

Board approves, prioritizes plan

BY ALIYA HALL
THE CHRONICLE

CRESWELL — Mike Johnson, superintendent of Creswell schools, is close to seeing an eight-month initiative come to fruition.

How sweet it is.

“I just fell in love with this by the way,” Johnson said about data analysis and assessment processes. “We wanted all perspectives and we got them.”

Johnson launched a four-pronged plan to both satisfy state requirements and create a long-term strategic vision for Creswell schools.

Oregon requires a Continuous Improvement Plan and a Student Investment Application.

Completing the process meant a deep dive into data and broad public input.

His team began analyzing disaggregated student achievement and success trends, English language arts (ELA) and math K-12, individual student progress in ELA and math, ninth-grade “on track” to graduate and “on-time” graduation. Johnson then had his team conduct a community-needs assessment and researched “best practices.”

Community leaders, teachers, students and parents helped identify specific targets for success, a strategic five-step plan. It doubles as the district’s identity and vision, Johnson said, a comprehensive strategic action plan to respond to achievement gaps and disparities and an integrated comprehensive strategic improvement plan for continuous district improvements.

“I like the plan on priorities,” Board Director Lacey Risdal said. “It’s pretty exciting that we could get extra teachers and programs for kids.”

Johnson said the district will post job positions after Spring Break. Board member Mark Parker asked about the timeline of approval and hiring.

Johnson said negotiations are going to start after he submits the plan and he was “certain” that their highest needs will be met because they demonstrated that in the data.

“We’ve got to have that, it’s critical,” he said. “I have 100 percent confidence that’s going to be in there.”

Budget bonanza

District records \$200k surplus, ‘looking really good’

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CRESWELL — Assumptions for the 2020-21 general fund budget are in the works and Superintendent Mike Johnson said that the Creswell School District is steady going into the next school year.

“Things are looking really good,” he said.

The district has a \$200,000 increase over the budgeted contingency for 2019-20 — initially planning for an ending fund balance of \$1,500,000.

The increase comes from an approximately \$100,000 increase in revenues and \$100,000 from projected program savings. The district also is starting with an 8% budget for contingency in case of an unforeseen event.

The district also projects an extended average daily membership weight (ADMw) of 1552.81 for 2020-21. This is a decrease of 10.91 ADMw over the current 2019-20 estimate. Johnson said the district could open transfers to make up for that 10% but

the district will be looking at its full-time employees and make adjustments to match student enrollment and scheduling needs.

“We will see what happens with transfers going out versus going in,” he said. “We’re breaking even on that one, it’s an improvement for us but we don’t want to break even. We want more coming in than going out.”

The district will have to analyze expenditures for supplies and materials because Johnson said that the District has some curriculum needs they need to prepare for in the future. The district will also include the Fund 275 athletic budget into the general fund as well.

Although the expenditure assumptions appear to be status quo, the only difference is the increase to the Lane Education Service District (ESD) funds. The district will need to supplement that increase with an additional \$70,000 but Johnson said that it’s because the district will be able to get more out of their increase of services.



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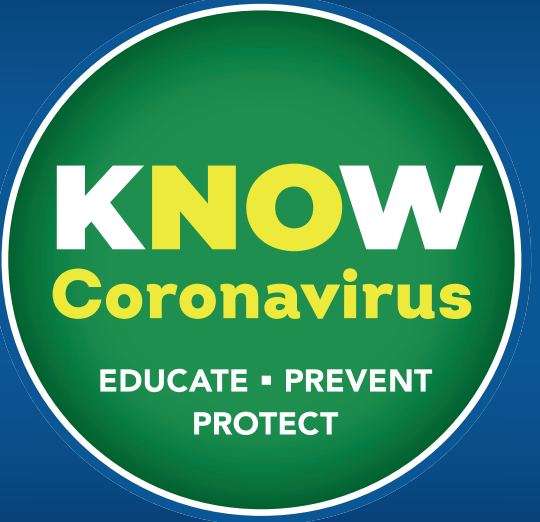
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