

December 7, 2015

As I read previous blogs I notice that I am always making reference to how quick time has flown by. I think that from here on out I should just accept that in our profession time will always zoom on by. After all, our profession is immersed with phrases that imply a fast pace: Bell to Bell, Quick Read, Accelerated Reader, Advanced Track, and transition – just to name a few. Thankfully, the fast pace in our profession is also tempered by incredible student activities such as [parades](#), [concerts](#), [basketball](#) games, student [advisory](#) groups, and [science](#) fair - and that's just this week.

Just one week after returning from the [Thanksgiving](#) Holiday, most of us are already looking towards the [Winter](#) Holiday break and wondering how we will get everything that needs to get done checked off before we go on holiday. Reflecting on this past week's work has given me a chance to pause and appreciate the amount of work we are undertaking, as well as be energized as I look forward to the many generations that will be positively affected by what we accomplish in our own lifetime. This past Tuesday I had the opportunity to discuss the benefits of implementing a block schedule and a late start with our Student Advisory group, later on in the day I had the opportunity to visit a couple of construction sites (The [Student Activity Center](#) and [CTE](#) Center) as well as discussed with architects and attorneys the contracts for the construction of our Early College High School and Blended Academy. I ended the day with at a Board Workshop where we discussed an Elementary Magnet School at Laughlin Air Force Base and a high impact curriculum repository that will further support our teachers and students.

After the Board Workshop, I was able to catch the second half of our [Boys' basketball](#) game against San Antonio Memorial. Although the season has gotten off to a slightly less than perfect record, Coach Nieto is sure to have everything [perfected](#) by District competition. Best of Luck Coach!

Although Wednesday and Thursday were not as busy, I did spend some time with our Principals reflecting on the work at hand and encouraging them to continue to lead the "heavy lifting" in spite of distractions and oppositions. I am blessed to have such a hard working and overall [amazing](#) group of campus [leaders](#).

Later in the day, I was presented with the opportunity to observe some pretty awesome [Science](#) Fair [projects](#). I now know that orange juice replaces a lot more electrolytes after a workout than does a sports drink. (Just don't drink OJ before a sporting activity.) I also learned that you may very well take in more oxygen when you sleep with blankets over your head than with your face uncovered - I will have to take [Austin's](#) word for it because I am not about to try. Thank you to all the [teachers](#) and [judges](#) that went the extra mile to make this year's science fair a huge success

Wednesday I ended the day at the Paul Poag Theatre where I thoroughly enjoyed our Elementary Choir groups. They [sang](#), they [danced](#), and thoroughly [entertained](#) each and every one of us. If you attended the concert and were not in the [Holiday Spirit](#) prior to 7:00 PM Wednesday night, you were absolutely in the Holiday Spirit by 8:00 PM that same night. [Congratulations](#) to each and every one of our elementary choir teachers.

Thursday, I barely had time to record a [Holiday Greeting](#) message before I took some personal time off to travel to San Angelo and see my son play basketball. On Friday, I ended the work week on [Main Street](#) where I along with thousands of community members enjoyed the [Christmas parade](#). It is always a pleasure to see so many of our [students](#) represent their school during community events.

In closing this blog, I want to thank everyone for understanding and supporting the reform we are currently engaged in. Some districts engage in a type of reform that seeks to improve basic services to students while other districts engage in a type of reform that seeks to provide varied opportunities that ultimately add worth to the educational experience of the students. Our reform is an entirely transformational type of reform that is improving basic services to our students while simultaneously creating opportunities that will add value to the lives of our students and ultimately improve our community.

Implementing structures for improving basic services such as a Planning Protocol, Bilingual Centers, Early Literacy, SchoolNet (curriculum repository), 1:1 initiative, block scheduling and a late start for secondary while developing a menu of services that include a CTE Academy, Early College High School, Blended Academy (A Non-Traditional High School), and a Laughlin Elementary STEM Magnet is entirely exciting. These experiences we are creating for our students are sure to provide a vehicle to positively transform our entire community and most importantly add value to the lives of students for generations to come.

“The very essence of leadership is that you have to have a vision. It’s got to be a vision you articulate clearly and forcefully on every occasion. You can’t blow a weak trumpet.” — Theodore Hesburgh, President, Nore Dame University, Time, May 1987