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Soaring market raises school bond investment

By **HERB SWETT**
For the Keizertimes

The school bond approved by voters in the Salem-Keizer School District in 2018 has grown from \$619.7 million to \$677.7 million, the Community Bond Oversight Committee (CBOC) told the Salem-Keizer School Board on Tuesday, Feb. 11.

Market premiums, earnings on bond proceeds, grants and reimbursements have made the difference, CBOC reported. The additional funds were allocated first for a variety of projects to add space or projects at Kennedy Elementary School, which is in the McNary High School attendance area, as well as four other schools in the district.

Those schools aren't the only one to undergo further construction. Starting

construction in 2019 prevented one year of cost escalation for the projects. Work at Gubser Elementary School was near completion in time for the start of the 2019-20 school year and finished within budget.

Construction projects will begin this year at 16 other schools. CBOC said projects at 13 schools were on track to be "substantially complete" by the fall of 2020.

In other business, the board held first readings for sale of the Rosedale School property for an agreed-upon price of \$1,105,000 and purchase of 0.22 acre for construction at North Salem High School. Both proposed transactions will be up for adoption at the board's March meeting.

The board heard Adriana Miranda, executive director of Cause for Ore-

gon, and Dr. Reginald Richardson, vice president of the local chapter of the NAACP, discuss improved outcomes for minority students. They are the co-chairs of the Student Investment Account Task Force, which seeks to engage community members to advise Superintendent Christy Perry on solving underachievement problems.

Annual evaluation of the superintendent's performance was postponed to May.

The board accepted three grants, the largest \$2,954,151 through the Oregon Department of Education (ODE) to help students in schools with high percentages of poverty to meet state academic standards. An ODE grant of \$37,210 will aid neglected and delinquent youth. A grant of \$24,844 from the Response to Instruction and

Intervention (RTI) project of the Tigard-Tualatin School District supports elementary school access to conferences, workshops and funding.

Personnel actions approved by the board include the following in the McNary attendance area:

Less than half-time: Matthew Staatz, Whiteaker Middle School.

Temporary part-time: Jennifer Olson, Clear Lake Elementary School; Pamela Pieters, Keizer Elementary School; Antonio Perez Sanchez, Sheryl Wetzel, Anna Yakimov, Kennedy.

First-year probation full-time: Marie Dahlin, Kennedy.

Resignations: Dylan Bartholomew and Megan Ward, McNary; Chelcie Glazer, Kennedy.

Retirements: Scott Coburn, Whiteaker; Pamela Pieters, Keizer.

Paper adds new sales rep

Stephanie Moss-Wittman joined the Keizertimes staff as the advertising account representative on Monday, Feb. 10. Prior to coming on board she worked in sales with State Farm for a year.

Moss-Wittman has been in sales and marketing for 15 years. She has lived in Keizer for 18 years.

Outside of work she enjoys being a mom to three "fun, young ladies" Destinee, 13, Brooklyn, 10, and Jenny, 8. They like doing arts and crafts, playing basketball, going on hikes and hunting for rocks together as a family.

"Family time is very important to me, even if it's just sitting down to watch a movie together."

Moss-Wittman is involved in her kid's schools and is looking forward to getting more involved with the community.

"I've been involved with the Chamber for many years, I was a little inactive last year because of my desk job so I'm excited to get back," she said. She is looking forward to new volunteering opportunities with the Chamber.



Moss-Wittman

Sodexo backs CTEC with \$250K gift

Through a charitable donation by Sodexo, Salem-Keizer Public Schools' (SKPS) Career and Technical Education Center (CTEC) is slated to receive a \$250,000 donation to help fund the Culinary Arts program. The donation is being made to help assist in furthering their already successful program reach new heights.

"This kitchen is a magnet. It has attracted some of our brightest stars from all walks

of life culminating in a very diverse, successful program," said James Weber, CTEC assistant principal. "Our staff have pushed the boundaries of education in this program seamlessly integrating English and Science into the industry of culinary arts."

Sodexo and SKPS have worked together for over 40 years and eagerly approached CTEC to partner when hearing about the opening of the Culinary Arts program.

"Whether you are going into food services or not, take what you have learned and make sure you pay it back to others because that is how you make the biggest impact as an individual. Being collective is part of the great community here in Salem," said Steve Dunmore, Sodexo's CEO of School Services in North America.

As leisure and hospitality becomes the state's sec-

ond-fastest growing industry, the Culinary Arts program prepares juniors and seniors for high-demand careers. Students are taught in a state-of-the-art commercial-grade kitchen under the guidance of professional chefs. Here they learn culinary techniques, restaurant management skills as well as task management and professional skills.

CTEC is a public-private partnership between SKPS and the Mountain West Career Technical Institute. The center opened in the fall of 2015 and hosts 10 CTE programs: residential construction, manufacturing, welding and engineering, cosmetology, video and game design animation, autobody repair and painting, drone technology and robotics, business development and leadership, law enforcement, agriscience and culinary arts and management.

Giving back



Members of the West Keizer Neighborhood Association have partnered with Copper Creek Merchantile to host a new food barrel for the Keizer Community Food Bank. Donations can be dropped off during regular store hours.

Submitted

Blood drive at Dayspring in March

The American Red Cross is holding a blood drive at Dayspring Fellowship, 1755 Lockhaven Drive N.E. on Tuesday, March 24 from 12 to 6 p.m. To schedule an appointment call the Red Cross at 1-800-733-2767 or contact Connie Moritz at 503-851-0375.

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