

Teachers don't like Cannon Beach Academy plan

Parents also have concerns about charter school

By DANI PALMER
EO Media Group

CANNON BEACH — Teachers with Seaside School District 10 took the opportunity to stand and speak against a proposed charter school in Cannon Beach during a public hearing this month. In a reversal of the August hearing, the majority of those who testified, including parents, opposed the school.

"It isn't an 'us vs. them,'" parent Michelle Wunderlich said. "I'm not against the charter school. I'm just very much for a strong district for everyone."

She said the charter would take away financially from the district. "It's affecting the whole pie too much for such a small piece," Wunderlich added.

Chuck Albright, a third-grade teacher at Gearhart Elementary School, echoed Wun-

derlich's sentiments. He said all students need an "excellent education" and the wants of 75 students should not be placed ahead of the needs of 1,500.

He added that there would be diminished quality in the district regardless of the teachers' skills. Without incentives, Gearhart fourth-grade teacher Sena Bergquist said she doesn't see how Cannon Beach Academy would attract the same high caliber teachers. And with the loss of up to 85 students, she's also concerned about how funding cuts would "negatively affect" the other schools.

Cannon Beach Academy Board of Directors President Ryan Hull said he sees a reduction in class sizes as a benefit for Seaside schools.

After the meeting he said the district would receive 20 percent of what the charter would get per student from the state if it sponsors the academy.

Seaside Union President John Meyer handed over a list of 11 points against the charter school signed by a dozen people, the majority of whom were district teachers. Meyer



Doug Dougherty

said he is not comfortable with the academy's curriculum and would only be OK with a school in Cannon Beach if it is managed by the district.

A sense of belonging

Hull said Cannon Beach Academy wants to be a part of the district. If the school district supports the academy rather than the state, he added, there would be "set checks and balances." The academy would have to give annual reports and could be closed if it doesn't meet

measurable goals.

"We're part of the district still," he said. "We're not an outside entity, but we are different."

The academy would have its own curriculum which, Hull admitted, wouldn't be for everyone. But it would provide options that would benefit many students, he added.

Seaside's Kevin Widener joined Hull in speaking on behalf of the academy. He said Cannon Beach residents pay a "great deal of taxes" and deserve their own school, one he thinks will work for students.

Cannon Beach Elementary was closed in 2013 for financial reasons and fears for student safety. The building lies in the tsunami inundation zone. The charter school has already been denied twice by the district, citing lack of an adequate location and secure start-up funds.

Hull addressed those concerns in August. The school has a conditional use permit from the Cannon Beach Planning Commission allowing it to modify and occupy a ground-floor portion of the former Athletic Club at 171 Sunset Blvd., and

the academy has collected donations and created a balanced three-year budget.

Meyer read through the charter's proposal and said "the numbers just don't match," adding he doesn't think the academy would even be able to receive bank financing.

Cannon Beach Academy officials would like to meet with district officials to work through such concerns, Hull said.

Under review

Under state law, the school district has 30 days to ensure a charter's application is complete, which it did on June 22. It then has 60 days to hold a public hearing, which occurred on Aug. 18, and 30 days after that to render a decision. Hull argued that the continued hearing on Sept. 15 went over that allotted timeframe. Under that statute, he said, a decision concerning the charter school's fate should have been issued by Thursday.

Despite feeling the school district went over the legal timeframe, Hull added that the academy's board has voted to work

with Seaside 10 over the next 30 days.

"At the end of the day, my goal is focused on getting a public charter school for Cannon Beach," he said. "If that means 30 days more, we'll take it."

Under state law, the State Board of Education may also grant an extension of the timeline "if the district has good cause for requesting the extension."

Superintendent Doug Dougherty said both parties agreed to the extension.

At the end of the day, what matters is that the district can trust the academy to be safe with the students, financially stable and educational strong, Hull said. If Cannon Beach Academy meets that criteria, the school should be approved, he added.

Dougherty said the school board will look to state criteria for its decision making.

The board has 30 days to issue a decision. If it says no for a third time, Cannon Beach Academy could again appeal to the State Board of Education.

The next school board meeting is Oct. 18.

Sheriff Bergin announces run for fourth term

The Daily Astorian

Clatsop County Sheriff Tom Bergin has announced plans to run for a fourth term.

Bergin was first elected sheriff in 2004, starting in January 2005. He was unopposed for a second term and re-elected to a third term in 2012.

"I am proud to have served this county the last 11 years as sheriff and would be honored to serve another term starting in January of 2017," Bergin said in a statement. "I look forward to always working with the community and making sure we have a safe environment for all to live. Most importantly this community is my home

and I will do my best to be available to everyone no matter the time or circumstance and serve all walks of life."

Bergin started his law enforcement career as a Seaside reserve police officer in 1985. He was hired full time in 1986 and patrolled Seaside until 1992, when he went to work for the sheriff's office as a patrol deputy. He was promoted to sergeant in 1996.

Over the course of his career, he has primarily been involved with patrol and narcotics. He ran the interagency narcotics team for several years.

Bergin was promoted to chief deputy in 2003.

Overall, he has more than 2,344 hours of training in law enforcement and attended Oregon State and Portland State universities.

Bergin serves as the Oregon State Sheriffs' Association representative to the 15 Western States Sheriffs' Association and also serves on several committees for both groups.

He was elected to the Oregon State Sheriffs' Association executive board as secretary in 2009, vice president in 2010 and president in 2011. Bergin was named Sheriff of the Year in 2010 for the State of Oregon and was also named Sheriff of the Year for the Western States this year.

Sheriff's office, Coast Guard assist sinking boaters near bridge

The Daily Astorian

Two boaters were rescued Tuesday afternoon after their boat started sinking near the Astoria Bridge.

Watchstanders with the U.S. Coast Guard in Warrenton received a report around 1:15 p.m. Tuesday of a possible sinking vessel.

A Clatsop County Sheriff's Office marine patrol boat, also carrying a Coast Guard boarding team, diverted from near the mouth of the Skipanon River. And the Coast Guard sent a fast response boat and 47-foot motor lifeboat from Station

Cape Disappointment, Washington.

Shelley Woodard, 62, from Coeur d'Alene, Idaho, and Lloyd Woodard, 66, of Wenatchee, Washington, reported they had been fishing near upriver of the Astoria Bridge in relatively calm waters. They traveled downriver near the St. Marys Catholic Church in McGowan, Washington, when the water became choppy, and they donned their life jackets.

A couple of waves came over the bow, and the boat started sinking. They tried to bail the water out with a cooler, but to no avail.

Arriving first, the sheriff's office boat took the Woodards on board and transported them to the marina at Chinook, Washington. The Coast Guard, arriving shortly thereafter, dewatered the vessel, attached a tow line and took it to a boat launch in Cape Disappointment State Park.

"The Sheriff's Office wishes to stress the point that the Woodards had life jackets readily available and more importantly donned them as soon as the situation became hazardous, not waiting until it was too late," said a release Tuesday from the sheriff's office.

Tips: One of the goals is to be able to 'respond to emergencies in a better way'

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They came through the U.S. Department of State's International Visitor Leadership Program to learn more about emergency preparedness, search and rescue and disaster recovery programs from Washington, D.C., to Cannon Beach.

City administrator for Pasay City, Philippines, Dennis Bernard N. Acorda, said his nation is limited financially but can still learn from the United States.

"Our takeaway is to bring something home so we can respond to emergencies in a better way," he said.

Facing the threat

An Oregon State University study concluded there was a 40 percent chance of a major Cascadia subduction zone earthquake in the next 50 years.

Visitors were shown South County evacuation maps, go bags and emergency cache sites. Routes outlined by the Oregon Department of Geology and Mineral Resources show residents and visitors where to go in case of a distant or local tsunami. In a tsunami originating in Alaska or Japan, residents of Cannon Beach would have hours of warning. In a local event, however, evacuation time would be reduced to 15 minutes.

The city is working on adding more evacuation route signage for residents and visitors, Steidel said, and practicing with events like Race the Wave, a fun run designed to familiarize residents with routes to higher ground.

The city has three emergency cache sites, he said, storing essential supplies for residents and visitors. Barrels can be purchased by those who live in the inundation zone and want to have access to personal items.

Go bags should hold food and water to last for at least 24 hours, and most likely much longer. If the coast gets hit by a 9.0 magnitude quake, Steidel said, Cannon Beach could "hang out to dry for a week."

While trees and telephone poles are concerns for Cannon Beach officials, downed power lines are greater risks, according to Police Chief Jason Schermerhorn. The city is working

'To be an emergency planner, you must have a big imagination. You must think of things others wouldn't think of.'

— Ritchie Van Angeles

Disaster risk reduction and management chief of Pasig, Philippines

on implementing underground utilities — so far, a slow and expensive process.

Since Cannon Beach's medical clinic is in the inundation zone, the city may need to rely on retired doctors, Steidel said, including a physician who lives outside the tsunami hazard zone and has prepared his own makeshift clinic.

Disaster risk reduction and management chief Ritchie Van

Angeles of Pasig, Philippines, advised the city to consider solar-powered blinking signs for potential night evacuation.

Van Angeles also suggested identifying households requiring special needs transport, a step his city has taken.

"To be an emergency planner, you must have a big imagination," he said. "You must think of things others wouldn't think of."

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