

Eye on bull

pg. 1, sec. II



Eye on ball

pg. 1, sec. III



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Kindergarten proposal goes back to the voters

by DAN DILLON

The Sandy Elementary School District will resubmit its 'B' ballot proposal to the voters in May — kindergarten and all.

That decision came last Thursday evening at the regular meeting of the district board of directors, despite some concern that approval at that late date may delay arrival of some supplies necessary to implement the kindergarten program.

There had been speculation that the \$148,313 proposal would be omitted from a re-submitted 'B' ballot to increase chances of gaining approval for other items forced from their traditional spot on the 'A' ballot by inflation.

Superintendent Clark Lund told the board that the May 19 election does not present an "optimum situation" because the district is approaching the end of the school year. Board member Polly Jagosh said she was concerned about putting the kindergarten proposal on the ballot, having it pass, and then not being able to deliver — due to delivery time for some necessities and program establishment.

At that point it appeared the

kindergarten idea would be shelved for a year — board chairman Don Brader said. "It's not that we admit defeat" — but some ideas die hard.

After a 10-month study of the issue by a steering committee and numerous neighborhood meetings, the kindergarten has become an emotional issue, particularly for board member Sherry Lawson who helped initiate the proposal and served on the steering committee.

When the vote to re-submit the original 'B' ballot again was taken, she

was left to cast the deciding vote. She joined board members Ron Berglund and Barbara Herget in voting for re-submission. Jagosh and Brader voted 'no.'

An earlier motion, by Herget, to re-submit the 'B' ballot without the kindergarten proposal died for lack of a second.

Earlier in the meeting, Lund dropped financial "bombshell" when he told the board that the school district faces a possible 10 percent slice in its state Basic School Support.

He said he'd received word from Salem that the funding "may be sharply curtailed, even more so than we expected, for Basic School Support."

That cutback could not be made up in any ballot proposal, Lund said Tuesday. The 'B' ballot is only for specific expenditures and cannot be used to make up operational expenses.

Word of the cutback reached the district less than a week before its operating levy was approved by district voters. During the budget preparation, district officials expected a \$1.8 million

budget to suffice the district's needs. Now the Oregon Legislature is contemplating additional 10 percent cuts and, Lund said, there is a "good likelihood" it will occur.

If those cutbacks become reality, the shortfall could prevent some expenditures and Lund cautioned the school board to watch the district purse strings.

That word caused the board to approve one teacher's request for a leave of absence and a request for a health support services complex in Sandy

Elementary School pending final word on funding. The decision could come as early as May or as late as June.

In other action, the school board:

— Adopted a language arts textbook set for the elementary schools for English, spelling and writing.

— Instructed architect Heinz Rudolf to go ahead with construction contracts for renovation of the Sandy Elementary School playshed, being careful to watch some costs.

School district gets approval of state testers

A team of specialists from the state Department of Education gave the Sandy Elementary School a clean bill of health in its recent standardization test. But there were a couple exceptions, which the school board took steps to correct at its meeting last Thursday.

"We really did get a good report," Superintendent Clark Lund said Tuesday. "I'll be most interested to see the final report. We are being recognized as a quality district with some of the things we're doing."

The district has been using a social studies text, on the state's approved list, that is designated for ninth and 10th grade level students. The students using the text, however, are in the seventh grade. As a result, the evaluation team recommended that the district purchase a set of books which is on the seventh grade level.

The book which the team recommended came on the state's approved list after Sandy Elementary School District had already adopted its textbooks. Because the text that the district has been using more closely fits the goals of the district's social studies program, the new books will be used as classroom references.

They will cost the district approximately \$8 apiece for about 50 books. Failure to comply with recommendations could have meant a loss of standardization which in turn means an absolute loss of Basic School Support.

However, the vote to approve was close, 3-2, after one board member, Barbara Herget, requested more time to study the book, and a second, Polly Jagosh, said she wouldn't vote to support the text based on pictures she'd seen in the book while browsing through it at the meeting.

A transportation question involved the parking facility for the school district's buses. The transportation evaluator objected to backing up buses on school grounds without a person always present to watch for children and the buses jockeying for position at dismissal time.

The team recommended the board find a long-range solution for the problem, but said that something short-term should be formulated to stop the practice for the rest of the school year. As a result, the board voted to completely gravel the area near Cedar Ridge School where buses park, at a cost of approximately \$4,500.

As part of the long range goal, the district will examine the possibility of sharing a bus shed facility with the Sandy Union High School district and converting the present parking area to a grassy area for Sandy Elementary School students. That could involve moving the Community School trailer to a city-owned location, a possibility Lund said he would investigate with city officials.



It got a bit hectic around the officials' table at the St. Jude Research Hospital Bike-a-thon Saturday as 25 riders raised more than \$1,000 to support the facility. For additional details see story page 3, sec. I.

Photo by Dan Dillon

Designation of agricultural lands stumps county

How will owners of agricultural, commercial, industrial and historic lands in the rural areas of Clackamas County be affected by zoning definition changes being proposed by county planners?

That question and others about proposed changes to the county's comprehensive land-use plan will be discussed before the county Planning Commission this Tuesday, April 14, at 7:30 p.m. in Oregon City High School.

Most of the changes — which have

been required by the state Land Conservation and Development Commission (LCDC) before it will stamp its approval on the county plan — affect rural lands, especially that presently zoned agricultural, commercial or industrial, according to county planner Dave Poese.

According to Poese, who helped explain the proposals last Wednesday during a public "informational" meeting in Oregon City, one of LCDC's requests was that the county devise a clear

definition of a commercial farm to distinguish it from a hobby farm.

The county's resulting draft provides four criteria: the use of the land is primarily for the purpose of obtaining profits; its net income must be a major source of income for the farm owner or operator; it must contribute substantially to the agricultural economy of the area, and its products must contribute substantially to the existing agricultural processing business in the area, Poese said.

Another proposed change is to create "rural-commercial" and "rural-industrial" zones, he said. The new zones are more specific about the kinds of uses appropriate for land outside the urban area, he said.

For example, a large supermarket being built on a rural-commercial lot might be allowed more square footage than a supermarket on an urban, commercial lot, he said. Certain industries, such as the Eagle Foundry Co. in Eagle Creek would not be allowed under new

rural-industrial zoning, he said.

Existing industries incompatible with the new zoning would be allowed variances, however, he said.

The county has also been asked to identify "cultural" or historic sites and resources within the county and to establish special zoning to help preserve them, Poese said. Such zoning restricts certain improvements both on the site and on land adjacent to it, he said.

The proposed changes and their possible effect on property owners will also be discussed by the board of county commissioners during a meeting later in the month.

Crime prevention program kicks off

The city's crime prevention program kicks off next week with the first of what city officials hope becomes a series of neighborhood block meetings.

Sandy Police Chief Fred Punzel told the Sandy City Council Monday evening that the police department is ready to take its new crime prevention into Sandy homes to teach residents how to burglar-proof their homes and watch out for their neighbors' when they are away.

Punzel said the department is not promising an overnight reduction in the amount of burglaries and thefts reported, simply because as people become more aware of the steps needed to prevent thefts, they become more ready to report themselves as crime victims.

Punzel did say that somewhere down the road, however, the department hopes to realize a significant reduction in the number of burglaries.

The police chief said Tuesday that the program will be three-fold. The department representative — volunteers are

assisting police officers — will conduct a home security survey and make recommendations about how a house can be burglar-proofed.

The representative will outline a program of property identification that enables police to return property if it is stolen and recovered. Stickers which identify a home as containing

identification-labeled property is also a crime deterrent.

Finally, the representative will tell a neighborhood group how they can institute a neighborhood watch program to safeguard each other against unwanted visitors.

Any person within the city limits who would like to host a neighborhood

meeting is asked to contact the police department, 668-5566, for more information.

Punzel said the police department also hopes to institute a block home program before the end of school to help children who are harassed by strangers or bigger kids on their way to and from school.

Final tallies in for March election

The results of several important races for board positions in area jurisdictions in last Tuesday's special election were unavailable at press time.

Here are the final unofficial returns from races in the March 31 election in the area which were not carried last week.

BORING SCHOOL BOARD
Michael Byrd.....97

Shigenari Nagae.....102

BULL RUN SCHOOL BOARD
Position No. 2
Ron Jantz.....117
Glory Yankauskas.....57
Position No. 3
Jim Bollerman.....119
Joyce Alkins.....56
Position No. 5
Teddy Peetz.....67
Karen Rollins.....88

HOODLAND FIRE BOARD
Position No. 3
Maryanne Hill.....201
L. Ray Miller.....263
Position No. 4
Peggy Hergert.....238
Michael Igo.....209
Position No. 5
Richard McAbery.....167
David Olson.....256

Indicates write-in candidate.

Index

SECTION I

Keeping Posted.....5
Senior Center News.....4
Editorials, Letters.....6
School Menus.....5
Obituaries.....8

SECTION II

Area News.....1
About People.....2
Around the County.....3
Home and Garden.....6

SECTION III

Sports, Recreation.....1-2
Television Directory.....Inside Tab