

# Knappa: Parents noted schools are isolated from local law enforcement

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such as reporting suspicious behavior.

"We wear many different hats," Johnson said.

The superintendent also mentioned the most recent incident at the school during a discussion of federal student disclosure laws.

"I know some of you might have been frustrated when we had the last threat of violence that when you called school, you couldn't find out the name of the child," Johnson said. "That's to protect not only you, but it's also to protect your child, and it's also to protect the child who did the incident."

Parents repeatedly noted that Knappa schools are isolated from local law enforcement

**'It seems like having somebody on our campus armed would be a better option than relying on a sheriff that might be on the other side of the county.'**

ment and mental health organizations. Some asked whether the school district has considered hiring its own resource officer to keep watch throughout the day. One man pointed out that both the U.S. Department of Justice and the National Rifle Association are offering grants for such positions.

"They're pretty politically motivated to give rural schools

money now," he said of the gun rights organization.

The school district has worked with Clatsop Behavioral Healthcare, the Clatsop County Sheriff's Office, Oregon State Police and Astoria police to prepare for a potential emergency. But a school shooting could happen before police have enough time to respond.

"It seems like having some-

body on our campus armed would be a better option than relying on a sheriff that might be on the other side of the county," one man said. "It'd be a heck of a lot faster."

Sheriff's Deputy Nate Rico said at least one deputy is always assigned to patrol the Knappa area and that officers from other departments may be able to respond if they happen to be closer.

"We might be 20 minutes away, so that sucks, but we also try to come to the school as much as we can," Rico said. "We try to be out here so we're available. We don't expect there to be a problem here but, you know, if that day comes, we're ready. We have a good plan for the school."

School administrators

offered tips on how to prevent children from reaching a violent point: Report suspicious behavior early. Remind students to take drills seriously.

"On a spectrum, if we're one to 10, we're probably a seven. There's more we could do, I would agree," Johnson said. A man in the crowd added, though, that stronger safety measures may harm other aspects of the school.

"To get to a 10, it's probably going to take away a lot of what makes a small school

really nice," he said. "You have to have concrete blocks over all your windows and, you know, that would just suck for everyone."

At one point during her remarks, Montgomery discussed a conversation she had when she worked at another school. A parent asked her what guarantees she could offer that teachers could keep children safe.

"I don't know," Montgomery said. "We're going to do our best."

# College: Will likely look at borrowing in the short term

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in terms of the current funding that we're experiencing."

Tuition and fee revenue is one of the largest sources of funding for the college, along with property taxes and state funding. Each \$1 increase translates to about \$25,000 in revenue, said JoAnn Zahn, the college's vice president of finance and operations.

Tuition and fee revenue is down nearly 8.5 percent from the same point last year, equal to around \$200,000. The college developed its budget based on an increase of 8 percent in enrollment from more course offerings and the redeveloped Patriot Hall.

"That's concerning," Zahn said of the drop. "That's a big chunk of change."

The proposed increase would bring the college from \$99 to \$102 per credit, effective in the summer term. The college last raised tuition in 2014 by \$1, from \$98 to \$99 per credit, to fill a gap left by state funding.

"Prior to that, we had raised it every year in the 14 years I've been on the board," said Rosemary Baker-Monaghan, a board member who has vowed to not support any more tuition increases. "I just can't vote for it anymore."

The average tuition and fees paid by students have increased statewide by more

than 30 percent over the past decade. During a recent meeting of Oregon's 17 community college presidents, most indicated their tuition would go up to between \$107 and \$112 per credit, Breitmeyer said, adding the college's increase was among the most modest and would still leave it as one of the more affordable places to take classes.

"Most institutions are going up between 5 and 10 percent for the upcoming year," Breitmeyer said.

The college would attempt to offset the increase in tuition by targeting financial aid toward lower-income students, increasing the college foundation's support and looking at ways to lower textbook costs, he said.

College enrollment generally falls as the economy improves, and Clatsop County is experiencing its lowest seasonally adjusted unemployment rate in more than 40 years.

The college is experiencing the largest drop in enrollment among Washington state students, who are down about

12 percent from a year ago, compared to between 8 and 8.5 percent among other student groups, Zahn said. The decline from Washington state, she said, might be related to expanded online offerings by Grays Harbor College.

While enrollment is falling, the college has increased spending 11 percent from the same point last year, mainly because of costs from Patriot Hall and new instructors in welding and Spanish, Zahn said.

While looking to hike tuition, the college board also voted Tuesday to provide a 3 percent annual salary increase to full-time faculty over the next two years, and the same pay bump to support staff next year.

Part-time faculty received a 4 percent annual salary increase two years ago. The college board also voted to

increase most part-time temporary employee wages by 25 cents per hour to keep pace with minimum-wage increases.

"We are making a considerable investment in our people," Zahn said, acknowledging previous pay cuts, freezes and staff reductions when the college was in the Great Recession.

The college will likely look at borrowing in the short term to cover cash flow before property tax revenue comes in November, Zahn said, because of a possible purchase of property at the Marine and Environmental Research and Training Station campus and investment in a new online campus operations system.

"I feel comfortable where we are right now," she said of the financial picture. "We'll just have to continue to monitor what our resources are."

# College to go tobacco-free by fall term

By EDWARD STRATTON  
The Daily Astorian

SEASIDE — Clatsop Community College will ban all tobacco use on campus by fall term.

The college board voted unanimously Tuesday to adopt a tobacco-free campus policy. Tessa Scheller, a stark critic of the college's allowance of smoking in designated shelters, read the motion.

"Thanks everyone," she said. "I know it was a long haul, and controversial at times."

Teena Toyas, the college's physical education teacher and dean of transfer education, said the issue had stretched back at least 20 years.

"It's been at least three times in my 18 years we've done it," Toyas said.

The college board in 2009 limited smoking to designated open-air shelters in 2009.

In crafting a tobacco-free campus, college board members had wrangled for months on whether to allow smoking in designated "good-neighbor zones" along the periphery of campus, advocated by several staffers, and how to focus the policy on cessation education. Some raised concerns that a tobacco-free campus would push smoking to the border of campus and increase littering.

Christopher Breitmeyer, the college president, will appoint a tobacco-free implementation team including students, faculty, staff and possibly campus neighbors to develop signage, complaint procedures, fines and other disciplinary measures.



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**Steve Putman**

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