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Budget cuts require School Board to create last minute solutions

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Staff Reporters

Since most of the district budget has been used for the year, the only option left for the School Board was to cut school days, effectively lowering staff members' salaries. One teacher work day has been cut, as well as a student contact day, making the official last day of school for students, not including seniors, Tuesday, June 16.

Because the budget is unsure for next year, Dr. Roger Woehl, superintendent,

and the School Board are attempting to appropriate funds without overestimating what the district will receive. Cuts in teachers will most likely be necessary, but extracurricular activities will not be affected.

"Eighty-three percent of our budget is designated for staff members," Woehl said. There are many expenses in keeping the schools open for even a single day such as those related to natural gas and electricity bills. This is what about 17 percent of the

general fund is allotted to, but there are also categories within the fund for special education, construction and technology. Most of the fund has been used in its designated area by now, which is why the staff

voted to sacrifice two days of pay to make up the deficit.

"It is hard, financially, to give up two days of pay, but I am grateful to at least still have

a job. If we don't all sacrifice some days of pay then some teachers would be laid off, so I think that it is a good compromise to save jobs," Gabe Flynn, Spanish teacher, said.

There will be about \$640,000 in reductions to classified staff (about 34,000 hours) for next year according to Woehl. This will be the start of reducing the deficit for next year. To continue making up the budget deficit, the district will also need to cut 28 teachers.

Budget Cuts

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Michael Gage, sophomore, reads the ROAR on one of the flat screens during break. Although some students wonder why they can't be sold, to help make up the current shortfall, funding comes from dedicated accounts and cannot be used for other types of expenditures.

Photo by Patrick D'Arcy

Mock Trial takes 18th at Nationals

JENNIFER SITTON
Staff Reporter

The junior Mock Trial Team traveled to Atlanta, Ga. May 4-10 to compete against teams from all over the country. They placed 18th out of 41 teams in four rounds of competition, each one consisting of a separate trial of the same case. In the first round, the WL team beat the team from Louisiana: Jesuit High School.

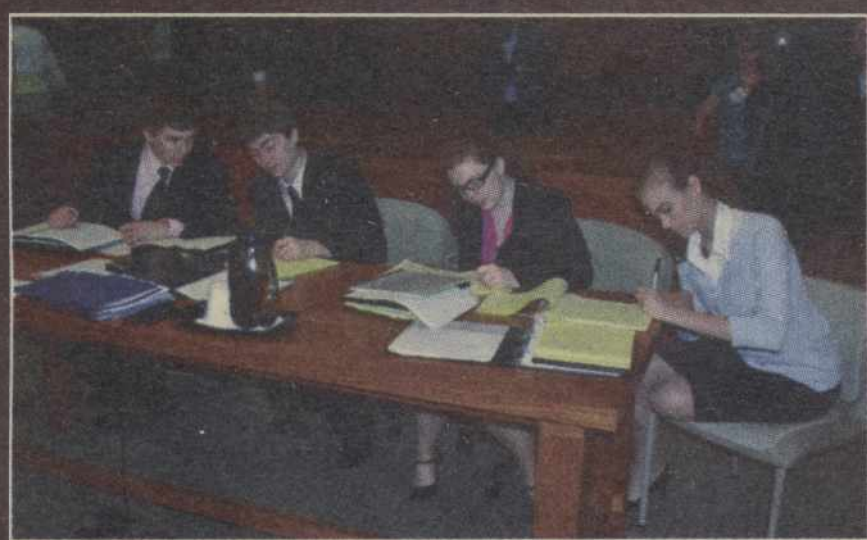
"Because they were an all boys school, their witnesses were harder to control because they were more outgoing," Colleen Douglas, junior, said.

In the second round, West Linn took the side of the prosecution and lost to the team from Ohio. According to Nathaniel Earp, the team used objections not found in the Mock Trial rules, but it did not lose any points for doing so.

They scored an easy win in the third round against the Nebraska team. They faced a tough Georgia team that gave a strong opening statement and was able to carry that strength through the entire trial. This led to the fourth round and a final loss for the Lion team.

"The Georgia team's witness for Taylor McIntosh was very flamboyant," Alexandra Mink, junior, said. "He destroyed his own credibility due to his over-the-top performance."

The team received one winning ballot in every round they competed—the judging is in three judge panels, each inde-



Zack Mueller, Nathaniel Earp, Colleen Douglas and Kelsey Bradshaw, juniors, prepare for one of the four trials in which they participated at the National Mock Trial Competition. The junior team finished in 18th place out of 41 teams.

Photo submitted by John Mueller

pendently scoring and giving a win or loss.

Douglas received two awards for being outstanding attorney during the competition.

The junior team qualified for Nationals when it won first place at the Oregon State Competition in April. The team has been practicing non-stop, four days a week since October. Composed of juniors enrolled in Honors Law A taught by Matt Kellogg, social studies teacher, the team included Hannah Bradford, Kelsey Bradshaw, Douglas, Earp, Neelou Etesami, Rachel Heisterkamp, Mink, Zack Mueller, Lucy Walker and Valorie Wallace.

Honors Humanities Night demonstrates deep thinking

SEAN PEBLER
Staff Reporter

Honors Humanities offers an opportunity for select seniors to think deeply about philosophy. The class chooses one philosophical question to answer during the year, and then creates some sort of visual representation which supports each individual's answer. The question this year was: What is the significance of beauty to the human experience?

On May 11, the students had one night to present the projects on which they had been working since early November. Guests were invited to share "An evening of Artistic Expression" as individualized by each of the 23 students.

"I felt like it was a great celebration of all we had accomplished. I was kind of surprised about how well the public liked them," Andra Sturtevant, senior, said.

Projects included different types of art, writing, music, photography and film. Some of the seniors wrote stories about the significance of beauty, while others created 3-dimensional pieces of art to depict their answer.

"The projects that are most impressive to me are by the people who throw themselves into the project, and when the process itself is as important to them as the product," Barb Murray, Honors Humanities teacher, said.

The evening began with a small assembly in the Auxillary gym, where the students explained what they had been doing for the past six months and how they answered their philosophical question. After that, they each showcased their presentations. Murray has invested a lot into the class of

question.

"My piece of art was in the gallery. I had a book of photos and text, and I also wrote a piece of music to accompany it," Sturtevant said.

Murray encouraged the students to question and struggle while creating their projects. She expected



Tyler Harmon, senior, displays his piece of art answering the question "Why is beauty significant to the human experience." Students in Barb Murray's Honors Humanity class presented their answers on Honors Humanity Night which was held on the evening of May 11.

Photo by Zack Mueller

23 students and was excited to see their final outcomes.

"I want them (the students) to do two things. I want them to really understand the themes and connections among great thinkers in Western philosophy. And I want them to know their own answers to these questions," Murray said. "Although I care more about the second, they need to understand the first."

Each student had a unique and different way of presenting their answer to the

them to put everything they had into their projects and ponder the true significance of beauty. Murray hopes students not only take this class for a grade, but also enroll in it to look deeper into human experiences.

"I hope that this is the kind of class where kids say it was the best class they've ever taken. It's not because I think it's the best class specifically, but because kids can really gain something personal from it," Murray said.