

UNITED,

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that has garnered more than 500 signatures. A sit-in protest was planned for Tuesday, Oct. 24, at the school.

Prior to the changes, SKSD teachers were required to report incidences of suspected neglect or any type of abuse to the Department of Human Services, but the new guidelines expand reporting to most sex-related issues. New instances that would require reporting include: a student inquiring about birth control options after admitting to sex with a partner; reports of a pregnancy; a student confiding in a teacher after being kicked out of his home for divulging a sexually active, same-sex relationship.

The training materials suggest that the new guidelines were put in place based on current child abuse reporting laws and "conversation with

community partners who are experts on the issue."

A spokesperson for the district, Lillian Govus, said, "This is not a change in policy, merely a clarification. As mandatory reporters, we simply give the information to the correct agencies, but it is up to their discretion whether action would be taken. This presentation is being shared with all Salem-Keizer employees to ensure we are in compliance with this law."

However, the clarification feels like a stretch, said Ricky Galvin, a McNary sophomore. "The law says to report sexual abuse and rape and nothing about consensual sex," Galvin said. "What's the point of them teaching sex ed if a student does decide to have safe sex and ends up getting reported when they want to talk about it?"

It also made junior Marissa Dougall, another student organizer, feel uneasy.

"This change wasn't communicated to students or parents except through teachers. If I didn't know about this rule, what other rules don't I know about that could get me reported?" Dougall said.

Talk within the school rapidly turned to finding the loopholes in the new policy, Dougall added.

"In my advisory class, we talked about this the entire period. We decided we could come in, talk about situations hypothetically and there wouldn't be anything to report without names," she said.

In response to the new guidelines regarding inquiries to teachers about birth control, Dougall and Schott pointed

out that students could walk into Planned Parenthood and receive birth control without parental knowledge.

Galvin bristled at an example regarding the homosexual student.

"He just got kicked out of his home, and now he's potentially dealing with an investigation? Does the student have to deal with it or the parents or does the district just let it go because it's too hard to deal with? If they can just let that go, why not all the other ones?" Galvin said.

That particular example also raised the hackles of a McNary teacher who spoke on the condition of anonymity.

"I'm not reporting that kid to DHS, he's needs to get a home and help. I'm not going

to turn him in for having sex. He's already vulnerable and at a high risk for suicide," the teacher said.

Under prior guidelines, the teacher said they were still cautious about student interaction, but not afraid to intervene.

"If a kid is in the hallway bawling and I always ask them to tell me what's going on. I ask if it's social or school. They might say it's social and I ask if it's friend or boyfriend drama," the teacher said.

The next questions revolve around whether the student is being hurt by someone, the teacher said. Depending on the specifics of the issue and the gender of the student, the teacher said they would either counsel the student themselves or refer them to a teacher of the same gender.

If the teacher overheard students talking about consensual sex, the students were asked to change the topic.

being told to tell the students to shut up," the teacher said. "Teachers are also being told to establish appropriate adult-student connections so that when students come to school they feel safe and cared for. If students have a trusted adult at school that they need to talk with about sex, I see no problem with teachers being that."

To a one, the students rallying support against the changes found it hard to believe the roles they've assumed in the last two weeks, but all three mentioned an easily overlooked situation that will occur frequently if the new guidelines stand: numerous teachers at McNary and elsewhere in the district have students in Salem-Keizer schools. There's no delineation in the new guidelines for those situations.

"That's crazy," said Schott. "We are losing our trust in the district that is supposed to help us grow into the adults."

crossword

Tales

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CREATORS NEWS SERVICE

By Charles Preston

ACROSS

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15 Soak, as flax
16 Goddess of dawn
17 Tattler
19 Part of the foot
20 Fluctuate
21 Articles of merchandise
23 Spigot
24 Disgrace
26 Optimistic
27 Utah city
31 Formal declamation
33 Body of water
34 Small boy
35 Sharp
37 Indefinite number
39 Full
41 Make merry
42 Golfer's gadget
43 Eat
44 Bank employees
46 Ait
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- 52 Droops
53 Semiaquatic lizard
58 Pertaining to a son
60 Extra jurors
62 Become apparent
63 Vital statistic
64 River in Spain
65 Western entertainments
66 Motion of assent
67 In the near future

DOWN

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2 Not restrained
3 Part in a play
4 Birds of prey
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7 Ocean liner servant
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9 Mystic symbol
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11 Rabbit
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- 28 One on the move
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59 Anger
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DISTRICT,

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our teachers at risk, because they're mandatory reporters and they need to report sex abuse. We're trying to protect our teachers. We're trying to protect the safety of students and we have in some ways what people might think are conflicting laws."

Teachers are legally required to report 24 hours, seven days a week.

"I am required to make a mandatory report 24-7, even if we are out in public in our hours and see what we would constitute as child abuse, we have to report," Perry said.

Teachers are even obligated to report their own children.

"That's the position the law puts educators in," said Lillian Govus, director of communications for more than 500 signatures and a small protest at the capital on Monday.

also not our job to guess what the intent of the law is."

Once a teacher reports abuse, it's up to DHS on how to proceed.

"We really worked to say to our educators that your job is just to report," Perry said. "We don't want them in the business of investigation because you don't know where an investigation leads to and we want to leave that to the job of the people who are trained to do that."

Parents weren't notified of the changes.

"We just did the training out to teachers because we believe it's a clarification of the law and we're not asking teachers to go out and find out if kids are having sexual intercourse," Perry said.

Perry understands the outcry from students, which included a change.org online petition with more than 500 signatures and a small protest at the capital on Monday.

"I actually feel bad about that and I think it goes back to the remedy: let's either legislate a clarification or change the law," Perry said.

"We also believe it's really important to protect kids and we also know that underage sexual activity cannot be consensual. It's such a big and complicated problem with protecting kids, yet helping them feel safe so they have strong adults to make sure they have healthy relationships."

The school district does mandatory training every year in August. The slides clarifying questions about mandatory reporting were added in October at a meeting between all of the administrators.

Teachers have until Nov. 15 to sign off that they've viewed the slides.

"We wanted to be sure we really understood the issue," Perry said.

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Case No. 17PB06684

NOTICE TO INTERESTED PERSONS In the Matter of the Estate of ROBERT S. GIBSON, Deceased.

the attorney for the Personal Representative, Stephen E. Montgomery, LLC, PO Box 422, Silverton, Oregon 97381.

DATED AND FIRST PUBLISHED: October 27, 2017.

Stephen E. Montgomery, OSB No. 153941 Attorney for Personal Representative

10/27, 11/3, 11/10

NOTICE OF SHERIFF'S SALE

On 6th day of November, 2017, at 10:00 AM, at the main entrance of the Marion Co. Courthouse, in Salem, OR, I will sell the following real property: 4783 Settlers Drive NE, Salem, in the case of WELLS FARGO BANK, N.A., Plaintiff, vs. BEVERLY L. DILLEY, PERSONS OR PARTIES UNKNOWN CLAIMING ANY RIGHT, TITLE, LIEN, OR INTEREST IN THE PROPERTY DESCRIBED IN THE COMPLAINT HEREIN, Defendant (s). For more information go to <http://oregonsheriffssales.org>

10/6, 10/13, 10/20, 10/27