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SANDY, OREGON, THURSDAY, FEB. 24, 1972

## Board Seeks Constructive Discussion

More public discussion on the issue of the Sandy Union High School District's administration is being called for by several members of the high school board.

Board members Earl Meier, Milt Fox and Harold Kitchen in a conversation with the Post Wednesday, stated that they will ask their fellow board members to hold a board meeting sometime during the week of March 6 thru 10. The definite date, time and place will be announced by the board in time for next week's Post.

We agree with the board members that there is a need for this public meeting following the meeting Monday night where over 350 interested citizens turned out to discuss the school's administration.

At this next public meeting there is a need for the patrons of the district to present specific recommendations, ideas, questions and criticisms to the board members. This will enable the board members and other school administrators to hold a constructive discussion with the patrons on the problems in the district's administration which many patrons feel exists.

We feel that a large number of the

### Highway 26 Traffic Problems

Many Hoodland residents feel that this year has been one of the worst ever for traffic on Highway 26. They blame the traffic problems on the road conditions (which are caused by the weather and road construction) and poor traffic directing and control.

The State Highway Division in an effort to help, have installed a road condition broadcasting system. The system is installed between the Welches area and Government Camp. (See story on page 1.)

One group of people who should be helped by this broadcasting system are the ski area operators. During the recent freezing weather, road

### Road conditions

(Continued from page 1)

traversing the Cascade Summit.

The system consists of several roadside transmitters which broadcast pre-recorded messages on standard AM radio broadcast frequency 1580. The transmitters operate on a low power output and do not interfere with commercial radio broadcasts.

The coverage area extends from two miles west of Rhododendron to Rhododendron and also in the Government Camp area and is designated by roadside signs indicating that road conditions are available by dialing radio frequency 1580.

The messages repeat at one-minute intervals and advise the motorist whether

patrons in the district do feel that administrative problems exist and are asking for the replacement of Charles Croston as superintendent. The board received petitions signed by 264 citizens asking that Croston not be rehired as a way of starting to solve the problems which exist in the district.

Generally the audience and a petition signed by 543 students gave support to the continuing of the contract of Ralph Peterson as principal. However, Peterson told the audience that he has already let the board know that he will "not be available" for the same position next year. (The letter to the board stating his intentions was given to the board on Wednesday, Feb. 16. This information was not available before press time last week.)

It seems apparent that if there is to be a change in the district's administration then it is up to the patrons of the district to present to the board members specific reasons why the change or changes should be made or not made.

This should be done through contacting the board members before and at the next public meeting which will be announced in next week's Post.

conditions were terrible in the Portland area while from Sandy to the mountain ski areas the road was clear.

Many skiers probably thought that since the roads were bad in the Portland area then they must be bad in the mountain area and they stayed home. Hopefully with this new system, accurate road conditions will be available for the skiers and other highway users.

We will watch with interest to see how the system works and hope that those using the highway will drive with care to help ease the traffic problems.

chains are advised, chains are required, points where the traffic is badly congested, or whether the road conditions are normal. The system will be in operation daily from 8 a.m. until midnight during periods of inclement weather.

Present snow depth at Government Camp is six feet. The area is subjected to heavy snowfall which may vary to the extent of 12 to 24 inches in a 24-hour period during an extreme snowfall. This section of highway is maintained 24 hours a day by a 35-man crew at Government Camp equipped with the latest snow-removal equipment.

The system went into operation on an experimental basis last Saturday.

To the Editor:

One of the most important and controversial meetings of the Sandy High School District Board was held this past Monday night, which I was fortunate enough to attend. To begin with, I would like to apologize to the board chairman, Bill Dyal, for accusing him of personal bias in his quest to change the present High School administrative staff. Although I do not believe that the method in which his desire for change was stated, I do believe that a sincere and well-founded idea exists and that he thought strongly enough to bring it forth to the public, something which we should all admire and personally pursue ... something which a lot of us don't bother to do.

My main disapproval with the present situation rests with the fact that an innocent bystander entered the picture, and as a result, has to suffer the social and personal embarrassment, and the possibility of losing his job, all the result of a hasty and unfounded decision. I am speaking of Ralph Peterson.

I have not known Ralph personally until this past summer, but prior to then, I knew him as a school principal for four years in which I was in High School. I don't believe that the public really knows what a responsibility rests on his shoulders, and what an effort he is putting forth for school and the welfare and education of all those therein. As brought forth in the meeting, the duties of the principal more than double those of the superintendent and the vice principal combined. As an example consider the following: an average of three to four nights a week supervising activities; a leader in all assemblies; responsibility for all education reports; leader to all the teachers; and in addition to this, I have never heard of a single case in which a student could not speak with him in his office at any time during the day (exception being a conference). I have seen him time again counsel the same student about his conduct and his putting forth an effort and doing everything in his power to help the student ... and more than that, I have heard of no student which has ever spoken of him in any other than that of respect. That's saying a lot considering the problems which some parents have with their children.

It was brought forth in the meeting that two years ago, effort was put forth to resign the superintendent, Mr. Charles Croston. I personally do not know Mr. Croston as I rarely saw him in High School and I will decline from any comments in his regard. It does come to mind, however, that a problem definitely exists in the delegation of duties among the administrative staff, and if this is the case, Mr. Croston should have noticed it and brought it to the board's attention. I strongly believe that the result of poor administration could have been because of the policy with which the administrators had to contend and possibly the fact that an apathetic view by the superintendent precluded his bringing this forth to the board.

In conclusion, I would like to state that anything Ralph Peterson did had to be within the reins of what the superintendent would let him do, and that any problems that exist between the administration of the High School and the High School Board must come from either the superintendent or the redundancy of the present High School policy. Knowing the feelings of the majority of people in this community, I would like to offer an apology to Mr. Ralph Peterson and ask him to remain with a school who needs a man of his dedication.

Richard N. Steiner

To the Editor:

The public could through their right to vote, hopefully, settle a problem this coming May during the high school budget election.

A way out of the dilemma seems to have been provided by the Oregon state laws in conjunction with the workings of the Sandy High School Board. Because of the March 15th deadline for contracts, the problem of retaining Mr. Croston as superintendent and Mr. Peterson as principal can not be resolved until May, a one-year contract should be given to both Mr. Croston and Mr. Peterson.

Since Mr. Dyal, who is op-

posed to Mr. Croston, and Mr. Fox, who is for Mr. Croston, are both up for re-election, this dilemma could be resolved during the high school budget election of School Board members.

Since the retention of Mr. Croston is such a hot issue, I believe the candidates who run against Mr. Dyal and Mr. Fox should unquestionably declare whether they are for or against Mr. Croston.

Now then if a serious, honest and forthright individual who is against Mr. Foxes position should be elected and Mr. Dyal is re-elected then a 3 to 2 relationship against Mr. Croston would exist. Then Mr. Croston could resign at the end of his one-year contract.

If the public elects a serious, honest, and forthright individual who is against Mr. Dyal's position and Mr. Fox is re-elected then a 4 to 1 relationship for Mr. Croston would exist. Then when Mr. Croston's one-year contract comes up for negotiation, a three-year contract could be given him.

Thus the public through their American heritage could choose the man who could settle the dilemma of retaining Mr. Croston as superintendent.

Stan Bowman

To the Editor:

At the Feb. 21 meeting of the SUHS School Board, the main topic up for discussion was the proposed suspension of Mr. Croston, superintendent, and the resignation of Mr. Peterson. The reasons people were drawn to this meeting were the editorial and letter to the editor from Mr. Bill Dyal in last week's Sandy Post. In effect, Mr. Dyal announced that Mr. Peterson was being fired. He failed to mention that two days prior to the release of the Post, Mr. Peterson had submitted his resignation.

What we saw last night was a display of the blatant egotism that is an important part of our School Board. The policies for running our school are made by five elected members to the executive board. Due to the oversight of the electors, these men are not previously trained in education administration. It is to the credit of these elected men that they dedicate a great deal of time and effort to their position on the Board. Unfortunately, their personal feelings play too big a part in the decisions they make for Sandy High.

Mr. Dyal said at one time and only once, that education of the students was the main concern of the board. They know only what their own school experiences have taught them, I would estimate at last 30 years ago, about how a high school operates, and how students fit into the system. Yet these five people, good as their intentions may be, make decisions on how money is spent and how a man, trained in college as an educator, should do his job. Only one time in two hours were we told what it was the principal or the superintendent failed at: enforcing the dress code! A major issue to be sure!

The School Board has been running its little oligarchy long enough. Teachers are afraid to speak their minds for fear of losing their jobs. It's the responsibility of the voters to know what's going on and take a hand in making decision. Personally, I think the present School Board situation should be changed and only those with training in education should be allowed to hold office. Until and if this is ever done, a lot of work has to be done. It's something to consider.

Gayle Claus  
1971 graduate, SUHS

To the Editor:

At the board meeting on Monday, February 21st, support in the form of patrons present and petitions submitted, was given to the end that our Sandy Union High School administration be changed.

I do not think that the cafetorium nearly full of patrons and 264 names signed to a simple petition asking for Mr. Croston's removal and replacement should be ignored.

Some of the members on this board do not feel that credence be given to either.

Election to office is not license to do as one pleases. The office of school board member should not be used as a political springboard.

Many problems that are current such as: replacement of personnel, job responsibility, curriculum changes and related costs; will not be

properly considered or solved if the present philosophy of your high school board is pursued.

Not all of the high school problems are administrative. Many of them originate on the board. I can not change this. It is up to the patrons of the district to do it now.

B. H. Dyal  
SUHS Board Chairman

To the Editor:

We, the undersigned, members of the Sandy Union High School Board of Education, would like to take this opportunity to clarify our position on the controversy which is presently causing untold damage to the welfare of our students, the faculty, the administration, and the patrons of this school district.

A report concerning the events which led to the public gathering on Monday evening is needed at this time. A private work session was held at the close of the regular board meeting, on Monday, Feb. 14th. Those present were: Chrmn. Bill Dyal, Harold Kitchen, Milt Fox, Earl Meier, and the deputy clerk, Mr. Bill Boring. Mr. Wayne Johnson was not present due to his work commitment. A discussion was held and opinions were voiced as to the future of our school administration. No vote was taken at this time as was indicated in the letter to the editor appearing in last week's Post, because when dealing with subjects of this magnitude, it has been the policy of this board to act only when all five members are present. There were no minutes taken at this time since no official action was taken. The hour was late so it was decided to have another meeting on Wednesday, Feb. 16th. This meeting was called to finalize salary schedules for all district personnel which was to be presented to the Budget Committee.

At this meeting, Feb. 16th, the deputy clerk, Mr. Boring, handed a letter to Chairman Dyal. This letter was from Ralph Peterson in which he requested that we not consider him for the position of principal for the 72-73 school year. Again, this meeting was made up of only four members with Mr. Johnson being absent. This was his week to work out of town with the telephone company. No action was taken on the resignation, and as of this date, the resignation has not been accepted.

The appearance of the letter in the Post, and the accompanying editorial was unfortunate. The information was ill advised and we sincerely invite the editor to attend the regular board meetings so that he may be properly advised in the future.

Wayne Johnson  
Harold Kitchen  
Earl Meier  
Milt Fox

To the Editor  
Due to my work schedule I was unable to attend the "Budget Meeting" which was held in the Sandy High School cafetorium on Monday, Feb. 21, 1972.

There are some things I would like to say to the public. First: Mr. Peterson has resigned as Principal. His letter of resignation has been received, and read by the board but no action has been taken on acceptance of that resignation.

A dis-service has been done to Mr. Peterson, his family, and the community by erroneously giving to the paper the information that he had been fired.

No man, particularly one of Mr. Peterson's integrity and devotion should be slapped in the face in this manner, and I as a board member hereby apologize to the Peterson family for the pain, embarrassment and hurt which a board member's action has caused them. This is a futile gesture but I mean it.

To lift a sentence from Mr. Peterson's letter of resignation, "I promise to do my best to insure an orderly transition period." Mr. Peterson is the quality of a man who so far has done, and will continue to do, his part to carry out this promise. It is therefore the duty of the rest of us who are involved to seek diligently to achieve the same end.

Second in regard to Mr. Croston, a man who has given many years of service to this community. No board action has been taken with regards to his re-hiring.

Opinions have been given, however Mr. Johnson was not

able to be present at the board meetings of Feb. 14 and 16 when these matters were most recently discussed.

It seems to me that in order to carry out the business of an organization the size of this High School, at least a certain amount of opinion sharing must take place and that these opinions should be treated as confidential, during the opinion forming stages only, because we realize that when a decision is made, it affects the District, and thus it becomes the property of the people of the district. These people have a right to know what takes place and who does what.

The freedom to exchange opinions and to weigh the other man's position is a must. To achieve this requires confidence among all board members that unofficial opinions (and possibly not final ones) will be kept in con-

fidence, and not spread about. Let no man misunderstand me, once an action is taken, the public does have a right to know how a board member stands, also the public does have a right to express its opinions before an action is taken, and that right is certainly not to be denied.

W.C. Kitchen  
Bull Run Board Member

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## COW POKES

By Ace Reid



"Naw, it ain't the rollin'. It's puttin' in them filters that throws me."

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10:36

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