



# Wenatchee School District

Minutes of Aug. 30, 2011

## WENATCHEE LEARNS WORKSHOP

DISTRICT OFFICE

11:30 a.m. – 2:30 p.m.

**Board Members Present**

Kevin Gilbert, President  
 Gary Callison, V.P.  
 Laura Jaecks  
 Walter Newman  
 Jesús Hernández

**Staff Present**

Brian Flonas, Superintendent  
 Cabinet

The following list is of the individuals, advisory board, board members and cabinet who attended the meeting to help kickoff the Wenatchee Learning campaign. They were welcomed to the meeting by Superintendent Flonas and a brief orientation of what Wenatchee Learns goals and vision was presented to the group of attendees.

Kevin Gilbert	West Mathison	Sara Rolfs
Gary Callison	Brad Schock	Bob Shepard
Walter Newman	John McQuaig	Rich McBride
Jesus Hernandez	Jim Richardson	Addie Goveia
Laura Jaecks	Elsa Esparza	Brooke Hagopian
Brian Flonas	Joe Luna	Gayle Northcutt
Jon DeJong	Rufus Woods	Karen Wade
Les Vandervort	Alan Walker	Kris Cameron
Jodi Smith	Mark Helm	Pat Strand
Chet Harum	Lori Kostors	
Lisa Turner	Craig Larsen	

Colin Brine and Benjamin Fields the started the meeting by having everyone introduce themselves. The Advisors at today’s meeting included representatives from diverse populations, including the medical community, agricultural, faith organizations, senior population, students, the Latino population, education field and many others. They divided the room into working tables and included a good mix of the attendees at each table. They asked everyone to write on their name tents what the word “Leadership” means to them, each table shared their responses with the room.

The purpose of this kickoff meeting was to bring together Wenatchee community leaders and Wenatchee School District leaders to began a conversation about reaching out and involving the community with education and learning. Superintendent Brian Flonas, has taken 5 months in the process of creating a vision with an innovative approach to face the huge changes that are taking place in society and the need to prepare our students for these changes. Mr. Flonas made specific points:

- It is time to do something different
- We need to provide skills for our student’s future - Shift Age, a new era emerging as the Information Age
- Our students live in the digital revolution, they need 21 century skills
- Our students are digital learners
- They access information faster
- It’s what they can do with the information that’s going to make them successful
- We need the community to help make these changes happen, our schools cannot do it alone.
- We have flat lined, some areas doing well others not so well
- We have come here today to hear from our leaders

Mr. Flonas shared a video that outlined what trends are happening to our society/culture over the last 20 years, it illustrated the direction the world is going in reference to our working and learning environments. The attendees were amazed to see the statistics that they were shown and the fast changes that are taking place.

Beclearly Consultants, Colin Brine and Ben Field, facilitated several activities by asking each person to write down a learning experience they have been a part of in reaching out to the community experiences. Each table picked out one experience and shared it with the whole group. They also had each person fill out a card with answers to each of these questions.

1. What made you feel drawn to a career in the education field?
2. What have you learned about the importance of learning that people who aren't in your role might not know?
3. What difference does it make when people like you pursue a career in education?

They then shared their answers with each table.

Consultants Ben and Colin encouraged everyone to become engaged. They highlighted the following:

**What you need to know:**

1. Wenatchee Learns is about creating a **Whole Learning Community**.
2. We will **forge relationships** with our community to promote two-way communication and support.
3. Our community will help us **architect an extraordinary future** for local learning.

Mr. Brine presented the following handout and pointed out the vision & all four of their steps individually as follows:

## A REVOLUTION IN HOW WENATCHEE PLANS FOR AND SUPPORTS EDUCATION

We know that if Wenatchee is to thrive in a changing world, we must rewire local learning for a global future. Now we have a chance to do just that – and to do it together. Welcome to a new approach to education – one that brings students, citizens and learning professionals together to design the future of learning in Wenatchee – and to help build and support that future. Welcome to Wenatchee Learns.

### 1 District leaders and advisors architect a whole-community approach to education.

We envision a Wenatchee renowned for world class education – and a local culture that values excellence in learning and is committed to success for all.

To achieve this vision, we need a new approach to education – one that is built on lasting relationships with members of our community who care about learning.

Wenatchee Learns will combine the ideas, energy and efforts of all stakeholders – not just learning professionals – to create a future we all own and support.

### 2 A cross section of Wenatchee citizens come together to plan for and support learning.



### 3 Students, citizens and learning professionals jointly design the future of local learning.

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**OUR IDENTITY**  
the best of who we are – as well as the cultural standards and practices that support our best
- 

**OUR DIRECTION**  
a bold, long-range vision for our shared educational future, owned by a broad range of local voices
- 

**OUR PATH**  
significant advances in learning that touch us all and that we can all contribute to in our own way
- 

**OUR ACTION**  
hands-on projects and changes in education that allow everyone to help make our vision real

### 4 Wenatchee establishes a permanent, community-driven approach to learning success.

✓ In Wenatchee, we are known for education that's **world class**.

✓ In Wenatchee, **thriving students** create a **thriving community**.

✓ In Wenatchee, we don't just talk, we get **involved** in education.

✓ In Wenatchee, our citizens are **educated** about education.

✓ In Wenatchee, our community directly impacts student **success**.

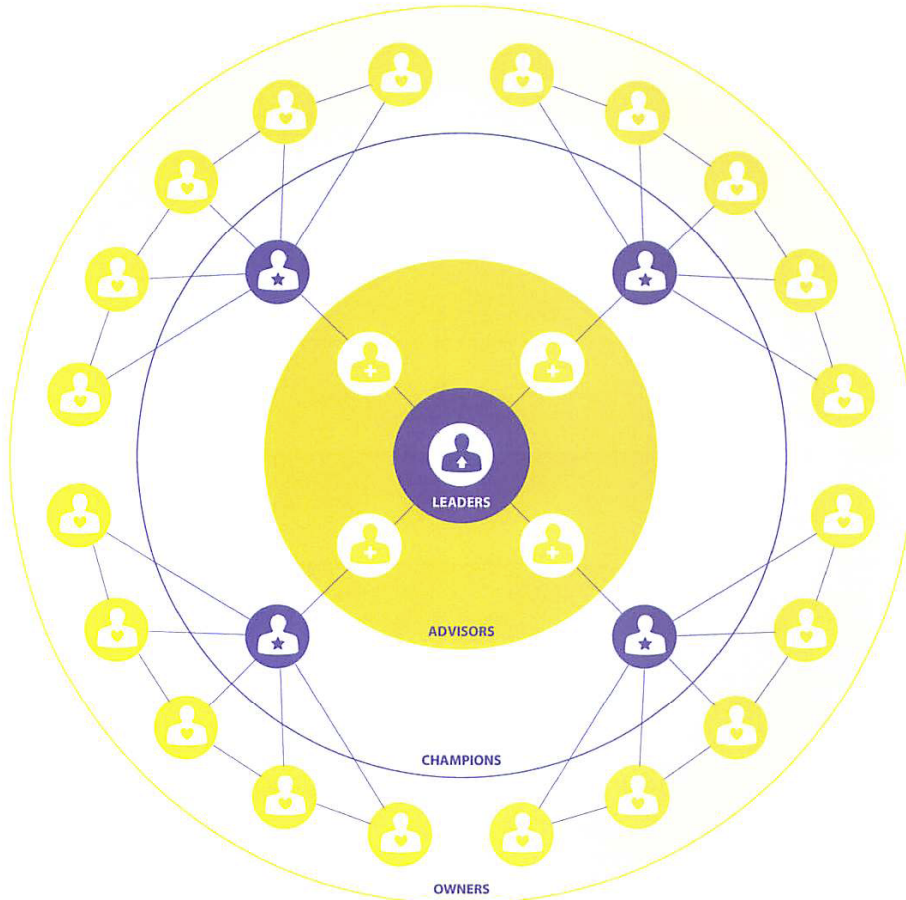
✓ In Wenatchee, our community is **proud** of our educational system.

Mr. Brine explained the concept of networking within our areas of influence. He used the graph to illustrate the components of each level:

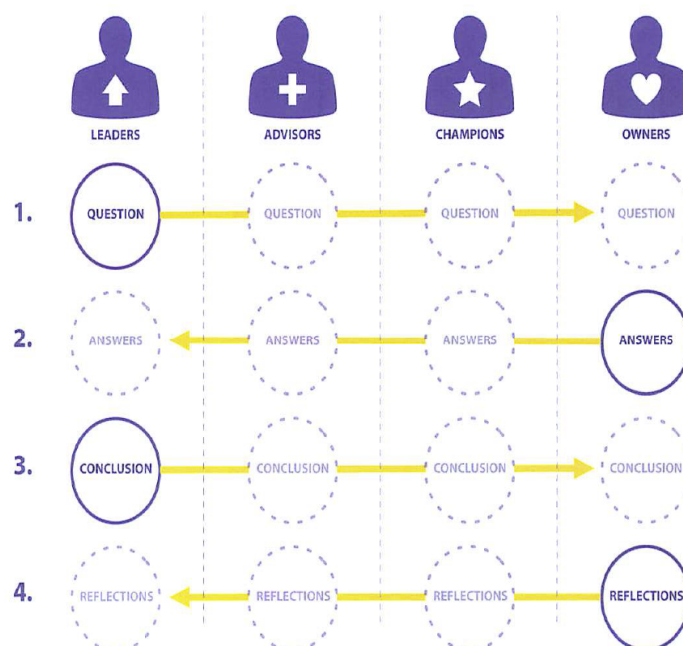
- Leaders
- Advisors
- Champions
- Owners

Mr. Brine explained the idea of an iStory.

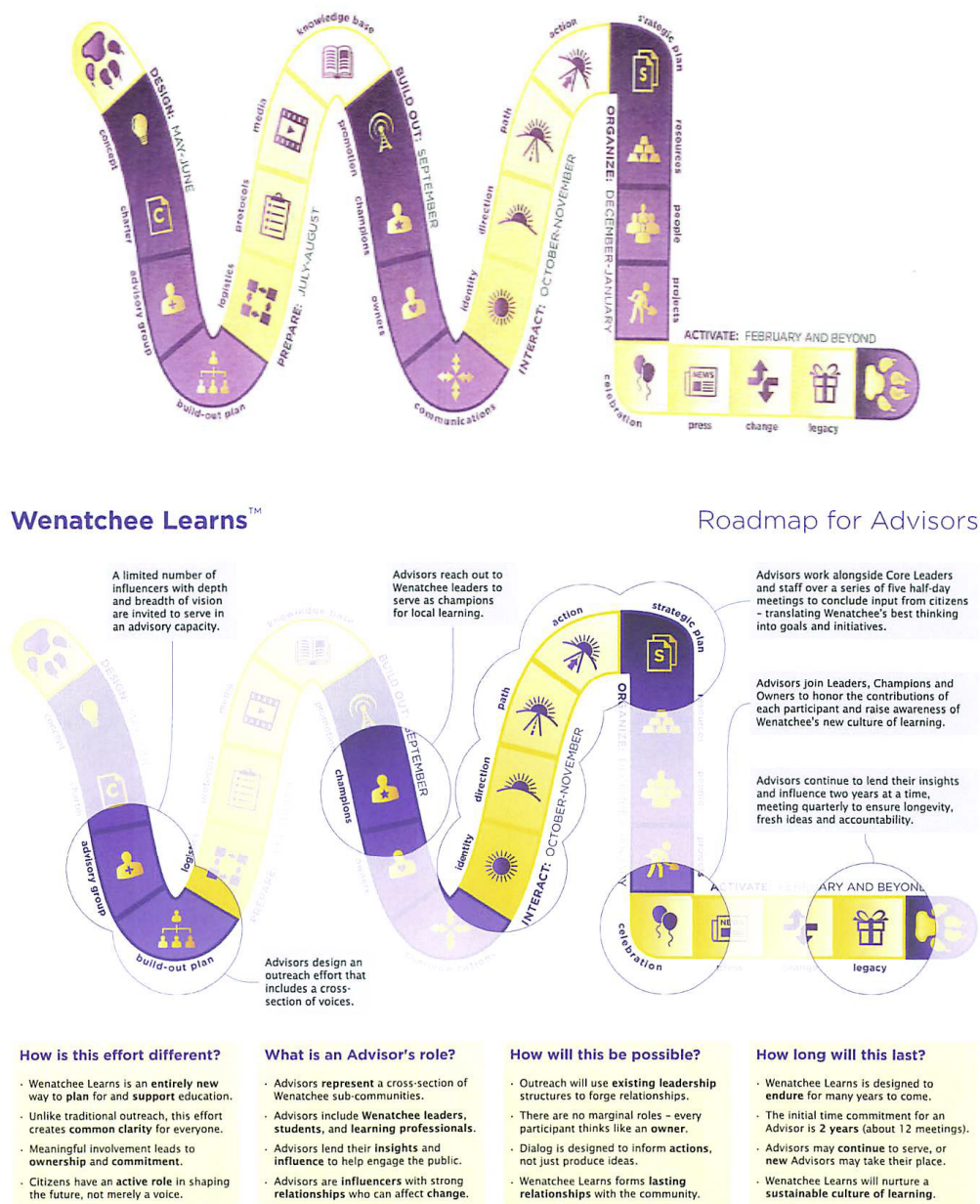
- Your experience
- A true story
- Pride in your story and your community



He also illustrated the flow of communication and shared information between groups, which included the qualities of an advisor in relationship with others.



Mr. Brine shared two roadmaps and timelines to illustrate the progress of the Wenatchee Learns vision/goals and he showed where we are at present on the roadmaps.



Much discussion continued within the groups. They discussed:

- The various components that make up the plan
- How the plumbing operates
- Relational channels
- Outcomes and efforts
- Roadmap phases
- Creating change within the community
- Positive and similar minds surround themselves with the same
- Part of our DNA –
- Excitement is contagious
- The cost of ignorance is devastating – we must continue to learn and change
- Duties as advisors is to seize *Wenatchee Learns*, influence, identify and engage our community

Sharing the responses on the cards with the whole meeting also created productive discussions.

Each Advisor listed ten people they identified as champions and would like to reach out to as part of the Wenatchee Learns project. Wenatchee Learns ultimate vision and goals is the interaction and involvement with people from all walks of life in our community and embrace with them the common goals to learn, change and grow in a positive direction.

Mr. Flones thanked everyone for the energy and enthusiasm he felt in the room and heard in their voices. He also thanked them for their participation today and encouraged them to stay engaged with the concept of Wenatchee Learns.

Meeting Adjourned at 2:30 p.m.