

Local woman awarded Philanthropic Educational Scholarship

Recently, Philanthropic Educational Organization (PEO) educational scholarship candidate Sheena Moore received the Oregon Scholarship and was sponsored by Florence Chapter FQ.

Moore is a graduate of Mapleton High School and attended Lane Community College before transferring to University of Oregon. She was active for about five years with the Last Resort Players. While attending college, she was a member of the university choir.

Most recently, Moore was the director of the Music in Motion summer camp this year in Florence. Moore completed her studies at the University of Oregon in Music Education in 2019.

She currently teaches kindergarten through 2nd grade at Yaquina View Elementary, as well as grades 3 through 5 at Sam Case School in Newport.

PEO is one of the oldest women's organizations in North America. It was founded in 1869 by seven young women and has



COURTESY PHOTO

Mapleton graduate Sheena Moore was awarded a PEO Scholarship by the Florence Chapter FQ.

grown to almost 6,000 local chapters with more than 225,000 active members in the United States and Canada.

The organization exists to be a source of encouragement and support for women to realize their potential in whatever worthwhile endeavor they choose. It supports women both through friendships and through educational scholarships, grants, awards, loans and steward-

ship of Cottey College. Florence chapters FQ and DY have a combined membership of more than 60 members who actively work to raise funds and secure educational grants for women.

To learn more about PEO scholarships, contact Kay Craig of the Chapter FQ Education Committee at 541-997-8585 or visit peooregon.org or peointernational.org.

SSD from 1A

by keeping the cohorts in check across the board."

In addition, limited in-person instruction "winds up being a supplement to what we're doing, but it's not a replacement for distance learning at all,"

Grzeskowiak said. "Part of the reason that this is allowed is that there are so many things that we simply cannot do on the computer. There are things that are hands-on and other methods that just have to happen in the classroom, in the lab, in the shop and as close to face-to-face as we're going to get in this environment with masks and all that sort of stuff."

ODE recommends that schools consider both equity and a methodical and cautious approach as they bring students back for limited in-person instruction.

"We'll be starting with students that are struggling academically or with attendance and trying to rebuild some of those connections, to really anchor them and get them back onto campus and get them involved and reinvigorated," Grzeskowiak said.

This month, Siuslaw School District held two community forums with parents and families to go over the metric changes.

"We've already started the survey process with families to look at what kind of needs students have," the superintendent said. "It's a good stress test for getting back to campus. Making sure that, in small groups, people are able to practice the regular protocols for being together in groups. You know, hand washing, sanitizing, six-foot distancing, making sure you wear your mask or face shield, depending on the situation, and kind of living in our current coronavirus status."

Later in the regular session of the school board, Director Dianna Pimlott said, "I just wanted to express my appreciation for the community forums. I thought that there was a great turnout. There were

wonderful questions, and our administrative team did an excellent job of presenting our current situation and responding to community questions."

Grzeskowiak finished his presentation with a reminder that returning to in-person instruction is dependent on the greater community and the case rate in Lane County.

"It's going to boil down to how well people manage themselves in the public to bring this down," he said. "If (COVID-19) is still spreading in the community, it's going to be students bringing it themselves because they're catching it at home, or it's going to be adults that work in the schools that catch it outside and bring it back."

He also cautioned against in-person gatherings, citing rising COVID-19 cases in Canada after it held its Thanksgiving Holiday on Oct. 11.

"At the end of October, they had a major spike because of lots of large gatherings and people very close to each other. So, they had a spike and, somehow, they're on an upward trajectory similar to what we're seeing around a lot of the U.S.," Grzeskowiak said.

He added that safety would always be the main concern for reopening the schools.

"Looking at schools in India and the U.K., and actually looking at our own data from our summer programs for pre-K here in Oregon, what's done in schools for physical distancing, and masks and hygiene, is much more effective. The transmission rates are much lower than in the general community," Grzeskowiak said. "When you get in and get running and have established protocols and programs, it works."

After some clarifying questions from the school board, the work session concluded and Board President Bob Sneddon opened the regular session.

The bulk of the meeting was spent on determining metrics with which to evaluate the district's superintendent. This will be done through a survey conducted by Oregon School Board Association in January and sent out to targeted community and staff members. A summary of the survey results will be provided to the board at the conclusion of the process. The summary will highlight areas of strength and note any areas for targeted focus and/or improvement.

OSBA Board Development Specialist Vincent Adams reviewed details of the Targeted Feedback Survey and its process.

He also worked with the board to identify which standards and evaluation goals will be used in the survey. Board members selected the following standards: Standard 2, Ethics and Professional Norms; Standard 4, Culturally

Responsive Instructional Leadership and Improvement; and Standard 5, Communication and Community Relations.

Next, Adams will create the survey and Sneddon and Vice Chair Paul Burns, with guidance from the rest of the board, will create a list of no more than 50 participants.

According to Adams, the evaluation process is "not just about dialogue with between the board and the superintendent, but it's also communication between the board and the community, showing the progress that the superintendent and the district are making towards the goals that you as elected officials have set for the organization."

In the rest of the meeting, school district staff and administration submitted reports and gave an update on facilities maintenance. In addition, retiring specialist Bobbi Spencer, from Early Childhood Cares, was honored with a special proclamation.

The board took action by appointing Megan Messmer to the Budget

Committee in the position she previously held. There is still one opening on the committee. Interested people can view the information at www.siuslaw.k12.or.us/o/Siuslaw%20School%20District/page/budget-committee-openings.

There was also one public comment submitted by Siuslaw Middle School Language Arts Teacher Hilary Roach. Board policy is to not take action on public comment, but the statement was registered and included in the meeting materials listed on siuslaw.k12.or.us.

In a letter she read, Roach asks the Siuslaw School Board to "uphold educator rights to decorate their virtual backgrounds, virtual classrooms or physical classroom spaces with posters or other material that promotes equity and inclusiveness of marginalized groups."

Twenty-six teachers have signed a petition in support of the request.

The Nov. 18 meeting concluded with a brief executive session.

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