

SCHOOL from page 1A

different manner, we've had a lot of people evacuating and having to cluster together. These numbers may continue to increase over the next couple weeks," Grzeskowiak said. "We're still planning to make our transition, but it may be delayed a little bit longer."

In their administration reports, school principals talked about their anticipation for the new school year.

"The SES staff is excited by the possibilities for the new year. However, stress

levels are high," wrote Siuslaw Elementary Principal Mike Harklerode. "I think the most challenging part is the unknown. Orientations were very helpful to communicate with parents, but things remain untested and hypothetical. I remain very proud of the SES staff and the work they've put in to remake the way we operate."

At Siuslaw Middle School, Principal Andy Marohl said, "We can't wait to get school started."

About the new methods under CDL, he wrote, "I'm confident our staff will do

just fine."

Siuslaw High School Principal Garth Gerot said, "Our staff is anxious to have students back and to get this school year started."

School Board Chair Bob Sneddon thanked the administrators for their reports.

"As they were at this time of year, there's not a lot in them yet, but it's good to see them," he said.

Marohl joked, "What do you mean? They were riveting."

"They were riveting. It was exciting the most exciting part of my day," said board member Suzanne Mann-Heintz. "I just want to tell you administrators how incredible you have been in getting the school organized, getting your staff trained and getting people back to work. It's an amazing amount of work that all of you put in and it's really appreciated. Thank you so much."

Grzeskowiak's report also talked about the district's dedication to high-quality teacher evaluation, and how that will continue under CDL.

He said that after working with teacher representatives on professional growth and evaluation handbook, it was decided that evidence and monitoring may look different while students and many teachers work from home.

"The rigor of comprehensive distance learning is still an expectation. As such, all standards and goals still apply," Grzeskowiak added.

Following this was the business manager's communications. Blake spoke about delays in shipping, the help of the district's expanded IT department, the school district's meal plan and athletics.

"We were thrown yet another curveball with the delay in the delivery of those Chromebooks for a second time," Blake said, referencing the district's planned delivery of laptops for student use, and their delay due to wildfires and US Postal Service problems. "I did want to express gratitude to our students, our families and our staff for their patience and grace as we get started this year. I also need to give a huge thanks to our IT team."

This includes Director of Technology Marty Zdunich, Education Technologist Chris Rowbotham and the rest of the staff.

"We had 816 Chromebooks arrive late on Monday, and Marty and Chris jumped right on getting them processed. We had

lots of help from staff all across the board. It was a really well-organized effort. And they readied nearly 500 Chromebooks by the end of the day (Tuesday)," Blake said. "Again, huge thanks to IT and all of the

might want to do about the athletic fees, the pay-to-play fees," Blake said to the school board.

She mentioned that this year's budget does not show any revenue for student activity fees.

which I couldn't believe, was that each of those bags were geared to the interests and reading levels of the kids that they were given to," she said. "So it wasn't just like, 'Oh, let's put three books in this bag' — they were individually organized. And that was just so incredible."

Mann-Heintz also works with a number of community groups on the safety and wellbeing of area students.

"I'm in touch with a homeless family living in a van, and I heard that there was a problem getting their Chromebooks

charged," she said. "So I called Vonnie (McClellan), and she and Kari took care of it in a heartbeat. They went out and they bought the car charger cord that this family needed, got it to them and now they're ready to go. Thank you so much. That was really a meaningful act for that family."

Next, board member John Barnett talked about hard work done by staff to prepare for this unusual start to a new school year.

"Just seeing the effort that the administration and staff have done with this whole change of learning styles has been pretty phenomenal," he said. "I know that there are hiccups, ... but I just appreciate and applaud their effort. It's been pretty incredible."

This was followed by Dennis King, who said, "It's clear that the each of the buildings and administrative teams has done just a fantastic job. ... I think you'd say we put both best feet forward."

For Paul Burns, "It's been really nice to hear feedback from the community acknowledging staff members with the extra effort that they're doing, and then having Andy G. pass that on to the staff. That goes a long way for school culture, and that sort of thing. So keep doing it, everybody. You're doing a great job."

Sneddon has just one thing to say to conclude the meeting.

"If you can call anything normal in 2020, I think you all — from the top down — have tried to introduce as much normalcy as possible. And I think you've been very successful at it. So thank you all very much."

The Siuslaw School Board will meet again tonight, Sept. 23, in a special board meeting, livestreamed at 6:30 p.m. at <https://bit.ly/97JYouTubeChannel>. Read more about both meetings in the Saturday, Sept. 26, edition of the *Siuslaw News*.

For more information about Siuslaw School District, visit siuslaw.k12.or.us.

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— Siuslaw School District Business Manager Kari Blake

staff that jumped in to get that done."

According to Blake, the district now has a help desk, thanks to Rowbotham, specifically for students and parents having issues with their Chromebooks or logging into their Google accounts. This can be accessed at <http://bit.ly/siuslawspublihelpdesk>.

Her report also included information on the district's internet subsidy program, which is providing internet hotspots to families who apply and qualify. Applications are being processed in 24 hours, with assistance going to families each week.

"We're helping families in pretty much any way that we can to help get them connected and stay connected," Blake said. "I feel really fortunate we've got enough grant funds and donations that are supporting these efforts for our families."

In addition, the business manager talked about school meal services, which officially began on Sept. 14.

"I have some good news on the food service," Blake said. "We've been given a number of waivers by the USDA. It's going to allow us to keep going and continue operating as we have been by delivering the food out on our bus routes. We'll be doing that Monday through Friday."

For a full schedule and pick-up sites, go to <https://5il.co/kvqt>.

"We just recently found out we are allowed to now add dinner to that service as well, through the CACFP (Child and Adult Care Food Program), so now students will be getting breakfast, lunch and dinner on a daily basis," Blake said. "That's really exciting."

She thanked the staff members who worked so hard to staff the district's summer food program and those who will carry it on this school year.

"The last thing that I wanted to run by you guys is, in looking at this current school year, what we

"If it's the will of the board, I would love to stick with that and not charge our students for athletics for this year. I think Andy and I are both in agreement about the importance of that, especially right now," Blake said.

Sneddon responded, "I think it's important to note that we really already made that decision. You're just asking us to verify and confirm that."

Blake agreed, saying, "The budget situation has changed a little bit. And I still think it's definitely worth moving forward."

After clarifying that this would waive all participation fees, not just for athletics, the board agreed.

At the end of Blake's presentation, came any board communications. The first to offer one was board member Dianna Pimlott.

"I had the opportunity of helping hand out books last weekend with Shannon Graham and other contributors" she said. "And let me say, just the thankfulness on the faces of the both the parents and the kids as they pulled up to get those heavy bags of books ... they just really appreciated the opportunity to have those books in hand."

Pimlott referenced Graham's fundraiser through First Book, which brought together a blueberry sale and children's book drive. Books were handed out on Sept. 12, with additional giveaways planned for later in the year. For more information, email sgraham@siuslaw.k12.or.us.

"It was really an honor to be able to do that," Pimlott said. "Really, what a wonderful gesture. And I just wanted to applaud Shannon for all the work that she's put into that effort — a tremendous amount of work."

Mann-Heintz also talked about Graham's efforts and the community members who came together to donate.

"Another thing that Shannon shared with me,

itors should avoid wading in nearby creeks, pools of water on the beach, or in discolored water, and stay clear of water runoff flowing into the ocean. Even if there is no advisory in effect, officials recommend avoiding swimming in the ocean within 48 hours after a rainstorm.

Although state officials advise against water contact, they continue to encourage other recreational activities (flying kites, picnicking, playing on the beach, walking, etc.) on this beach because they pose no health risk even during an advisory.

The status of water contact advisories at beaches is subject to change.

For the most up-to-date information on advisories, visit the Oregon Beach Monitoring Program website at www.healthoregon.org/beach or call 971-673-0482 or 877-290-6767 (toll free).

HEALTH from page 1A

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