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## Mandatory reports at schools in spotlight



A group of McNary High School students protested the Salem-Keizer School District's mandatory reporting guidelines at the Oregon State Capitol. KEIZERTIMES/File

As the year drew to a close, the Salem-Keizer School District issued 'clarification' to its mandatory reporting guidelines that would require teachers and staff to report even instances of consensual sex to the Department of Human Services. Student and teachers at McNary High School spoke out against the changes and the story made international headlines in the weeks after *Keizertimes* first reported on it. Celtic students arranged a small protest on the steps of the Capitol and held a sit-in the following day to raise awareness. Outside observers felt the

new guidelines were an overreach in interpreting the Oregon's child abuse laws, but the district has stuck to its guns thus far. *Keizertimes* reporting eventually revealed that the decision was, in part, linked to a counselor who did not fully report an instance of alleged abuse, but why the guidelines were changed to make even consensual sex talk taboo still remains a mystery. State legislators have asked for opinions from the Department of Justice and plan on introducing a legislative fix in 2018 if nothing changes at the school district.

## HOA discriminated against resident McNary near top of list for upgrades

January also brought an end to a court battle over whether the McNary Estates Homeowners Association discriminated against a woman and her family when they did not allow a medically-necessary RV to be parked in the driveway of the family's home. Khrizma Kuhn, along with



K. Kuhn

her parents Gary and Renee, filed suit over the dispute that resulted in them moving to Woodburn in 2015. The Kuhns said they were harassed and one altercation with a neighbor regarding the issue turned into a shoving match. A U.S. District Court judge ruled that the family had been

discriminated against despite their efforts to resolve the situation. The court left the question of damages to a jury, but the HOA and Kuhns settled out of court for \$300,000 in May. The HOA's insurer paid the damages.

It was the second time in less than six years HOA administrators were found to have discriminated against families with disabled children.

A task force looking at the needs for facility upgrades throughout the Salem-Keizer School District released its final recommendation in February 2017 and McNary High School found itself near the top of the list of actionable items. The Celts need more science classrooms and space to accommodate a student body expected to grow by

at least 200 students during the next decade. McNary is already overcapacity. The task force was assembled in advance of the district asking voters to approve a new bond measure in 2018.

It was announced in December that SKSD will ask for nearly \$620 million in new bonds to grow the size of existing high schools and facilitate numerous capital

improvement projects at most of the district's elementary and middle schools.

District officials are hoping that improvements at the school will also reduce parking and traffic problems in the neighborhoods surrounding the school, especially on Newberg Drive North.

Voters will have their say on the matter in May 2018.

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