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Board delays drug proposal

Parents question merits of \$12,000 drug program

by SCOTT NEWTON
Staff writer

Despite a strong endorsement from a committee that studied a drug program, the Sandy Elementary District board Monday delayed action on a proposal to add the \$12,000 program to next year's curriculum.

A committee that has been studying a variety of drug programs for a year recommended adoption of the "Here's Looking At You 2000" program. Darrell Shepherd, principal at Cedar Ridge School, said the committee put more "resources in this study" than any he has worked on.

The committee included the principals at all four schools in the district and the presidents of the parent-teacher organizations at all four schools. Teachers in all the schools also had an opportunity to review the program.

But Edna Cooke and her husband, Roger, testified Monday in opposition of the project, as did Heidi Sheppard, another parent.

The board decided to postpone action after board member Art Lowery said he wanted time to do some research. "I guess the things I hear bother me a little," Lowery said.

The "2000" drug program teaches children to deal with peer pressure using "refusal skills," and provides factual information about drugs.

Lillias Crane, counselor at Cedar Ridge, said she has found several reasons that children use drugs, including the masking of emotional pain from academic problems or family problems.

They may also use drugs because of peer pressure or because of availability at home. Children in families with a history of drug abuse or antisocial behavior also are more likely to abuse drugs, Crane said.

Children who abuse drugs, Crane said, are interested in "straight-forward, factual information" about drugs.

The "2000" program provides that information. Crane said the program is comprehensive, changing each year as the children get older.

She said the drug program not only teaches refusal skills, but helps students turn bad situations into positive ones. For example, one exercise suggests that if a student asks a friend to take a drug, that that child

should respond by suggesting they participate in a positive activity instead.

Edna Cooke, who lives in the Welches School District, also participated in the committee's study. She said she was not opposed to drug education but was opposed to this program because of the cost, the time that would be spent away from academics and the philosophical basis of the program.

Cooke said she participated in the study because she had served on a similar committee in Welches and was interested in helping evaluate a program for Sandy schools.

Cooke said the program instructs children with problems or questions to talk to a teacher, principal or counselor. "Family members, parents or clergy members are not included on that list," she said.

The "2000" program discusses the importance of high self-esteem. Cooke said high academic standards would help children feel good about themselves.

Roger Cooke said he had examined the homework assignments and that in his opinion about 30 percent of them were "fluff."

Parent Heidi Sheppard, who is not related to Darrell Shepherd, said she had looked at the program and felt it offered no structure for family or community involvement.

The program discusses such topics as drug use at home and other family problems, which could cause "alienation" among family members, she said.

Darrell Shepherd said the district could bring in guest speakers, host programs for parents or start a "Just Say No" club in addition to offering the program.

"We supplement material in a lot of classes," Shepherd told the board. "This would be no different."

City Manager Tom Reber also spoke to the board, saying that the Sandy City Council has been interested in trying to solve the problem of juvenile crime. He assured the board that the Sandy community has a serious drug problem.

Speaking for himself and not the City Council, Reber said he was disappointed it had taken so long to implement a drug education program.

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Police dog Moose is OK, but no charges filed yet

Moose, the German shepherd police dog shot in the neck in March while pursuing a suspect, is back on duty. But charges have not been filed against the person who shot him.

Sandy Police Chief Fred Punzel

said the Clackamas County District Attorney's Office would refer charges to a grand jury in mid-July. Those charges could include carrying a concealed weapon with intent to use, animal abuse in the first degree and criminal mischief.



Members of the Ecclesia Athletic Association sat in front of the home on Baty Road during the press conference Tuesday.

Photos by Scott Newton

Ecclesia leaves site

Group's future plans dependent on county's decision

by SCOTT NEWTON
Staff writer

Members of the Ecclesia Athletic Association have left Oregon temporarily and their plans for the rest of the summer depend on whether Clackamas County approves their application for a permit.

A spokeswoman for the organization said Tuesday that members of the group will attend a press conference in Los Angeles Saturday. At the news conference, the group's leader will answer questions about the group's plans, said Ecclesia's director of public relations, Carolyn Van Brunt.

The Ecclesia group has applied for a temporary permit to house 45 adults and 55 children on an 18½-acre parcel near Cherryville. It plans to train athletes and raise crops on the site.

In arriving at a decision on the application, the Clackamas County board of commissioners will consider the impact the group's plans would have on the neighborhood east of Sandy, said Dominic Mancini, county planning director.

Several residents have expressed concerns about those plans. Becky Hawley-Stroh said she is interested in knowing more about the group before having the members as neighbors.

Gayle Gow, another area resident, appeared before the Sandy City Council recently to ask the council to oppose the temporary permit. Gow said the group had committed a "breach of process" by moving onto the property before obtaining the necessary permit.

Mancini said Monday that the county was investigating the possibility of a zoning violation.

If the temporary permit is granted, it would not be an unusual move for the county, Mancini said.



Carolyn Van Brunt was the focus of attention.

He said temporary permits are used for many different purposes, including the housing of migrant workers by farmers. The Baty Road property is zoned for agricultural uses.

If granted, the permit would prohibit group members from building permanent structures and would require them to leave in late October.

At a press conference in Sandy Tuesday, Van Brunt said the group would be moving off the property

and traveling back to Los Angeles for another press conference, scheduled for Saturday, June 27.

Eldridge Broussard, the group's founder, will answer all of the public's questions at that press conference, Van Brunt said. He plans to make the presentation even though he is in the midst of an 80-day training fast, she said.

Van Brunt, however, declined to answer several questions at the press conference Tuesday. Questions about the group's relationship

to the owner of the property, Josie Faust, and questions about the group's financial support were referred to Broussard. Van Brunt also declined to discuss a "vow of poverty" that group members sign.

A copy of the vow of poverty was sent to Clackamas County when Ecclesia applied for the temporary permit. The person who signs the vow swears that he or she will make a commitment to do the per-

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Under construction

Heavy equipment operators are widening an area for road construction on Highway 26. Work on the 3.5-mile, \$3.3 million project will continue through the summer. Two

lanes and some turnout lanes are being added between Wildwood and Zig Zag.

Boards seek solution to impasse on radios

Representatives of the school boards at Sandy High School, Sandy Elementary and Bull Run are supposed to meet and decide whether to spend \$14,000 on two-way radios for school buses, but so far no meeting date has been set.

Ralph Branson, the director of special education in the Sandy Elementary District, is also the district's safety officer. He was asked to research the issue by Superintendent Rex Hunsaker.

Branson said the absence of radios on buses has caused concern in the district for years. Branson said it is a safety issue.

If a student has a seizure while on a bus, a bus driver has the option of standing guard over the person and trying to keep him from hurting himself, or driving for help and hoping the student does not get hurt in the meantime.

Since a seizure can last a brief time or up to 50 minutes, there is no easy answer for the bus driver.

"It's not a good situation to put a bus driver in," Branson said. With a radio, the bus driver could call for help. Ambulances carry medication that helps stop seizures.

Branson said two-way radios also could save money. If a bridge was out, a bus driver in a nearby area

could pick up the students who were isolated, perhaps eliminating the need for a bus to make an extra trip.

Kent Heaton, superintendent in the Sandy High School District, also has considered the financial implications of purchasing radios — he is not sure the busing cooperative should spend the money.

Sandy High School, Sandy Elementary and Bull Run share a busing cooperative, and everyone agrees the cooperative has saved taxpayers money since its implementation during the 1984-85 school year.

The districts pay for busing on a per-hour basis, and Heaton said the cost is expected to increase by 9.5 percent next year, from \$26 per hour to \$28.50.

Heaton said he is concerned about safety. "I'm also concerned with increasing costs and budgeting properly for it," Heaton said.

The cost of busing has gone up. In 1985-86, the busing consortium's budget was \$511,746; for 1986-87, \$633,930; and the projected budget for 1987-88 is \$689,900 (without kindergarten).

Virginia Hames, deputy clerk, said the 1986-87 cost did not present a "true picture" because two buses

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