

State of the District  
Report  
December, 2009

Dear Stakeholders of Iraan-Sheffield ISD:

The State of the District report is designed to give an overview of Iraan-Sheffield ISD. As superintendent I have selected several topics that are priorities for all school districts. The basic idea is to recap what has occurred in our school district over a one or two year period of time. The report also addresses other concerns that will need attention by the school board and the superintendent in the near future.

Although not everyone will agree with my interpretation of the State of the District, I would welcome your comments and concerns. The mechanism for change is communication.

My phone number is 432-639-2512 ext 223 and my email is [kevin.allen@isisd.net](mailto:kevin.allen@isisd.net) . I would enjoy hearing from you.

Whether your comments are positive or negative, I will find them useful in creating a better learning environment for the children who attend Iraan-Sheffield ISD.

Sincerely,

Kevin Allen

Superintendent of Schools

## **I. Financial**

**A. Iraan-Sheffield ISD's financial position is in its strongest position since the inception of recapture in 1993.**

- 1. M&O fund balance is at the healthiest level in the history of the school district.**
- 2. Medical fund balance is only slightly below the healthiest level due to heavier than usual claims the last two years.**

**B. The accounting system in place is basically a perfect model for what the state would like school districts to be. This is a tremendous source of pride. It shows that we are very careful with tax payers' money and there is no waste.**

**C. The audit report the last three years has been clean with no errors reported to TEA.**

- 1. If there are issues that arise, whether it is based on procedure or personnel, it is addressed legally and corrected.**

**D. When any finance issue occurs, the board president is informed first, followed by all other board members.**

## **II. Facilities**

**A. Iraan-Sheffield ISD consists of several buildings that are close to 60 years old. It has been reported twice by two different companies that the districts' buildings were originally very well built and have been very well maintained. This is a compliment to the school board in the late 1940's to have the vision to build buildings that could withstand the test of time. It is also a compliment to the maintenance workers over the years that have taken care of the facilities.**

**B. Iraan-Sheffield ISD is currently undergoing a partial renovation that focuses on replacing the HVAC system, replacing or repairing roofs, upgrading electrical, and retrofitting the lighting system. All work is through Honeywell. Upgrading facilities was part of the goal setting that took place in the spring of 2008.**

**C. The tennis courts were resurfaced this past summer. All 6 courts were to the point where they were unplayable. They now look like new and are usable by the school and community.**

**D. The sign in front of the gym has been replaced with a state of the art LED sign. With no local newspaper this is one of the few ways the district can communicate with the community. It has been very beneficial.**

**E. The gym floor was replaced in the new gym when water damage destroyed the original floor. The two rooms that have water, the training room and wash room, did not have floor drains. The original blueprints did not show drains to be installed. Drains have now been installed so that the problem cannot happen again. The district's insurance paid for the floor replacement.**

**F. Other issues exist with the facilities that are not taken care of through the Honeywell project.**

- 1. Windows and doors are at the end of their life expectancy and need to be replaced.**
- 2. All plumbing needs replacement; all gas lines need to be replaced as well.**
- 3. Interior walls need painting along with new carpet and modernizing of the classrooms.**
- 4. Science labs and science classrooms need to be modernized in the elementary, junior high, and high school.**
- 5. Exterior walls need repairing and painting.**
- 6. Structural issues need to be addressed in all buildings.**
- 7. The parking lot needs to be repaved.**
- 8. The lockers in the high school are unusable. The junior high lockers are almost to that point as well.**
- 9. The elementary has drainage issues that are damaging the building.**
- 10. The elementary playground equipment is dangerous and does not meet the new codes that exist for child safety. The board has given me permission to accept bids for new equipment.**

11. There are safety issues on all campuses with too many entrances where strangers could have access to the buildings.
12. The auditorium is within a few years of being condemned due to structural and foundation issues. This information is from a certified structural engineer that examined the building in 2006.
13. The band hall is in need of a major renovation. The field house, old gym, junior high gym, and wood shop also need to be renovated. There needs to be some modernization to the home economics cottage to better fit with the health science program. The metal shop needs to be renovated with an expansion or replaced.
14. The Ag pens are in the process of being updated. They have been ignored for decades. I consider it a challenge and a privilege to build the Ag pens into something we are proud of for our students and community. This is being done by the district's personnel which means it will take time. Progress is being made.
15. The Sheffield campus needs work done in the following areas: Replace roof, HVAC system, plumbing, windows and doors, retrofit lighting, upgrade electrical, paint and carpet classrooms, replace white boards and modernize science classroom/lab.

### **III. Transportation**

**A. The district has upgraded the transportation over the last three years. Two new small route buses were replaced three years ago; two large route buses are being replaced this year. Two 2008 charter buses were purchased last year. A new small activity bus was purchased this year. Two new suburbans were purchased last year. A new Ag pick up was purchased two years ago. This year a new Ag trailer was purchased. Upgrading transportation was part of the goal setting that took place in the spring of 2008.**

1. The district needs to add one more small activity bus and start replacing the maintenance pickup trucks.

#### **IV. Curriculum**

**A. The district is in the process of moving towards the CSCOPE curriculum. CSCOPE was designed by educators at the service centers and teachers throughout the State of Texas. CSCOPE is very detailed but allows for the teacher to use their best materials along with CSCOPE. The district will continue to incorporate the CSCOPE curriculum. The district's math, science and social studies teachers have been very fast to transition to CSCOPE. English and reading teachers have found that the CSCOPE curriculum is very similar to the curriculum they developed on their own which explains why the district's reading/writing and ELA scores are some of the highest in the state.**

**B. I am committed to the CSCOPE curriculum and have tried to influence Region 18 Service Center to commit to the curriculum. In November the Service Center announced they are implementing CSCOPE as the curriculum they support in helping districts throughout Region 18.**

**1. The district also makes use of Region 4 curriculum materials, primarily at the alternative campuses.**

**C. We will continue to provide the CSCOPE training and in-service that the teachers and administrators need to be exemplary.**

#### **V. Technology**

**A. The district is in very good shape with the number of computers that students have access to in school. Within the next three years we will start to replace the oldest computers. The software that we are utilizing, in my opinion, is the best products on the market. The *Waterford* and *Success Maker* software at elementary and junior high is a great benefit to all students. The use of *Reading +* and *My Reading Coach* on all campuses has been very beneficial. The alternative campuses have had a great deal of success using the *Odyssey Ware* software as well.**

**B. The district recently added *Promethean Boards* to all classrooms. The boards allow for interactive teaching. This is changing the delivery of instruction in our school system. Students do not learn the same as the past; therefore, we don't teach the same. Although the retraining of teachers in how they teach takes time, I am committed to what has been started. We will continue to train our teachers in the new technology until everyone is more than proficient.**

**C. As the district moves forward in the use of technology we are exploring purchasing student laptops with electronic textbooks in grades 6-12. We will be able to set up a virtual Black Board, similar to what the universities use today.**

### **Accountability**

**D. The state accountability system has changed over the years. It has become more difficult and complex for schools to show gains and achieve the ratings that communities desire. Our district has become one of the best in the state at the high stakes testing our legislature has imposed on schools. We will continue to strive for exemplary ratings on all campuses. Two of the three were exemplary this year with the third missing by one question on one test. This has been accomplished with planning and employing excellent teachers and administrators. It also helps that the district's financial structure allows for success as well.**

**E. The high school TAKS test is changing to end-of-course exams starting in 2011 with the incoming freshmen. Students must pass 9 of the 12 tests, 2 of 3 in each core class, to graduate from high school. This is where our work in curriculum with CSCOPE and technology will help the high school students achieve what is required by the state and beyond.**

## **VI. Extracurricular**

**A. Our school district takes great pride in having successful extracurricular programs. Students are treated fairly and coached to exceed their physical and mental ability. We also encourage students to participate in as many activities as they desire. The district has a strong athletic program along with strong band and UIL academic programs. Very few small districts in the state emphasize all programs the way we do at Iraan-Sheffield ISD. There are areas that need more work to get to the level of excellence that I desire for the district. Having coached for 14 years in some of the better programs in the state, I understand and recognize excellence in coaching and student/athlete development. Our personnel work hard to achieve the district's goal of excellence.**