

Jefferson Design Plans Submitted

Complaints of unfair treatment heard



Superintendent Vicki Phillips

Superintendent Phillips formally presented a plan Monday to improve education for students at Jefferson High School and its feeder middle schools in north and northeast Portland.

The proposals to the School Board follow a plan adopted by 22 Jefferson community members who served on a Jefferson design team.

Jefferson students attending the board meeting opposed plans calling for school uniforms and separate programs for boys and girls, saying they discriminate and are unequal because they treat them differently from other kids in the school district.

Phillips said the following recommendations, to be phased in

over two or three years, could create new opportunities for students in the Jefferson cluster starting next fall:

- Every Jefferson cluster school would build a culture of achievement through high expectations, high-quality school leadership, improved curriculum and strong instruction.
- Most elementary schools in the Jefferson cluster would become pre-kindergarten through 8th grade, with a few other options.
- Jefferson High School would be organized into two or three small schools: Arts and Technology Academy (grades 9-12), a Young Men's Leadership Academy (grades 7-12), and another academy with a rigorous college preparatory curriculum, with an International Baccalaureate program or environmental studies focus (grades 9-12).
- Harriet Tubman Middle School would be transformed into Harriet Tubman Leadership Academy for Young Women (grades 7-12), with a focus on science and technology.
- Uniform dress would be required for students at the Jefferson campus schools and at Tubman.

The School Board will take comments on the plan at a public hearing Tuesday, Jan. 17 at 6:30 p.m. at Jefferson and again before the scheduled vote on the recommendations Monday, Jan. 23.

Heating Help Trickles In

Emergency funds not enough

BY SARAH BLOUNT
THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

Oregon received \$524,986 in emergency heating and energy funds from the Bush Administration last week, but local officials say the additional federal aid isn't enough to keep many low-income families warm. Thousands of Oregon families still face, quite literally, being left out in the cold.

With staggering heating bills and thinly spread resources, the federal Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program's federal purchasing power is 47 percent of what it was in 1985.

Funding from the state continues to be dismal as well; Oregon only has enough state resources to serve about 20 percent of the 413,000 low-income Oregon households that are eligible for energy assistance.

The impact of non-heated homes is far-reaching; colds and the flu worsen, and heart conditions develop in the elderly. For many who are unable to afford heat, homelessness becomes a reality.

Portland's Community Energy Project provides home weatherizing tools and information through volunteers and workshops. CEP

funding comes from the City of Portland, which receives federal funds from the Office of Housing and Urban Development.

After an early cold spell in December, CEP is struggling to help even a fraction of targeted residents.

"We have more than we can handle, it's been rough," said CEP executive director Sherry Burbach.

This year CEP expects to reach 200-senior/disabled households. Through their weatherizing workshop program they are contracted to reach 540 homes, down from 847 homes served last year. Burbach said they're down to their last 100 weatherizing kits, but will continue to provide information as cold weather persists.

To find out more about home heating assistance, call 1-800-453-5511 or one of the following community service centers: Albina Ministerial Alliance, 503-285-0493; Catholic Charities, 503-669-8350; Human Solutions, 503-548-0200; Asian Family Center, 503-235-9396; Native American Rehabilitation Association, 503-224-1044; Portland Impact, 503-988-6000; St. VincentDePaul, 503-595-0288; Salvation Army, 503-239-1264 and the YMCA, 503-721-6760.

Motorist Dies in Police Confrontation

Grand Jury to review shooting

(AP) — Authorities said a man steering a stolen car in reverse toward police officers on Northeast 64th Avenue and Alameda was shot and killed by a police lieutenant.

The motorist was identified as Dennis Lamar Young, 28.

The Jan. 4 incident started when Lt. Jeffrey Kaer's sister called her brother because she noticed a suspicious car parked in front of her house. When Kaer approached the vehicle, he found Young asleep behind the wheel and called for backup.

After tapping on his driver's side window and getting no response, Kaer opened the door and shook Young to try to wake him up and he became combative, said Sgt. Brian Schmautz, Portland police spokesman.

Schmautz said Young drove into a tree in an attempt to get away, then placed the car in reverse, heading toward Kaer and another officer.

Police said Kaer fired two shots. An autopsy found the man died of a single wound to the upper torso. The second bullet hit the car.

The shooting comes less than a year after Portland Chief Derrick Foxworth adopted a new policy regarding shooting at a moving vehicle. The chief stated that officers threatened by a car should try to get out of its path instead of firing at it or its occupants.

The case will be presented to a Multnomah County grand jury for review.

Following in the Footsteps

continued from Front

poverty in New Orleans could incite the public into stronger fight against poverty, Toran said she only hopes this is the case.

"Many of us didn't need Katrina to know there were poor people. I'm hoping policy makers make a commitment to say

this is unacceptable. We're not a third world country. This is a country where people discuss buying \$500,000 homes, and with people who don't know where their next meal is coming from."

Her solution? Toran is careful to say she doesn't hold all the answers, but believes we should place greater importance on edu-

cating ourselves.

"Our history of culture has been completely destroyed," she said. "Religious practices, languages, they have changed from 300 years ago. Because of that, it's taken a longer time to find a social cohesion and move the social agenda. Education isn't the highest priority. We need to do a better

job of saying these opportunities are reachable and that education is hard work, nothing is easy about it."

"We do have to get back to really loving each other," she added. "More people are making mistakes and we need to give them a second chance. We don't give up on people."

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