

Prophet faces difficult decisions

Dr. Matthew Prophet, Portland's new School Superintendent, will assume his duties on April 1st. Selected through a process that heavily involved a cross-section of district patrons. Prophet comes to Portland with broad support. Nevertheless, he will be met with by the various factions within the district with high expectations, curiosity, reservations, and sympathy. He comes at a time when serious issues face the district: his future and that of the district will depend on whether he can resolve the conflicts, build bridges to the community, and make needed administrative changes—all of which are needed if the district is to fulfill its role to educate the city's children.

Reorganization

Dr. Prophet will need to reorganize the top administration to ensure that every department of the school system has quality leadership. There must be a re-evaluation of the area offices to determine if their staffing is appropriate or if efficiency would be gained by eliminating them. Do they have a necessary function or are they a place to put excess administration?

On the local level, the performance of the principals—especially the elementary principals—must be evaluated. Are these men holding their positions through tenure and longevity or through the quality of their leadership?

Tax base

The district will submit a request for a revised tax base of \$150.7 million to the voters on May 18th. The new tax base is designed to meet present district requirements for four years, with no growth. The projected general fund requirements for the 1982-1983 school year are \$186 million as opposed to the estimate of current resources of \$144 million.

Oregon law provides that a tax base increase of more than 6 percent annually must go to a vote of the people. The last tax base was adopted in 1968, and with intervening 6 percent increases is now \$97.9 million. A one-year operating levy of \$25.8 adopted by the voters a year ago will expire in June 1982.

Citizen involvement

The superintendent, with the Board, must reassess the citizen involvement process. The Area Citizens

Advisory Committee—appointed by the School Board—are staffed by the area offices. Does this provide them with the independence they need or does it create a symbiotic relationship?

Are members of all committees selected in an equitable way? What opportunity does the average parent have to serve? Are the recommendations of each School Board member equitably considered? Can a method be found to allow parents and citizens to elect their representatives?

The same few people seem to serve repeatedly. Area committee members, Title I and III committee members, appear on budget committees and special task forces. Since members seem to serve for years—jumping from one committee to the next, could this be spread around—giving new people and new ideas?

The local school advisory committees also need to be examined and a method determined to allow parents to select their own representatives rather than allowing the principal to appoint.

Citizens can participate only if they are informed. Dr. Prophet will need to find new ways to inform the people about school issues, needs and accomplishments.

The process whereby a citizen committee participates in selection of new teachers applying to the schools in the Black community should be evaluated, extended to all teachers and all schools. A method to enable parents to participate in teachers' and administrators' evaluations should be considered.

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State Superintendent of Public Instruction Verne Duncan presents plaques to Bob McMullin (not pictured) and Diane Holland as representative students completing their GED (high school completion) tests successfully. The two Lake Oswego residents were picked as representatives of a typical student and honored at Portland Community College as the state celebrated granting 100,000 certificates.

Schools seek advisors

Portland Public Schools seeks persons to fill 16 seats on two area citizen advisory committees beginning next July 1.

The Portland Board of Education is making its annual appeal for nominations from individuals and local school advisory committees to fill five two-year adult vacancies and from high school student councils to fill three one-year student vacancies on each of the 12-member panels.

Persons have two options in seeking nomination to an adult vacancy in the area they wish to represent: They may gather signatures of at least 30 adult residents of the area or seek nomination from a local school advisory committee in the area.

Certificates of nomination for adults may be obtained from local schools, area offices or the school district's Communications/Intergovernmental Relations Department, 501 N. Dixon St.

Adult applicants must be at least 18 years old, must reside in the area they wish to represent or must have a child attending a school within the area they wish to represent.

Deadline for submission of nominations for the student vacancies is 5 pm, April 2. The deadline for submission of the adult nomination petitions or local committee nominations is 5 pm, April 9. Nomination materials, including biographical information, must be filed with the C/IGR Department.

A five-member citywide citizen review panel, to be appointed by the

school board, will spend April and May compiling a list of qualified candidates from among the adult petitions and local committee nominations before making recommendations to the school board.

The school board, meanwhile, will spend April and May interviewing student nominees and reviewing their qualifications.

Announcement of the school board's committee appointments for both adults and students will occur June 14, followed by a school board-hosted joint meeting June 30 with new and existing committee members.

Each committee of nine adults and three students advises an area administration, the central administration and the school board on matters relating to educational programs and goals, building needs, budget priorities and school operations.

Area citizen advisory committees were created in 1970 by the School Board to facilitate decentralization of the school district, to allow greater citizen involvement in education and to bring the schools closer to the patrons and students they serve.

Bound by the policies, rules and regulations of the school board, the committees invite attendance, participation and presentations from the general public during their 10 regular monthly public meetings and other special sessions during the school year.

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<p>Trash Bags 2.66 pkg. 40 26-gallon bags.</p>	<p>Diamond Foil 43¢ each 12" x 25". Limit: 5 per customer.</p>	<p>Alarm Clocks \$5 each Dependable keywind models. Various styles.</p>	<p>4-Pack Lightbulbs 1.77 pkg. G.E. soft white 60, 75, 100 watt bulbs.</p>

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