

The Sandy Post

Editorial & Opinion

Chris Hale, general manager
Scott Newton, editor

Cedar Ridge needs a vice principal

The Sandy Elementary District's budget committee made a good decision last week in deciding to include money for a vice principal at Cedar Ridge in the proposed 1985-86 budget.

The exchange between budget committee members — which includes board members — the administrative staff and parents was an example of public debate at its finest. Although budget committees are supposed to determine a dollar amount and not set policy, the line is inevitably blurred.

Freeholder Larry Buck went into the meeting pretty well determined that Cedar Ridge could get by another year without a vice principal, but later changed his mind.

Buck was taken aback upon learning that the school could save about \$39,000 by eliminating the position. A cost of \$30,000 was discussed as a salary, and some people were visibly surprised to learn the total — with benefits — came to \$39,000.

Dennis Traxler, board member, made the motion to eliminate the item from the budget. One reason he gave for being against the concept of an added administrator was the declining enrollment expected at the junior high the next couple of years.

Budget committee members also heard from parents, who expressed a desire for a more effective disciplinary program. Sandy Grade School principal Darrell Shepherd said the administrators at other schools had made sacrifices because they saw the need for more support at Cedar Ridge.

The vice principal would be in charge of discipline, among other responsibilities. Dorothy Mills, board member, feels that by taking care of discipline problems at the junior high level, perhaps they can eliminate some problems at the high school.

Thinking of the school systems as a whole — instead of just looking at one district's needs — is commendable.

When Traxler asked Mills if the public would buy the idea of another administrator, she said, "We'll have to sell it to them."

Traxler's motion to eliminate the position forced the budget committee members to make tough decisions.

They were faced with a vote that exemplifies the dilemma facing education in Oregon, quality education versus fiscal conservatism. A vote for the vice principal might suggest to some voters that the budget is fat. After all, the first assumption most people make — regardless of the validity of that assumption — is that the administration of any governmental agency is top-heavy. Approving the motion to eliminate the position had potential for good public relations. On the other hand, there was a clearly stated need for a vice principal.

The vote was tied, at 5-5, and so the motion died. We reserve the right to comment on the budget, which was approved by the budget committee by a 9-1 vote. The budget will increase 2.6 percent but the levy rate will go up 10 percent. A public hearing will be held in April.

Regardless of what happens at that time, we agree that the vice principal's position belongs in the budget.

Junior high students live in a world where they receive mixed signals during a time when they are already going through physical changes. Some added guidance from a trusted adult would be a good step forward.

That leaves us with one last thought. Some junior high and high school students today do fight, some experiment with drugs and some are sexually active. From hearing some people talk, though, one would think it is not safe to walk through the halls of Cedar Ridge or Sandy High School.

The fact of the matter is a majority of young people are studying, playing sports, earning merit badges and holding jobs. The decision to hire a vice principal does not indicate a problem of unmanageable proportions.

It is simply an effort to try to deal with a problem before it requires Draconian measures. And that is how a school district should be dealing with its problems.

Letters to the editor

Morrison has qualities for position on board

The freedom of choice or the right to choose is not only an honor but a privilege here in America. Fortunately we have the opportunity to exercise that right when it comes to the selection of school board members.

When I look at a candidate I look for someone who is truly for the good of the children in all aspects of school, especially quality education.

Next I look for qualities such as leadership, honesty, enthusiasm and

integrity in that person. Well, that's quite a bill to fit but we are lucky to have such a person running for the Welches School board position number three on March 26.

Her name is Dawn Morrison and I urge you to please exercise your right to choose the kind of person whom you would want to have an active hand in determining your child's educational future at Welches.

Audrey Fonseca
Rhododendron

Buss is well qualified

This letter is in support of Paul Buss for the SUHS board position. I have known Paul for the last one and a half years and find him to be a very thoughtful, honest and hard working person. I feel that he is well-qualified to serve on the school board. His previous experience on the Cottrell Grade School budget committee and

SUHS budget committee give him experience in school affairs.

Paul brings business experience and "savvy" to the board. I urge a you to vote for Paul Buss on March 26th.

Jerry Ford
Boring

Policy on letters

Letters to the editor should be typed, double-spaced and signed. An address and telephone number should also be provided, although only the name of the letter writer and the city or area he is from will be published.

Letter writers may also wish to include a title or office held if it is appropriate considering the subject matter of the letter.

The news deadline of noon, Tuesday is also the deadline for letters to the editor.



Letters to the editor

Quote misrepresents; examine budget

Last week the Sandy Post published an article in which I was quoted at the first meeting of the Sandy Elementary School District budget committee as saying, "... kids are getting a better education in other schools." While I dispute that exact quote, the article also failed to show that I immediately qualified the statement I did make by noting that any failures in our schools were not due to the quality of the teaching staff, or administration. I went on to say that I have been, and remain, very satisfied with the level of instruction my children are receiving in the district's classrooms. My concern was instead with the worsening financial situation in the schools, due in part to the flagging economy and the resulting decreased tax base in our county. Never at any time did I mean to imply our children are being instructionally shortchanged.

Generally speaking I feel that The Post, through its editor, is doing a good job of reporting the news of our community, and this incident has not diminished my feelings for the service it is providing.

On the subject of the grade school's budget, I would like to say that in the three years that I have served on the budget committee, and during the several years before that when I closely followed its work, this last session proved to be the most difficult that I can recall. The budget committee, composed of the board of education and five freeholders (citizens), struggled this year with a number of serious problems, not the least of which included a declining tax base and reduced state revenue. Both the committee and the administration spent many hours debating, examining, and critiquing the proposed budget until the committee finally settled on a considerable number of cuts. The resulting budget, reflecting a modest 4.5 percent increase, is, in my estimation, a good one that still allows for a sound teaching environment. We are, however, after several lean years, perilously close to losing the gains our district has made in the past.

Remember that the people who examined, revised and cut this budget are also taxpayers, homeowners, and parents, and were appointed or elected by you to represent the best interests of our schools and our community. Sometimes voters, including myself, are inclined to simply let issues slip by without really attempting to understand or examine them. I hope the voters of the community will take the time to examine the budget, and bring any questions they may have to either the board of education, the administration, or budget committee members. We have done our job to the best of our ability. Now it is time for you to do yours and examine our work.

William W. Lenon, chairman
Sandy Elementary
budget committee

Let's try Dawn Morrison

Many people already know who they're voting for on March 26. Many people do not realize the school board election is so soon. Many do not know who or how many the candidates are and there are many more who could care less about any of it.

To the remaining few of the interested voters in our district may I recommend Dawn Morrison as my candidate of choice. With three children in Welches School, Dawn has proven a tireless worker in and for our community. She has served as president of the Mt. Hood Preschool Coop, she reorganized the Welches Parent Teacher Organization, and has been a Brownie and Girl Scout leader.

With her rare wit, varied skills and talents, and plain old common sense, this candidate is running for the school board position for only one reason — to add what she can to make our school the best it can be for our kids.

Dawn is not seeking to become a "pillar" of the community, nor is she interested in social prestige. She's not adding a political feather to her or her husband's cap and she's willing to do and say whatever is necessary for the good of our children. Crazy idea you say? Never been done like that before? Let's try it! Our kids deserve Dawn Morrison.

Vicki Kramer
Welches

'Critic' says job well done

I feel the role of complainer and/or critic must have balance. In other words, when you feel things aren't right, speak up; however, when things are right, be equally generous with praise.

At the SUHS board meeting March 11, the board considered purchase of a metal shears. The administration secured three benefited bids from reputable vendors. Each bid represented a competitive machine capable of doing the job. The board reviewed each bid, then discussed in detail the advantages and disadvantages of each machine.

The board questioned Lynn Sondenaa, shop instructor, concerning every aspect of the purchase, including a used machine, safety advantages, maintenance, etc. They even discussed strength of the floor to support the machine and a detailed discussion of how it would be used and supervised. In my view, no stone was left unturned to get the best machine.

The instructor, Lynn Sondenaa, obviously knew his subject well and had explored every aspect of the investment. I feel the board and administration should be commended

for their handling of this purchase. A job well done!

John King
Sandy

Swails best for Sandy High

Having known Jerry Swails for the past 25 years and having first-hand knowledge of his activities in the school systems and community, we support him as the best candidate for the position as board member of the Sandy Union High School.

He has always been involved with the youth of the community, be it Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, 4-H Club or members of the various high school athletic teams. He has always been concerned that the students at Sandy High obtain a good basic education so that they would be prepared to take their rightful place in the working world.

For many years Jerry had experience in business managing his own plumbing and heating contracting business and at the same time devoted a great deal of effort and time to community activities such as service as president of the Chamber of Commerce, Fire Department, Dad's Club and City Planning Commission.

Jerry's whole family, including his wife Helen, along with their four children, have been involved in these activities and will give him their complete support. All four children have graduated from Sandy Union High School.

We feel as concerned as he is Jerry will work very hard to get the maximum educational value for the dollar spent and will contribute the necessary time to accomplish the job.

We urge the citizens of the Sandy Union High School District to support Jerry Swails.

Olin Y. Bignall
Joyce M. Bignall
Sandy

Buss isn't a 'yes' man

Over the past year, I have had the opportunity to become acquainted with and work with Paul Buss through CQE.

Paul is now running for the open position of the board of directors for Sandy High School, and there are several reasons why his candidacy deserves the support of the voters of our district.

Paul has demonstrated his commitment to the youth of our community by the years he has already devoted to good schools by serving four years on the budget committee of Cottrell Grade School, and the budget committee of Sandy High School for the past two years.

However, it is important to point

out that Paul has never been considered a "yes man," or a "rubber stamp," to the administration of either school. As an individual with a sizeable property tax bill himself, he is concerned about the tax burdens all of us face, and will constantly work to help achieve the most cost effective use of our tax dollars.

The election of Paul Buss will provide a positive influence in our school board, and as one who is not satisfied with the status quo, Paul will continue to work to bring about needed changes without the disruption of the educational process that we have seen advocated by some in our community.

School board candidates can be judged not only upon their past performances, but also upon the associations which advocate their election.

Look at the past performance of Paul Buss, and the past record of those who oppose him, and I'm sure you will agree, Paul Buss is the man we need.

Mel Lamm
Sandy

Buss and SUHS are on course

Sandy Union High School has been moving in the right direction these past few years. There is still a lot of work to do and we feel that the board needs the best qualified people to get the job done; therefore we urge you to vote for Paul Buss for position number one on March 26 — that's THIS TUESDAY, folks!

Nick and Shirley Roth
Boring

'Problems' was informative

We want to thank the Cedar Ridge Parent Group for sponsoring the recent forum, "Problems Our Children Are Facing." We thought the speakers presented their information in a concise and well informed manner. We left that evening with a better understanding of how we as parents might better cope when our children become teens.

We also feel we got a change to know Roberta Hutton that evening, and we feel very happy that she is in charge of our high school. She impressed us as a person who can deal with the problems of teenagers in an open and capable manner.

Our thanks to the Cedar Ridge Parent Group and especially to Ann Marie Amstad and Pauline Moore for making it all happen!

Maggie Lowery
Donna Stuart
Michele Riggs