challenges we are facing in setting performance targets. Members expressed their support for Achievement Compacts with the OEIB and value the effort of the state to reach the goal of 40-40-20.

Setting realistic performance targets will be important to maintain the public trust within our communities and demonstrate that an adequate investment in the education must occur for us to attain those targets. Here are some of the challenges we currently face that will impact each district's ability to make progress on each performance target:

- New assessment standards in reading this year and writing next year for students to graduate.
- Requiring students have three years of math at Algebra or above to graduate in 2014.
- Fewer testing opportunities for all students.
- New assessments at a higher standard coming with the implementation of the Common Core.
- Higher cut scores on State assessments.
- Fewer activities and electives available that help keep students in schools.
- More furlough days.
- Larger class sizes.
- Increased numbers of special needs students.
- Continuous uncertainty in funding levels.
- Annual negotiations for employment contracts taking large amounts of time.
- Reduction in Federal funds and loss of stimulus dollars.
- Lack of resources to support education such as:
    - Textbooks
    - Technology
    - Programs like Response to Intervention
    - Professional Development for Staff
- Multiple years of unfunded mandates.
- PERS and health insurance cost increases.
- Loss of support staff due to reduction in force.

Given these very real challenges, and to be realistic as we set performance targets that are attainable, LBL districts would prefer to utilize updated data in fall of 2012 to revise and create more realistic action plans for implementation. The LBL region, with the exception of Alsea School District, has agreed to set performance targets at current levels and revisit them in the fall.

Susan Waddell Superintendent | Frank Bricker Board Member | David Dowrie Board Member | David Dunsdon Board Member | Janet E. Doerfler Board Member | Myirea Estell Board Member | Paul O'Driscoll Board Member | Jean Wooten Board Member