

# District tries to enlist substitutes to replace still-striking teachers

By Jay Wilber  
Of the Emerald

School District Superintendent Margaret Nichols announced Thursday that less than 30 percent of substitutes contacted have agreed to replace striking teachers.

With no further news on negotiations between the striking teachers and the school district, Nichols still hopes schools can reopen by the last week of April, she said.

The school board sent letters to 250 substitute teachers on the district's master list, giving them the option of temporarily replacing striking teachers or refusing to work.

Of the 106 responses received so far, 72 said they would work, three refused and 31 gave what Nichols called "the legal response."

This third response came under the advisement of the Eugene Education Association.

Letters containing the legal response state, "This letter appears to be an offer to change my working conditions. Please direct such communications to Liana Colombo, attorney-at-law. She is the attorney for the Eugene Association of Substitute Teachers and Eugene Education Association (EEA). I am interested in being continued on the district master substitute list."

According to the substitutes' contract with the district, if they refuse to work when requested they can be removed from that list for up to two years. As of yet, no action has been taken against those substitutes refusing to work.

Provisions already have been made for the safety of the students and replacement teachers, if schools reopen while teachers are still picketing, Nichols said.

Nichols foresees a "picket-free zone" — a walkway between vehicles and the doors of the buildings. The conditions of such an arrangement will have to be agreed upon by the district and the EEA, however, she said.

"Our major concern is the children involved, to be sure that they are safe," Nichols stressed.

"I continue to believe that our teachers, whether they're on strike or not, simply would not harass or make children feel intimidated at all," she said.

Nichols added that there might be some "jawboning" of replacement teachers by the strikers, but said she expects little trouble.

In regard to other issues, Nichols said only three days might be added to the last week of classes. The last day of school is scheduled for Tuesday, June 17. High school graduation dates will not be affected, she said.

Nichols also said replacement teachers for special education classes will be qualified special education instructors.

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Photo by Derrel Hewitt

time to stop it."

The operation is not yet in full swing, however, Regan said.

"Seventeen machines are distributed among five residence halls," he said. "That's about 30 percent (of the machines) which are planned to go in."

In the Bean Complex machines are located in Caswell, Debusk, Moore and Wilcox. The University Inn and Carson Hall have machines in first-floor restrooms, and in Hamilton Complex machines are located in Cloran and Dunn. In Walton Complex they are located in Douglass and Hawthorne.

All machines have been installed in first-floor public restrooms and will not be put in students' residence hall bathrooms.

Ideal Vending Service of Sandy, Ore., is installing the machines. Although they now contain the brand-name condoms Climax and Arouse, they soon will contain a plain-label condom containing spermicide.

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