FEATURED HOME OF THE WEEK







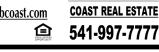
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The CIP Mapleton created focuses on three major improvement areas: mental health/behavior support, language arts learning outcomes and increased com-

MAPLETON from page 1A

munity involvement. The first goal is to ensure that all students have access to mental and behavioral health resources. The district has already made progress on this with the hiring of a school counselor and a partnership with the Western Lane Health Network.

For the second goal, the school district is looking to focus on the AVID Instructional Strategies, which it has already been implementing. They school will also look to expand academic support for non-school days, such as Friday's, and look to improve attendance across the board.

In goal three, the district will look to hold more community events, create a staff/ student/community member focus group, have a larger social media presence and possibly even revive the defunct school newsletter.

The specifics of the CIP will be more broadly introduced early in 2020, as SAA requires districts to hold multiple community meetings for public comment. However, it's a difficult task because the rules regarding the act are still in flux.

"I've been to four or five presentations on this, and I'm still confused, just to be honest," O'Mara said. "I went to a presentation that I had heard before. Same presentation, same people presenting it, yet we still hear new information, and people had different questions that brought up new information. Talk about head swimming."

One of the things school representatives were told is that the plans the school districts make should be flexi-

"If your plan is to hire a

counselor, and you can't find a counselor, you need a backup plan," District Business Manager Jeron Ricks said.

O'Mara added, "That is one of the concerns that was brought up in superintendent meetings and offthe-record meetings: 'This is great, give us an extra billion in education, but you've got to give us the people to meet the needs.' I guarantee you everybody's going to be hiring counselors for mental health needs, teachers and staff to help with class sizes. Where are you going to find those people?"

Mapleton has already hired a school counselor and is working on partnering with PeaceHealth for additional services. But other schools might not be so

"Districts are gobbling up the people they need, instead of waiting till July to post," O'Mara said. "There's still some unfulfilled teacher positions in neighboring districts in special education, math and CTE (Career Technical Education). We're all aware of it."

Regarding the Student Investment application, the Oregon Department of Education (ODE) is still developing it.

"In order to apply for that money, which is a non-competitive grant, they still have to develop the application," O'Mara said, pointing out that ODE still hasn't hired the staff needed to process the applications once they're

In short, "We're building the plane while we're flying," she added.

Figuring out the complicated process is difficult, particularly in a small school.

"It's a challenge in a small rural district to do this, but still be able to focus on the kids and staff and give them what they need," said O'Mara.

is about to get some help. Lane ESD is hiring a SSA coordinator to help out, and will be working closely with Mapleton on doing commu-

nity outreach in 2020. Still, the district has put some projects on hold to navigate through the pro-

"I've been on the board so long, and I've seen so many of these grand schemes that are just so fantastic," Mapleton board member Michelle Holman said. "A lot of this looks like the same insides with a new chassis. Like a lot of them, they were great and the best rig you could ride in. But the next year, there's a new model. I don't know. We'll see where this one goes."

O'Mara pointed out that this time, there's money in-

"Twenty percent of that is earmarked for early education. That is phenomenal, right?" she asked. "That's the biggest difference. It's true, it's the same things packaged differently. Different acronyms, different expectations. But this isn't taking money away, it's giving us money, and we get to decide how to use it. We're going to do the work to get it, and we're golot of work."

In other news from the meeting, O'Mara announced that preschool teacher Amber Tucker is starting a parenting class for parents inside the district, or in outlying areas such as Walton or Florence.

"It doesn't matter if its preschool, single parents, five kids or one kids. It's a class that she's offering for families," O'Mara said. "It's creating a safe place to learn and share issues that families are having with kids. It's a different world than what we grew up in, so it's helping families navigate that."

Board member Mizu Bur-With that said, Mapleton russ spoke of the importance it, small or big," he said.

of such classes.

"It's giving parents the opportunity to network or make friendships," she said. "Sometimes, if there isn't a reason for you to cross paths, you don't know that there are other parents having the same issues as you."

Finally, a presentation was given at the top of the meeting by Mapleton's student council, which includes acting President Orion Ricks, Secretary JJ Neece and representatives Kaleb Lewis and Opal Burruss.

"We are now holding open council meetings to invite students to be a part of the student council," Ricks said. "We invited representatives from each grade to give us thoughts from their separate grades ... and we took opinions on the student dance."

Only one student showed up for the first meeting, where the council picked the idea for the upcoming winter dance.

"They thought it should be more of a theme than just 'winter," Lewis said. "The theme they came up with is 'disco.' We're planning on getting a disco ball and all the good stuff."

He then gave a recap of a recent conference the couning to use it wisely. But it's a cil attended on student gov-

"It was an amazing experience," he said. "They had a talk on how to get kids involved with school spirit. A major one was these scanners for student IDs. Whenever you go to a game or support your school somehow, they would scan the ID and they student would get points. At the end of the school year, the whole class grade would get to do some-

thing fun." Neece pointed out that most of the schools had the same issues as Mapleton.

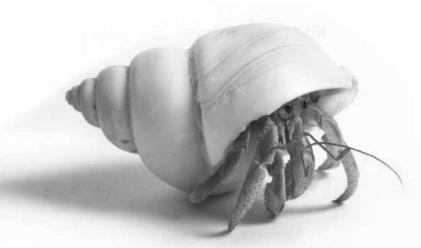
"It was kind of funny, all schools are basically the same once you get down to

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