

Vicky Lindberg

*The following interview was conducted on behalf of the oral history program of Century High School. The interviewee is Vicky Lindberg; the interviewers are Brenda Hagele and Moses Mendoza. The interview took place at Glencoe High School on May 22 at approximately 3:45 pm.*

*What was your first involvement with Century High School?*

Well my very first involvement was we had to apply for the positions at Century High School and it had been such a long time in this district since we had had a new high school, since a new high school had been built ... Glencoe being the last building, that there were many of us anxious to go to a new school and to be part of the planning and developing the climate and culture for that school, so I was very anxious and applying for the position of counselor, and that was my very first involvement was my interview for that position, and just to give you an idea that it was a sought after position, there were seven other counselors that also applied for that position and so I was very pleased to be involved and be the counselor on the planning team. And my next involvement I put together the first curriculum handbook for Century High School yeah, I wrote the very, the introduction, and what I did, is I went through about oh I would say at least 20 other curriculum guides from other schools, I looked at all the Beaverton high schools, I looked at the two Tigard high schools, I looked at Newberg, I looked at McMinnville, and so I looked at all the curriculum catalogs and then I had copies of about 7 or 8 curriculum catalogs from different high schools made for the members on the planning team. So they looked through and we got ideas and then I put the first beginning pages together and then the rest of the curriculum guide took its format

And then the teachers wrote their course description and then we had our first course catalog which you'll probably have a copy of I would imagine ... and then there was a type-o on one of the pages right off the bat we're like oh no how did this happen and somebody's spell checker must not have been on but um we were very proud of that first catalog and as you notice the paper has a heavier weight to it and which is not the typical newspaper but that was my first involvement.

*Where did you come from?*

I came from Hillsboro High School I had been there for 12 years as the counseling coordinator, well 10 as the counseling coordinator and 12 years as a counselor

*Why did you choose to come to Century... originally?*

Originally was it was a hard decision because I really liked Hillsboro High school and both of my children graduated from Hillsboro and both of them would still be at Hillsboro when I left so it was a hard decision for me but it was kind of like pioneer I wanted a little bit of a new adventure, some people don't like change, I love change and so it was exciting for me to get to be a part of planning a new high school

*How did you become part of the actual planning team?*

The way the planning team was formed is you interviewed with Mr. Barnekoff, and he selected his planning team and he tried to have one person from each discipline, like one language arts teacher, one math teacher, one science, health, every discipline, every curricular area was represented on the planning team, now I some cases we had a couple, like English had two, Mr. Morton and Mrs. Schellar were both English teachers and on the planning team and Mr. Bear represented health and science I believe, so we had a few little variations but for the most part, each discipline was represented, so I was the counselor representative

*You've been involved with all three Hillsboro high schools, how would you compare the three?*

Well, they're all different and distinct in their own ways and different populations, different teachers ... and then Century one of its great positives I think is the diversity of Century High School and then just the pride in that enormous new building, and the different wings and a lot of enthusiastic teachers because it's new and they want to... people that like change, and wanted something new and wanted to venture the block schedule, those are the people that chose to go ...Century is such a beautiful school...all the schools are fairly distinct but all their positive points, And I truly mean that, I mean I would, my own children, I would be happy with them at Hilhi, Century, or Glencoe, and I could say that and really mean it ....Cool student council room that overlooks the commons

*You mentioned the block schedule, did any of the counselors have trouble getting students into the courses they wanted, did you have any trouble as you made the curriculum guide?*

The first year we were a traditional schedule

*Was it hard to fit people's classes into the block schedule because of the confusing set up?*

What makes it hard at Century is that it's a highbred schedule and it's an A B and the block so you have, as you know, classes that meet every other day and then you have classes that meet every day and that is where a counselor starts to tear their hair because you guys have maybe experienced this when you come in and because of the, if you have an every other day spot open, you maybe have one or two choices, and so that's something that I think teachers don't even realize that it does limit students at times, I think A B or block is easier to schedule that a highbred where its...

I support the block schedule, I don't know if I particularly support the highbred, block means that you meet everyday for an extended amount of time, and then every other day is the A B part of it, and do you're kind of combining two schedules that were meant to

be separate, it's supposed to be the best of both worlds, and for some people it is, but I could be tough

*When you were on the planning team, what were some of the challenging issues that you faced?*

One thing is should back up and tell you too, it that I got to go to the district office for a semester to help plan, so Mr. Barnekoff was there, I was there and the media center person was there, and so the three of us were there for a semester and I did the curriculum guide, arranged all of the scheduling, for the middle schools and the high schools to come to the new schools, so that was really challenging, trying to figure out how to get everyone registered with new boundaries and new schools and a lot of parent calls and a lot of interesting conversations and so that was my job at the district office which really, um getting the organization, and it wasn't like I registered every student myself but I organized that, I got the counselors at Hilhi ready and the counselors at Glencoe ready and all four middle schools and the logistics of that organized. That was a pretty good job

*Did you face a lot of conflicts with parents?*

Some, some, I remember coming here and the Glencoe kids not wanting to leave but how it turned out in the end was if you really didn't want to go you didn't have to go that first year, and that was the wise thing to do because there were a lot of students who really wanted to go, they were excited to go and then there were some that I mean they just didn't, so they didn't go, and so we worked through all that but it was, it was really a family, students choice, and as it was, we had a huge population, when we opened we were, we had more than we had anticipated, another thing that I did is I also organized the leadership program, I talked to all of the middle schools and high schools and they had elections for their Century class officers, so we had class officers for ninth, tenth, and eleventh, and I met with those students and then we had a leadership teacher, who was Nancy Haack, and then she came on board and the leadership program began, I also organized the cheerleading and the dance team tryouts

*Now what with your experience and what not, are you going to play any active role in...Liberty High School?*

No, because the other assistant principal is going and so they would not take two and I've been around enough I don't need to be in four high schools, but I'd do it, but no I don't

*(Greatest satisfactions)*

Some of the high points, it was really fun deciding the jaguar, you know, what you guys would be, the colors, it was probably one of the most, I also organized the tours when the parents came in the summer with students, and that was just a highlight because the parents just loved going through the building and being able to tour them introduce them to the lab 2000 and to the arts and communications wing to show them the auditorium, you know how the different areas, you've got your teal area and your purple area, and

your kind of brick color, you know, it was just fun to open the building and show it to people and have them so excited about it too and it was also really fun and exciting to go to the middle schools and talk to the students in their classroom about what this was going to be like for them to kind of envision for them because they'd go what's it going to be like and so yeah, it was pretty cool.

*What colors were (considered)?*

Mr. Barnekoff really liked the teal, silver and black  
We had another group that like kind of a burgundy gold and white  
And so we looked at Century sharks and Century bulldogs... went to middle schools and did the final votes with the kids

*(Vision)*

Our vision was, we were really hoping for small communities within a large school, that was probably our ultimate vision but we knew we would not get there right away and we felt that the building was designed so that that could happen with the four wings, ultimate vision would have been programs in each wing, say four distinct programs, such as a technology wing, arts and communication wing, business and management wing and then another program area. And that is kind of coming to... in some ways. You have an arts and communication program and you also have information systems, your technology program, business and management is fairly strong too, they may not be exactly in wings kind of how we envisioned but they are being molded I think

*(Comprehensive learning)*

Well, yes and no, my recollection of that was I think we were thinking smaller leaning communities and it would be more of a comprehensive, and then the CAMS came along about the time, became more of a directive from the Oregon Department of education so we started leaning in that direction there

*Now were you worried initially with the production of smaller wings that perhaps rivalries build between the wings?*

Yes, some people knew that it would, a tracking system could arise but we knew to try to be careful of that, but when you vision and when you're planning, usually you're pretty positive. So we didn't see that as a roadblock but we saw that as something to be cautious of.

*(Pods and Strands)*

Pods would have been the communities, and the Strands would have been the programs, the CAMS

*To what extent has the actual vision that was originally intended been realized?*

Well I think the spirit is definitely there because you do have the block, and you have some strands going on right now and I went to your assembly, your Jagfest assembly on Monday night and I thought oh my, this has come so far, it was you know, really a spectacular event and so I do think people are working together and appreciating each other and the school is coming together, also the athletics are so difficult when you open a new school, you just have one losing season after another and here's this baseball team so soon doing so well and so anyway when a new school opens it weeks all of the schools' athletics for a while and then they build back up, and that's happening in all the schools, Hilhi really went through a bad spell after Century opened, they had losing seasons in all sports one year I think, and it was because their population had gone down so much and then it, Century was trying to build it's athletics, but no I think Century has done well, I'm not one bit disappointed, I'm very proud of the school.

*(Barriers from achieving the vision)*

(Population) It's been that way from day one, I mean, and that was hard when we opened, we didn't have enough assistant principals and it's really hard to open a new school anyway, and the numbers if anything has made it a challenge

*Popular perception of century high school*

From an outside perspective I think Century's doing well, and when I was over there the other night, I was just filled with a sense of pride when I walked into that school, it was I was all alone when I walked down the corridor and the students council pictures were up, the displays were out, you know, the art department has always done so well with all of their art up and about, and that is another thing that just amazed me at Century, how they can hang art in the hallways, and no one disturbs it. I'm mean occasionally something happens, but most of the times not, anyway and then going to the assembly, having it go so well, hearing about the baseball team your academics are doing well, you've got good AP classes, you have good mainstream teachers, it's a young vibrant staff, I just think I think very positively about Century, I don't know how it could have done much better considering the overcrowding and building the block schedule, and a new student body coming together, it's not easy and you guys know this to meld several dif schools coming together and that first year was the first for ninth grades, so that was big, you know we hadn't had ninth graders in our high schools before,

You have these ninth grades, very very young, and no senior role models, because usually seniors are pretty mature and can be good role models, juniors aren't quite there yet, so you have freshman and juniors and we really miss that senior aspect

*Did you play any active role in the hiring of the counselors?*

I set in on almost every interview for century, probably 100 interviews that I sat there with, see kind of liability wise, a principal never usually interviews by themselves because then it's like my word your word, so I would sit in on the interviews and Mr. Barnekoff would have me ask a couple of questions so I wouldn't totally feel like a token

or whatever, and yeah so I was there for a lot of the interviews, probably 70% of them, I was there

*On what basis did you hire? What made a counselor Century material?*

Again, it was somebody that we knew would welcome change, would be open to the block, positive attitude, wanting to build a new culture, climate. And we only had three counselors when we opened. Three counselors and two assistant principals

*How important do you think a productive counseling center, an efficient counseling center is to the flow of a school?*

It the hub of the whole thing, if it's not going well, you've got problems. And so your counseling department is very important, and having them go into classrooms, doing classroom guidance, making themselves available to students being calm centered, always there, a career center is very important too

I have this baseball hat that was so ugly, it was the first baseball hat. Then I have a couple of silly things from the planning team too.

THE END