## JROTC: Board to revisit issue on July 31

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The controversy about JROTC at the high school began earlier this month, when the school board indicated an intention to discontinue the program.

This was on a recommendation from the superintendent. What had happened was that long-time JROTC teacher Lt. Col. Larry Renfro retired from the position.

The district recruited for a new program leader with the required qualifications. The applicant who looked promising then backed out in May.

The board and staff were not able to find a replacement, leading to the recommendation to discontinue. One of the criticisms at the board meeting this week was an ap-

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Assisting with the service is Courtnee Grego, law student at Seattle University. Her office is at the Community Action Team building on campu. Or call 541-553-3148; or 509-460-0077 (c).

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parent lack of communication, even with the high school principals and remaining JROTC staff, regarding the decision.

At the school board meeting this week was a representative from the Central Oregon Chapter of the Military Officers Association of America. There are networking opportunities that could lead to finding a candidate to take the position at the Madras High School JROTC program, she said.

This and other networking sources are the approach the board and staff will take toward trying to find a resolu-

tion, said Laurie Danzuka.

Testimony at the school board meeting this week came from former and current members of the Madras High School JROTC program. Veterans and parents also gave testimony, often emotional statements as to the many benefits of the program.

The school board will take up the matter again at their meeting scheduled for July 31. The board may meet in the main room at the Madras Performing Arts Center, as the meeting room this week was not big enough for the turnout.



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