

Students speak out at school board meeting

BY HERB SWETT
For the Keizertimes

Antagonism toward school officials regarding minorities was voiced by a succession of audience speakers at Tuesday's work session of the Salem-Keizer School Board.

Most speakers were students, but a few were parents and recent graduates. Not all focused on minority issues; several of the earlier speakers commented on problems involving COVID-19 and the plans for returning mostly to the usual procedures with the opening of the next school year.

Anita Brannigan, the first speaker, urged board members to communicate more with the public. She is a member of a group that encourages people to speak up without being intimidated.

Several commented on masking. Abigail Eckhart told the board she has a

developmentally delayed son who needs to see people's faces to learn. Melissa Phillips, who has been home schooling her three children, said parents should be encouraged to make mask decisions, because there is no one-size-fits-all answer. She added that children in Sweden have stayed healthy without being masked.

Heather Stevenson said she had eight-year-old twins who will have to repeat the second grade. She said one has epilepsy and the other is deaf in one ear.

Lee Morales urged that the school district show its curriculum on its website to enable parents to comment on it.

Then a long succession of speakers, mostly students, alleged that some school directors and administrators did not care about minority students. Board Chair Osvaldo Avila urged that speakers show their concerns but be respectful.

Several were unimpressed by his call for respect. One who identified herself only as Cindy said, "Some of you act like the chairs you sit on are thrones."

After all speakers from the floor were finished, Avila said, "Thank you. We'll take this up at our next board meeting."

Other board members were equally receptive. Maria Hinojos Pressey said the board should regularly allow lead time for people to speak from the audience. Marty Heyen, the only director attending remotely, said whatever mask policy is

enacted, "50% will be mad."

Iton Udosenata, the assistant superintendent, then outlined administrative goals for reopening schools:

- Five-day week.
- Emphasis on academics and social/emotional needs.
- Ongoing parent engagement and communication.
- Safety considerations.
- Close cooperation with the Oregon School Activities Association.

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senior housing guide

 <p>AVAMERE Court at Keizer</p>	<p>DIRECTIONS FROM KEIZER: From I-5, turn west on Lockhaven. Turn left at River Rd, then left on Claggett St. Immediately turn in driveway at left.</p>	<p>UNIT TYPES:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • independent living apts • assisted living apts • rehabilitation, skilled nursing & long term care beds 	<p>MONTHLY RENT: starting at \$1,837</p>	<p>ASSISTED LIVING AVAILABILITY: yes</p>	
			<p>AMENITIES:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Beautiful 5-acre campus • Family-like culture • Continuum of care to meet all your loved one's needs • Quality lifestyle for active seniors • Our assisted living is 9 years deficiency-free • WE ARE HERE FOR YOU. WE ARE FAMILY. 		
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 <p>the Village at Keizer Ridge ASSISTED LIVING AND MEMORY CARE</p>	<p>DIRECTIONS FROM KEIZER: On River Road, one-half mile north of McNary Estates. Right on McGee Ct, take second driveway on left.</p>	<p>UNIT TYPES:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Assisted Living • Memory Care 	<p>MONTHLY RENT: starting at \$2,855</p>	<p>ASSISTED LIVING AVAILABILITY: Yes</p>	
			<p>AMENITIES:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Individualized Care Plans • State-of-the-art theater • Raised garden beds • All day fresh gourmet dining • Life enriching, meaningful, stimulating activities • Resident created activity calendar • Courtyard walking path • More staff on hand 24/7 than other local facilities • Private & semi-private Memory Care apartments 		
<p>1165 McGee Court NE, Keizer, OR 97303 • 503-390-1300 • www.VillageAtKeizerRidge.com</p>					

 <p>Emerald Pointe Senior Living Community</p>	<p>DIRECTIONS FROM KEIZER: On River Road, one-half mile north of McNary Estates.</p>	<p>UNIT TYPES:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Studio • 1 BR w/ deck or walk-in closet • 2 BR, 1 BA • 2 BR, 2 BA w/ deck or walk-in closet 	<p>MONTHLY RENT: starting at \$1,350</p>	<p>ACTIVE INDEPENDENT LIVING: yes</p>	
			<p>AMENITIES:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Full kitchens in every apartment • Beauty Salon • Optional Meal Plans • Staffed 24/7 • Full Activities Calendar • Weekly Excursions • Special Dietary Needs Met • Coffee Lounge • Housekeeping • Community Room • Activity Rooms • Transportation to doctors, shopping, and more • Waist High Gardens • Walking Paths • Free WiFi 		
<p>1125 McGee Ct NE, Keizer, OR 97303 • 503-390-7700 • www.EmeraldPointeKeizer.com</p>					

 <p>Willamette Lutheran Retirement Community Keizer's Best Kept Secret</p>	<p>DIRECTIONS FROM KEIZER: Drive north on River Rd. Turn left on Wheatland Rd. Go 1.5 miles. On left side of road.</p>	<p>UNIT TYPES:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • independent living includ. studio and 1-bedroom apartments, 2-bedroom cottages 	<p>MONTHLY RENT: starting at \$1,822</p>	<p>ASSISTED LIVING AVAILABILITY: yes</p>	
			<p>AMENITIES:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Not-for-profit, Christian community serving all faiths • Pets allowed • No Extra Charge for a 2nd person • 24-hour nurse on staff for emergency response • 3-delicious homecooked meals daily • Van service for shopping & medical appts • Housekeeping • Great Social Activities • Church Services 		
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