

# FORUM,

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drop-off loop. New classrooms – for career and technical education, science labs and special education – would be added to the north end of the building.

The district plans on assembling a task force of McNary area stakeholders to hammer out specifics of the any redesign if the bond passes.

While Wolfe and Jespersen hoped to redirect some of the growing animosity from neighbors along Newberg Drive toward hope for the future, there was plenty of grievance aired throughout the evening.

Residents along Newberg argue that closing two other pedestrian gates to the McNary campus – on Sandy Drive and Robindale Drive – have only served to shift the problems to Newberg.

“What motivated us was escalating criminal activity. It wasn't just kids behaving poorly, but interacting poorly with adults living in that area,” Eppley said.

During a question and

answer session, residents voiced concern regarding lack of respect on the part of parents using Newberg to drop off their students, the lack of sidewalks and street lights along Newberg Drive and the lack of a signalized intersection at the entrance to the school on Lockhaven.

The most resounding moment of the proceedings came when a resident of Newberg Drive asked the residents of Robindale and Sandy in attendance what should be done. “Close the gate,” was a near-unanimous refrain.

While it was the consensus of the audience, Wolfe said it wasn't something the school would act on immediately.

“The more barriers that we can remove for students getting (to school) is one of the things we have to balance,” Wolfe said.

Some of the solutions proposed included expanding the number of parking passes sold, having staff park off campus and shuttled in, creating park-and-ride areas for students to utilize public transportation, posting campus monitors at the gates and opening all three during drop-off and pick-up times, and having a Keizer

traffic patrol officer stationed at the Lockhaven entrance during drop-off to keep traffic flowing.

The sheer number of complaints and potential solutions was illustrative of the size of the problem, Jespersen said.

“If every person in this room was passionate about the same solution, we would do it,” he said.

The one idea that seemed to find some favor with the officials in attendance was opening the school to students earlier. Currently, the school doors open at 7 a.m. and the first class begins at 7:35 a.m. Opening the doors earlier might spread the number of cars utilizing Newberg over a longer time frame and reduce bumper-to-bumper jams.

While much of the discussion focused on student activity and expectations, some in attendance felt that students should not be blamed, or punished, for the actions of parents.

“I feel like it's the parents who are most disrespectful as far as traffic goes. How do we get them involved in whatever happens with this situation? They need to be good neighbors,” said one resident.

# SMOKING: ‘Enforcement is beyond our scope’

(Continued from Page A1) property and irritates his wife's allergies. He said most people he has approached in the park either comply with requests not to smoke or leave the area.

Board member Matt Bradley suggested establishing smoking areas and parks where they made sense.

“I think that's better than signs because that will prompt people to sneak around and do it. If you set a place, people are more likely to go to that place,” Bradley said.

The board started out with a motion to ban smoking in Keizer parks, but that failed in a 3-2 vote.

Board member David Loudon said a ban or signs

is not going to stop those intent on smoking a variety of substances.

“I've been down at Keizer Rapids a lot in the past couple of months and there is a lot of smoking of various things down by the disc golf course. I'm not sure a ban on that will stop what happens there because the only people that go down there are the ones who do this sort of stuff,” Loudon said.

A motion to establish smoking areas in larger parks and no smoking rules in other spaces passed in a 5-1 vote. Smoking areas will likely be designated by signs, but board members were aligned against any sort of covered spaces.

aged children.

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# K9,

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