

O P I N I O N

Support Sisters School Bond

For eight years, the Sisters School District has had to make tough financial choices, trying to weather the storm of the Great Recession and a steep decline in enrollment. Through all of that time, the district did its best to keep cuts as far away from classrooms and programs as possible. That meant that maintenance of plant and infrastructure took the hit.

With enrollment starting to stabilize, it's time to catch up to work that has to be done to maintain the public's investment in its schools.

The \$10.7 million request that Sisters voters will decide upon in the May 17 election was honed down from a bigger ask, based on public feedback. Voters and taxpayers spoke and the district listened. That's the way it's supposed to work.

The request is adequate to meet the district's needs and to enhance facilities that will

help the district attract and retain students.

Schools must rely on robust enrollment to stay financially viable. Quality facilities are necessary to help Sisters schools to return to a healthy, sustainable level of enrollment and funding. The safety enhancements called for in the district's plans are overdue and necessary.

Refinancing the district's existing full faith and credit debt will have an immediate positive effect on the general fund budget, freeing up some \$240,000 annually that can be put to use in the classroom.

Sisters schools are a central part of the life of the community — and a reflection of who we are as a community. Supporting the bond request will ensure that our investment is maintained and that the heart of our community remains vibrant.

—Jim Cornelius, News Editor

Letters to the Editor...

The Nugget welcomes contributions from its readers, which must include the writer's name, address and phone number. Letters to the Editor is an open forum for the community and contains unsolicited opinions not necessarily shared by the Editor. The Nugget reserves the right to edit, omit, respond or ask for a response to letters submitted to the Editor. Letters should be no longer than 300 words. Unpublished items are not acknowledged or returned. The deadline for all letters is noon Monday.

To the Editor:

My all-time favorite fictional character Ron Swanson once said, "Honor: if you need it defined, you don't have it."

If you're reading this, Mr. Gorayeb, honor doesn't involve making co-workers uncomfortable no matter what your definition of appropriateness is and it certainly doesn't involve accepting \$15,340.48 for essentially getting to be on vacation for two months. Furthermore, accepting over \$100,000 in severance for leaving a job voluntarily, with a victim mentality to boot, is not only dishonorable but, as councilman Asson put it, disgraceful.

Good luck with your next job.

Jayson Berray

• • •

To the Editor:

Hats off to City Councilor David Asson for speaking up on behalf of taxpayers and voting against this expensive settlement with the ex-city manager.

Hard not to feel like our community was

bullied into it by Mr. Gorayeb's threats of litigation. Fulfilling his contract's minimum compensation is more than enough out of our pockets, especially as he resigned rather than accept responsibility for his part in the problems, and refuses to cooperate with the council's requirements for self-improvement.

This time around, let's hire someone in-house to lead the city team, someone who's worked their way up through the ranks and shown they can work amicably with city staff and city council. City staff has many dedicated workers who could lead the team better than anyone from outside.

Bill Stevens

• • •

To the Editor:

Is it really in the best interest for our community to have all of the gory details of the city manager mess made public, and exactly what purpose would it serve?

Based on what details have been offered,

See **LETTERS** on page 8

Schools superintendent reaches out

By Curt Scholl
Guest Columnist

It seems like just yesterday I was signing my contract and trying to figure out all the logistics of transitioning into Sisters. As I approach the end of my first year as the Superintendent of Sisters School District I find myself reflecting on my experiences.

When considering a move, my wife, Kellie, and I were looking for smaller towns as we wanted our four children to experience that close-knit/community feeling that we had growing up. I was nervous about making a move. I wondered if my experiences of growing up in a small town were distorted by the "good old days" mindset that we often have when remembering our childhood.

While doing research about Sisters we discovered a strong school system and a supportive community that boasted about strong partnerships and volunteerism. Even though there is always room to improve, what I have discovered is that the reality in Sisters is better than the research.

I have found the research does not do justice or appropriately capture the partnerships with Sisters Folk Festival, Sisters Schools Foundation, Sisters Park & Recreation District and the Science Club, and the experiences that these partnerships afford our students.

These partnerships support programs like the Americana Project, IEE, outdoor education, guitar and ukulele building, culinary arts, flight science, Chinese language, and Seed to Table. Not to mention the traditional school supported co-curricular activities like band, choir and athletic programs that round out a comprehensive school system. These experiential learning opportunities are described as transformational by the

students, staff and community members that participate in them.

Most importantly, I have discovered a hard-working, reflective staff and community that have a "can-do" attitude and care about providing top-notch experiences for our students. This is the cornerstone to making Sisters not just the best school district in the region, but one of the best in the state.

I feel this fits well with my personality and educational philosophy. As

“I believe I need to hear from all of our residents, not only parents and family members.”

an educator, I feel a strong sense of urgency to make sure we are doing the best we can to develop the critical thinkers and life-long learners that will

be able to adjust to our ever-changing world when they leave our schools.

Finally, I have realized that even with the many community forums, presentations to local organizations, and my attendance at countless community events, I still have not had the opportunity to meet all of the people that are a part of the Sisters community.

I have connected with many community members to get an understanding of the priorities around education, and I believe I need to hear from all of our residents, not only parents and family members. We all know that great schools have a huge impact on our graduation rates, our local economy, future workforce, and property values.

That's why we need our business and community leaders and retired neighbors to let us know where they stand on school-related issues. For those who I have not had the pleasure of meeting, you can contact the district office as I continue to seek partnerships and feedback on how to improve the experiences provided to our students and the Sisters School District.

Sisters Weather Forecast

Courtesy of the National Weather Service, Pendleton, Oregon

Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday	Monday
Sunny 75/42	Sunny 78/43	Slt. chance t-storms 76/46	Chance t-storms 67/43	Partly sunny 67/43	Partly sunny 66/na

The Nugget Newspaper, Inc.

Website: www.nuggetnews.com
442 E. Main Ave., P.O. Box 698, Sisters, Oregon 97759
Tel: 541-549-9941 | Fax: 541-549-9940 | editor@nuggetnews.com



Member

Postmaster: Send address changes to
The Nugget Newspaper,
P.O. Box 698, Sisters, OR 97759.
Third Class Postage Paid at Sisters, Oregon.

Publisher - Editor: Kiki Dolson
News Editor: Jim Cornelius
Production Manager: Leith Williver
Classifieds & Circulation: Teresa Mahnken
Advertising: Karen Kassy
Graphic Design: Jess Draper
Proofreader: Pete Rathbun
Accounting: Erin Bordonaro

The Nugget is mailed to residents within the Sisters School District; subscriptions are available outside delivery area.
Third-class postage: one year, \$45; six months (or less), \$25. First-class postage: one year, \$85; six months, \$55.

Published Weekly. ©2016 The Nugget Newspaper, Inc. All rights reserved. Reproduction in whole or in part without written permission is prohibited. All advertising which appears in The Nugget is the property of The Nugget and may not be used without explicit permission. The Nugget Newspaper, Inc. assumes no liability or responsibility for information contained in advertisements, articles, stories, lists, calendar etc. within this publication. All submissions to The Nugget Newspaper will be treated as unconditionally assigned for publication and copyrighting purposes and subject to The Nugget Newspaper's unrestricted right to edit and comment editorially, that all rights are currently available, and that the material in no way infringes upon the rights of any person. The publisher assumes no responsibility for return or safety of artwork, photos, or manuscripts.

Opinions expressed in this column are solely those of the writer and are not necessarily shared by the Editor or The Nugget Newspaper.