

School Board Report

At the March 10, 2016 School Board Meeting:

Board Discusses Bonds – The Board heard a presentation from Brendan Watkins of PiperJaffray who discussed options for refinancing current bond debt and the potential of looking for new money to retire current debt service the District has from the costs of constructing the new campus. Superintendent Aaron Miller led the Board through a further discussion on the issues. (See full story that begins on page 16.)

Board Approves Instructional Calendar – The Board approved the 2016-17 Instructional Calendar as presented. Principal Nate Underwood told the Board the calendar was almost identical to this year's calendar. It contains 157 student days; the first day of school for students is September 7 and the final day is June 8.

Board Approves Administrative Contract Extension – Following an Executive Session under ORS 192.660 (2)(i) "To review and evaluate the performance of... any...employee or staff member..." the Board adopted Resolution 1516-04 and approved an Administrative Contract Extension as presented. Although he was not mentioned by name in the passing of the resolution, middle and high school principal Nate Underwood is the only administrator under consideration with this type of contract.

Board Approves Policy Update – The Board approved numerous policy updates recommended by the State Board of Education.

Board Holds Strategic Planning Workshop – The Board held a mini Strategic Planning workshop with Kate Pattison who will be leading the Strategic Planning process for the entire District and community

over the next several months.

Building Reports – Elementary school principal Aaron Miller told the Board the school has worked with the K-2 blended classroom model for two years and found it effective for dividing classes and students evenly, but not as effective for the social and academic growth of the kindergarten students. Because the model is in need of revision, Miller presented two options under consideration for reconfiguring students in K-5 for the 2016-17 year. Miller said details would be shared with parent around the time of Spring Break.

Miller told the Board the Obo Addy Legacy Project performed for students on February 19 and students were enthralled with the drumming and dancing routines from Ghana. Programs are funded through the Run For the Arts program; this year's fundraiser is scheduled for April 14.

Councilor David Spackman presented the Board with an attendance report for the elementary school which showed that overall attendance has remained steady at 94-95% during the last three years, while chronically absent attendance (10% days missed) has been reduced from 17% to 12%.

Middle and high school principal Nate Underwood also discussed attendance and told the Board this remains an issue, especially chronically absenteeism, which ranges as high as 50% in some grades.

Underwood told the Board that he and staff have been working through the Willamette Promise program for students to receive college credit for work they complete in high school, and may be looking to expand the program through the Northwest Promise program next year.

In his written report Underwood acknowledged the success of the winter sports programs, including boys and girls basketball, wrestling, and cheer. Underwood recognized Classified Employees Week and personally thanked these valuable employees for their dedication and commitment to students. Underwood noted the 8th grade students who will be participating in the Close Up trip to Washington, D.C. this year.

Board Receives NWRESA Annual Report – The Board received the Northwest Regional Education Service District (NWRESA) Annual Report which provides details of the services the Vernonia School District receives from the ESD. The NWRESA provides assistance with early intervention and education and other related services, behavioral programs, services for homeschool students, outdoor school, virtual education opportunities, instructional services and staff development, technological services and administrative services, and serves schools in Columbia, Clatsop, Tillamook and Washington Counties.

Public Comment – Amy Cieloha told the Board that she removed one of her children from the District and thinks it is important for school leaders to talk with students who no longer attend Vernonia schools to see what is different and what changes could be made to make the school more attractive and better meet the needs of students.

Student Report – Amanda Rose Sicard, representing the leadership class, updated the Board on activities at VHS, including winter sports, art classes, a career expo attended by juniors and seniors, talent show, donkey basketball, robotics, band, spring sports that are getting under way, and prom which will be held April 23.

Loggers Win State Championship! *continued from page 10*

a community in such a positive way."

Regis jumped out to a quick 6-0 lead to start the championship game but the Loggers battled back and trailed 14-11 at the end of the first quarter.

Adams took over in the second quarter. After hitting a 3 pointer to tie the game at 14, the teams traded baskets the rest of the quarter with Adams hitting 3 more buckets. A jumper by Scheimann with 2:48 to go in the half gave Vernonia their first lead of the game and a 3 point shot by Elliott with 12 seconds left gave the Loggers a 27-24 lead at the half.

The Loggers kept control of the game throughout the second half, as they worked the ball inside and led 39-33 at the end of three quarters.

Mian opened the fourth quarter hitting a jumper, Sullivan extended the Logger lead to 10 points with a jumper of his own, before Main hit another shot to keep the Loggers lead at 10. Scheimann hit a pair of jumpers and Conner and Adams each added one, before Conner headed to the free throw line and iced the game by hitting 4 of his final 6 free

throws.

For Weller the state championship win was especially sweet. Weller, at just 29 years of age, has taken the Loggers to Pendleton in three of the five years he has been the head coach. He never made the trip to Pendleton as a player during his career as a Logger. "This was really fun," said Weller. "I told the team on the first day of practice this year, 'We're the best team in the state, talent wise.' But we knew it was going to take coming together as a team and having good team chemistry and then playing hard each and every night."

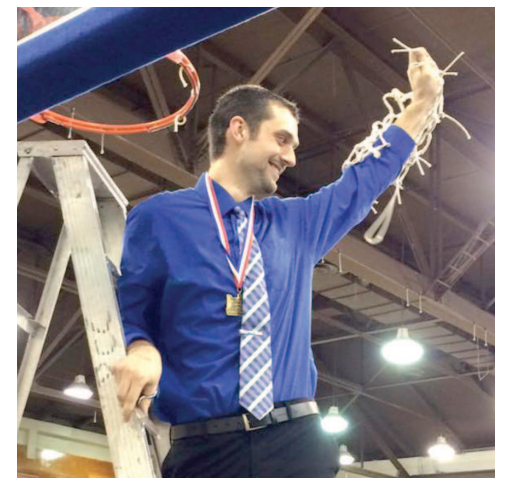
The Loggers advanced to the semifinals with a 44-42 win over Burns in the tournament opener on Thursday night. Sullivan led the Loggers with 15 points and 8 rebounds and was named Player of the Game. Elliott scored 8 for the Loggers including 3 clutch fouls shots to give the Loggers a 43-42 lead with 41 seconds left in the game. Schiemann added 8 points, Mian had 7, and Conner scored 6 for the Loggers.

In the semifinal the Loggers

defeated Bandon 51-39 and were led by Adams who scored 19 points on 7 of 10 shooting from the field, including 5 of 8 from beyond the three point line. Adams was named Player of the Game for the Loggers. Conner added 8 points and 7 rebounds, Brett Jones had 8 points, and Sullivan added 5 points, 8 assists and 7 rebounds.

This Logger team didn't just win on the court. The team was "caught" helping the Convention Center staff clean up the bleachers at the end of the night, after their games were over. "It was something they did on their own," said Weller. "We did talk to them before we headed to Pendleton and reminded them to remember that, not only are they representing themselves, they also represent their community, their school, teachers, coaches, and parents. When I heard what they did, as a coach it just makes you feel proud."

"I've been watching some of these players since they were in middle school playing together," said Weller. "I remember peaking in the door and



Logger head coach David Weller

watching them play. I saw little boys back then and now I've seen them become men. And not just men, but leaders. They've really matured, especially this season. They're a great group of guys and I couldn't be more proud of what they've done."

"Winning this championship wasn't an accident," said Weller. "They earned it and they deserve it."

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