

Frequently Asked Questions

December 3, 2009

Questions from Staff	Answers
1. Will WSD be under CDHL, and CDHL be under OSPI?	As it was presented, the agency (both CDHL and WSD) would be managed through the OSPI. This means that our status as an agency under the office of the governor would be eliminated. We would continue as an entity under OSPI.
2. The OSPI Superintendent is an elected official. When the Superintendent is supportive, great. If he/she isn't supportive, how can we protect ourselves?	OSPI will develop a structure of governance for the school/center.
3. What will happen to our budget under OSPI?	Our funds would be allocated through OSPI.
4. Where is OSPI?	Olympia, WA
5. Will the service we provide still be the same?	At this time, I believe our services provided would remain the same.
6. How is this "reform," and how will it be cheaper or more cost effective?	This reform is part of the larger government reform effort to improve service to citizens and create "one front door" to access K-12 education.
7. Is ESD 112 under OSPI?	No.
8. Will WSD and WSSB remain separate entities?	The schools will remain separate.
9. What if we get additional stimulus dollars—will that change or help the situation?	Stimulus dollars were a one time allocation from the federal government through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA).
10. When will the move to OSPI happen?	As of today (12/3/09) we do not have a timeline for implementation. It will be no earlier than the end of the legislative session which concludes on 03/11/10.
11. Will there be a move to raise taxes to help balance the budget?	The decision to raise taxes must be made by the legislature.
12. WSSB and WSD will be under one "super power." Is there any chance they will be combined like was attempted in Oregon?	The actions taken in Oregon are a result of very different issues. We have not been told of any plans to combine the schools – in fact, the governor sees the constituent and stakeholder groups as very separate.
13. Heard about WSSB serving students in Oregon. Could we provide services to or merge with Oregon? Could OSPI pursue that?	There is nothing official happening with WSSB and services for blind students. There have been some unofficial talks with WSSB and people in Oregon, but nothing has been finalized.
14. OSPI historically has money that is protected—will that potentially help us?	K-12 education is constitutionally protected in Washington. This alignment will clarify our role as an educational program and may provide protections for us as we will be funded through the protected K-12 funding area.
15. Does it mean we will lose our status as an agency? Would we be a sub-agency under OSPI?	We would lose our status as a separate agency under the office of the governor. We

	would be a program under OSPI.
16. Will this put teachers under the WEA?	I don't know if this would allow teachers to be associated with Washington Education Association (WEA). WEA is primary (although not the only) teacher union in Washington State. Many local school districts teacher associations are associated with WEA.
17. Will WSD still provide transportation for students?	Transportation is a federally mandated service. I don't know the impact on transportation systems for students here, but we will continue to be responsible for transporting students to/from their homes.
18. What will happen with CDHL?	The agency will be abolished and all functions, including CDHL, will be moved under the governance of OSPI.
19. Will we be under the Department of Special Education or directly under Superintendent Dorn?	I don't know.
20. What will happen to Deaf Culture at WSD?	Deaf Culture is valued by the governor's office as well as OSPI. We will continue to emphasize the importance of preserving Deaf culture.
21. What influence will OSPI have on WSD/s ASL/English model?	OSPI is aware of our efforts through AEBPD and emphasizing a bi-lingual approach.
22. Has the decision already been made?	The decision is made in the governor's office. Next, it will be considered by the legislature and will require legislative action before this becomes law.
23. Who will be the point person for questions related to Deaf Culture? Who will explain sensitive issues to OSPI?	The director and superintendent will be working with OSPI through the transition. We will be working with staff and stakeholder and community members to insure sensitive issues are addressed.
24. How does the Board of Trustees fit into this?	I don't know.
25. Will OSPI tell us how to run our program, or will they be a neutral agency and let us "do our thing?"	OSPI is the state department of education and typically monitors educational programs for compliance with state and federal regulations. They provide guidance and typically do not tell schools how to achieve the goals listed through state and federal program requirements.
26. How will the budgeting work?	I don't know.
27. Now all of our money comes from the legislature. Under OSPI, could they require school districts to pay for our service?	I don't know.
28. Trying to understand the Governor's reason for putting us under OSPI—how does that help anything?	The governor's office is reorganizing many boards, commissions and programs to create "one front door" to services for citizens. WSSB and CDHL/WSD is a K-12 educational agency. OSPI is the agency that parents contact if they have questions relating to K-12 education.
29. What do we do with our questions after this?	You can address any questions to your supervisor or anyone on leadership team or email your questions to:

	ask.rick@wsd.wa.gov
30. Will someone be going to the legislature to talk about the proposed change in agency status?	If we are invited by the legislature.
31. Will the legislature ask our opinion?	I don't know.
32. Since we will be under OSPI, if they had a budget cut, would that affect us?	It is likely with the level of cuts we are facing as a state, we will incur some additional cuts, just as local school districts and OSPI will face.
33. Would budget cuts be less deep or deeper under OSPI?	I don't know.
34. Currently, the move to OSPI is just a suggestion by the Governor, right? The final decision won't happen until March?	The move is included in the governor's budget and government reform. Legislation must be passed to finalize this move. The final decision and timeline requires legislative action.
35. Is there a way the technology department could set up an email site and have someone respond to the questions?	The email address is ask.rick@wsd.wa.gov
36. Will policies be changed to "their" way?	I don't know. Local school districts develop policies for the operation of their schools.
37. Will we still have DLR?	I don't know.
38. Will we end up with more money?	I don't know.

Follow-up activities from All-Staff meeting 12/02/09	Actions
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Send Power Point to all staff 	Sent PowerPoint presentation and information on 12/2/09
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Schedule listening meetings for Rick & Jane—individually or together—every week? Every two weeks? 	Schedule will be released by 12/18/09
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> (Send message to CEASD on Thursday or Friday) 	Note to self...
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Talk to Doug Gill before the Core Team meeting if possible 	Rick spoke to Dr. Gill 12/2/09, set a meeting for 12/8/09 to discuss
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop a FAQ and put on website – 	FAQ located on the P:/drive located at: Q and A OSPI.doc
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Set up an email site for ongoing questions 	e-mail site is ask.rick@wsd.wa.gov
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Find the OSPI organizational chart 	Note to self...
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop our ongoing communication plan 	Meet with leadership and board to discuss strategy
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Follow-up with unions 	Set meeting with union leadership and discuss with board and Joyce Turner and/or Eva Santos to determine best approach for impact to workforce