

School Board Report

At the June 11, 2020 School Board Meeting:

Board Adopts Budget – After holding a budget hearing at which there was no public testimony either for or against, the Board adopted Resolution 1920-04 for the 2020-21 budget as recommended by the budget committee.

Board Accepts the Resignation of Mist Teacher Joan Jones – Joan Jones, a teacher at the Mist Grade School for 21 years, has informed the District that she is resigning her position effective June 30. In her letter of resignation Jones said she is taking a position teaching 1st grade at Jewell School. Jones said it has been an honor to work with amazing students, parents, instructional assistants, volunteers, and the Mist-Birkenfeld community. She thanked the School Board and Superintendent Aaron Miller for acknowledging the importance of the Mist School, for preserving the historic building, and for keeping it open so local children could attend school in their own community.

Principal Reports – Elementary Principal Michelle Eagleson said her staff felt like they got to know their students and their families better this year while doing Distance Learning during the shut-

down. Eagleson and High School/Middle School Principal Nate Underwood thanked their staff for their work during the shutdown. Superintendent Miller also thanked all staff for their efforts.

Superintendent Report – Superintendent Aaron Miller told the Board a total of 12,184 meals were provided for students during the shutdown; Miller thanked the food service crew for their work through the shutdown to feed the students of the District.

Miller said a survey has been posted on the District's website asking families what they want to see when school reopens in the fall, and also asking how distance learning worked for their family. He said the District has formed a Reopening Committee to consider the needs of students, staff, and families and create a plan for the District in September.

Bond Update – Superintendent Miller said the art room project is making progress and is on schedule. He said sidewalks are being installed at Mist Grade School, and he will be ordering new playground equipment for Mist and the Vernonia Schools. He said new security cameras will be installed, and the second set of front doors will be moved further into the interior of

the building and enclose the office windows and door to create a security barrier to the rest of the building; visitors will need to be buzzed in by staff before they can enter the main building. Miller told the Board the District is moving forward with a plan to drill a well to be used to irrigate sports fields and the greenhouse. He said after completing the above projects there will still be funds left over to act as seed money toward completing a grandstand at the football field/track, but

there will still be a need for more fundraising.

Board Approves Out of State Travel – The Board approved out of state travel for the 2020-21 school year for the Senior Disneyland Trip and the 8th grade Close-Up Trip to Washington, D.C.

Next School Board Meeting – Scheduled for July 9, 2020.

P.E.O. Sisterhood Awards Scholarships

The P.E.O. Sisterhood, St. Helens Chapter BO, has awarded scholarships to nine Columbia County women this year for a total of \$17,760 awarded for the Fall 2020 school year.

The Chapter BO Local Scholarship and Ida Loyd Walrod Memorial Scholarships are awarded to graduating high school senior women. The Ida Loyd Walrod Memorial Scholarship, administered by Chapter BO, was awarded to Tommi Ota of Vernonia. The two chapter local scholarships were awarded to Taryn Verzino of Warren and Jada Dickerson of Scappoose.

The Oregon Marguerite Scholarship and the Oregon Scholarship are administered by the Oregon State Chapter of P.E.O. They are scholarships for women already attending Oregon

colleges or vocational schools. Sidney Allen of Columbia City, and Mariya Hawkins and Abigail Marx, both from St. Helens, were awarded Oregon Marguerite Scholarships. Oregon Scholarships were awarded to Krista Rosales from Scappoose, Jodelle Marx from St. Helens and Anastasia Browning, currently living in Eugene.

P.E.O. is a philanthropic organization where women celebrate the advancement of women; educate women through scholarships, grants, awards, loans and stewardship of Cottley College; and motivate women to achieve their highest aspirations.

Thank you to the friends, family, and local businesses who support the Poinsettia Sale, which makes these scholarships possible.

Community Action Team Vernonia Head Start

Community Action Team, Vernonia Head Start has continued to serve families virtually for the past few months during these uncertain times. Staff has been creative in connecting and supporting families. Children have enjoyed getting to see staff and friends during virtual zoom meetings. Weekly educational activity packets were given out for families to support school readiness skills at home, individualizing for children. Summer activity buckets were delivered and staff enjoyed seeing the children's smiling faces, respecting social distancing.

Local Head Start programs are now recruiting 3 and 4 year olds for the 2020-21 school year. Heads Start offers a comprehensive preschool experience at no cost to qualifying families.

The program offers parents opportunities to learn and grow along with their children; receive guidance to com-

plete medical, dental, and nutritional assessments; get on the job training in the early childhood field, and learn about local opportunities for the whole family.

Children receive USDA approved lunch plus breakfast and/or afternoon snack on each day of class. (Head Start and USDA are both equal opportunity providers.)

For more information you may phone local Head Start centers: Vernonia (503)429-9243, St. Helens/Scappoose (503)397-4114, Clatskanie/Rainier (503) 728-2940, Astoria (503)325-5421, Warrenton (503) 861-9681, and/or Seaside (503)738-0873. The Head Start Admin Office is located in Rainier and can be reached at (503)556-3736.

Community Action Team, Head Start programs will continue to support children and family throughout the summer.

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