

SAFETY,

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local police departments or through trained, armed private security.

"As a dad, I wanted to see what I could do about (school safety). So I gathered information about what parents expect and what they would be willing to pay for it," Lawyer said. "The data supports a new conversation."

The survey put three questions to respondents, do you support having additional school resource officers (SROs) or armed security in schools, would you support increasing additional police funding through fees to pay for the personnel and whether the respondent lives in Keizer.

On the question of SROs and armed security, 52 percent of the 421 respondents said they wanted both, 28 percent said they would prefer SROs and 9 percent favored armed security. Only 9 percent said they wanted neither.

Regarding funding, 29 percent said cost did not matter to them. Nearly 24 percent said they would be willing to add \$3-\$5 to the existing public services fee, 16 percent said they would support a \$2-\$3 increase. About a quarter of respondents didn't want to pay more for increased security.

More than 91 percent of respondents lived in Keizer.

"I understand that this is sensitive but, as a parent with two kids, I can't know I had a chance and chose not to ask the questions," Lawyer said.

While no formal requests were made, Lawyer and Kohler said they hoped to see the city engage with the Salem-Keizer School District regarding the results of the survey and, if the district does not act, potentially put the issue on the ballot for Keizer voters.

"We aren't proposing one thing or the other, but the school district has chosen to ignore it. We can't sit around and do nothing," added Kohler. Lawyer said the goal is not

to create a punitive environment, but to secure school campuses.

City councilors responses were mixed. Councilor Roland Herrera asked how the survey was distributed. Lawyer, Kohler, Keizer Mayor Cathy Clark and state Rep. Bill Post all called for participation through Facebook, but Herrera said that responses from his circle would likely be far different.

Councilor Kim Freeman expressed concern over the limited number of responses and suggested making the topic central to an upcoming Community Conversation hosted by the Keizer Chamber of Commerce.

"I don't know if you plan to present this to the district, but I encourage you to do it. I, like a lot of folks, am concerned about school safety. Do you envision us hiring more police officers? I'm not sure how the jurisdictional issue and how it comports with the district," said Anderson.

Councilor Laura Reid, who is a teacher at McNary High School, took issue with the notion that the district was ignoring the problem.

"To say that they haven't done anything or aren't listening, isn't really fair. I would encourage you, as you proceed, to reach out to (Superintendent) Christy Perry regarding the district's fact-finding and marry the two," Reid said.

Even Keizer Police Chief John Teague chimed in when asked about his take on the proposals.

"Our interest in being in the schools is not to enforce the law, it's to see the law enforced a whole lot less in the schools," Teague said. "If increased security is the goal, then they should have armed security. You can get a whole lot more armed security for your dollar than you do cops. Whether that is palatable to people, I don't know."

Teague said he could envision an additional two SRO positions, but that would likely be the furthest reasonable extension of what KPD can offer.

SKEF wants city to pick up field watering tab

By ERIC A. HOWALD
Of the Keizertimes

The Salem-Keizer Education Foundation (SKEF) is looking for fields to host its youth soccer games, and has its eyes on the back 40 at Claggett Creek Middle School. However, organizers are asking the city of Keizer to pick up the water tab if the plan goes forward.

SKEF Executive Director Krina Lee and longtime Keizer youth sports advocate Clint Holland inquired about the possibility at a meeting of the Keizer City council Monday, July 16.

"We are desperate for facilities. There were some weekends last year when we were in 10 different facilities throughout Salem and Keizer," Lee said.

Lee said SKEF and Holland were willing to put forth the time and effort to rehabilitate the fields on the campus using volunteers and private donations, but are trying to avoid the school district incurring additional expense for water to maintain if improvements are done.

Lee said the fields at the school are in such poor shape

that physical education teachers are planning classes around the worst spots.

"We would have to reseed and level certain areas because the gophers are going wild," Holland said. He estimated the campus could become home to three or four new fields.

At press time, city staff didn't have a bead on how much watering the Claggett fields would cost, but doing so wouldn't be a first. Around the turn of the millennium, volunteers rehabilitated fields at Whiteaker Middle School and the city paid the irrigation bill for the next seven years. The contractual agreement only lasted five years, but Keizer Public Works Director Bill Lawyer said it took the city "some time to catch up." Since then, the Salem-Keizer School District has been billed for the water used to maintain the fields. To this day, cheers from the baseball and soccer fields at Whiteaker can be heard for blocks around the school.

In exchange for rehabbing the fields and establishing a concession stand to pay for continued maintenance, SKEF would ask for first right-of-refusal on Saturdays when its

soccer season is in full swing.

Lawyer and Holland believe that there are already two water meters near the fields, one for the school and one for the city, which would cut some of the costs associated with putting in new infrastructure.

After the meeting, Lawyer said he would not support using the park services fee the city collects on utility bills to cover the cost of watering the fields at Claggett.

"The fees are intended for use in city-owned park properties to increase the level of service, replace existing amenities and make additional im-

provements to the parks system once we catch up on all of the deferred maintenance," Lawyer said.

City councilors seemed receptive to the idea, but withheld any action while waiting to find out what the exact costs to the city would be.

"I think it's something that we really do need. I think it would be awesome," said Councilor Roland Herrera.

Holland added he would be willing to assist in efforts to rehabilitate fields at Cummings Elementary School if a similar deal for water could be reached there.

"We are desperate for facilities."

— Krina Lee
SKEF Director

SPREE: More charges, arrests possible

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Berlin was transported to Marion County Correctional Facility where he was charged with three counts of burglary, three counts of conspiracy to commit burglary, possession of burglars' tools, and tampering with physical evidence. He is alleged to have been involved in the burglaries at Sonic, Dairy Queen and Los Dos Hermanos. He has since been released from jail.

Scott was charged with burglary, conspiracy to commit burglary and possession of burglars' tools. He is believed to have been involved in the Burger King burglary. Scott is still in custody at the jail.

"We have reason to believe there may be more suspects involved and we know the criminal activity they engaged in extends beyond the city of Keizer. We are working closely with other law enforcement agencies," Kuhns said.

Additional charges for the two men arrested and additional arrests may be forthcoming.

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