

President Jan Woldseth called the special meeting of the Issaquah School Board for the purpose of a work study session to order at 5:45 p.m. on Wednesday, September 3, 2008 in the Board Room of the Administration Service Center. With President Woldseth were directors Connie Fletcher, Suzanne Weaver and Superintendent Steve Rasmussen. Mr. Deagle arrived at 5:58 p.m. and Mr. Winkler arrived at 6:35 p.m.

Administrators in attendance: Milton Ellis, Patrick Murphy, Ron Thiele, Colleen Dixon, Lynn Brogan, Marilyn Holm, Jake Kuper, Jodi Bongard, and Sara Niegowski.

This work study centered around the administration can best provide monitoring reports to the Board on Ends statements. This discussion focused on monitoring in general, but used E-4 Technology as the specific example.

Points made included:

- Ends monitoring reports will include statistics enriched by related antidotal “stories.”
- All agreed that dialog, Board/administrative conversation, is important to fully understanding what the evidence really means.
- It is important to hear not only where education is working well, but where it becomes clear that improvements need to be made—this not only adds credibility to the report, but provides clarity on where resources (people and dollars) should be applied.
- Monitoring reports are intended to be helpful to both administration and Board.
- Evidence should be readily available—not create a need for hours of additional work to generate (surveys, counts, etc.).
- Passing the required technology class (or passing the proficiency test) is evidence that students are getting the instruction, but that can’t stand alone as evidence that students are using/apply it well.
- Student skills requirements will change as technology changes. Also, as students move through the system, the proficiencies expected need to change; i.e., skills expected at the 6th grade level in 2008 will be different in 2010. Skill requirements should “keep pace” with advances in technology.
- In the area of technology, the District will continue to make options available to students/parents who do not have at-home access to computer/internet (hard copies, telephone). Also in this area, within legal parameters, surplus computers are made available to the public; parents/students are notified of sales, after-school access is made available, in areas where appropriate central (such as a community room) computer access will be encouraged.
- The board’s role is “visionary” and the administration needs to provide assurance that the systems are in place to increase and improve student achievement as well as provide evidence that the results are, indeed, hitting the target.
- As Ends are monitored year after year, trends will emerge and be viable evidence.
- The administration will proceed to develop a monitoring report for E-4 Technology for presentation to the Board in October.
- The Board wants to see opportunities available to students, and how many students take advantage of them.
- Not everything of value can be measured; and not everything that can be measured is valid monitoring evidence, but we must look for measurable value.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:40 p.m.

These minutes were approved as presented at the September 11, 2008 regular board meeting.