be looking to have those 84 students out on the field utilizing the south bleachers for families ... to watch their student on that special day," Gerot said.

<u>SIUSLAW from page 1A</u>

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Florence to plan a Gradu-Siuslaw School Board

representatives often are involved in the graduation ceremony, with directors John Barnett and Suzanne Mann-Heintz expressing interest in helping to hand out diplomas. Board President Bob

Sneddon said, "It's an honored tradition by many who have been on the school board." It will be Mann-Heintz' asked if King felt the pol-

last formal event as a seat- icy applied to not only disterm expires in June. Barnett is running unopposed for his seat in the May 18 Special Election. The rest of the meet-

ing dealt with a consent agenda, action items, public comment and further reports. Before the agenda was approved, however, Director Dennis King moved to revise the agenda to talk about policy GBG, 'Staff Participation in Political Activities." The board followed pro-

the item and then voted to approve the agenda as amended, with the policy to be discussed as item 6.1.3. When the meeting progressed to the agenda item,

King gave his reasons for

cedure to first agree to add

adding the policy as a discussion item. "I'll make this pretty quick. It may or may not or part of the community, an elephant in the room right now. And I just want-

talking about it," he said. King referred to a Guest Viewpoint submitted to the Siuslaw News by Mann-Heintz, "New School Board Needs Equal Representation" (May 8).

to show that at least we're

thinking about this and

generally submitted by community members with specific knowledge, exger-length Opinion page submissions from shorter Letters to the Editor.

King read from the policy, which stated, "On all controversial issues, employees must designate that the viewpoints they represent on the issues are

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personal and are not to be right to have an opinion to say: "I would just like supplies and services, but official viewpoint."

King continued, "The things that were put out there in the paper, they're not illegal. I'm sure it's all okay. The references here are ORS Chapter 244 and ORS 260.432. I didn't look those up, not going to either. My point for bringing it up is just so that — let me go back to our board governing agreement." At that point, Sneddon

ed board member, as her trict staff, but the board of directors, to which King "If you look at our board governing agreement, there are a lot of things in there that we do, because

it's a good thing to do," King said. He continued, "I'm throwing this out there, just to show the public that we're aware of that kind of issue. Perhaps, in the future, the board governing agreement could add a paragraph about when it's political time, this is the kind of thing that we may or may not think is appropriate. So that's it. That was my reason for adding it."

Sneddon then opened discussion to the rest of the school board.

Mann-Heintz spoke next, acknowledging that the agenda item was included due to her submission to the Siuslaw News. "I just want to make it

be relevant to a lot of you real clear that this was submitted as a Letter to the but it just seems like there's Editor, I was very careful to speak in the first person, and the decision to make it ed to throw this out there a guest viewpoint and to put 'school board member' there were editorial decisions by the Siuslaw News," she stated. "Whenever I submitted articles in the a retraction in the Siuslaw past, I've remembered to say, 'Please do not list me as a school board member,' because I know that we're Guest Viewpoints are not supposed to do that. I also took into account the fact that I am a departing board member. I haven't perience or authority on re-upped in order to run a particular topic or area again for this position and discussion. Siuslaw I won't be serving with the day of the Siuslaw *News* separates these lon- the candidates that I en- School Board meeting. He dorsed."

Her Guest Viewpoint concerned the May 18 Special Election, where three positions for the Siuslaw School Board have a total of six candidates, two of which are women.

"I believe it's my legal

ation Parade at noon that interpreted as the district's on that and to make an endorsement. Also, there are precedents from other elected officials to do the same," Mann-Heintz said. "I just want to let everybody know that it was thoughtful, and that I did consider those things. My intent was merely to express my own thoughts and reflections on the election and to name the candidates that I would really like to see elected. That was it." King followed this by

> saying, "Again, I wasn't saying that anything was illegal. I was just putting it out there so that perhaps the next board could consider that as part of the agreement." Next, Sneddon said, "I'm

probably in August, this very conversation on our board operating agreement." He encouraged King to bring the topic up again with the new board that

will be in place after the Sneddon continued, "Suzanne, I would just like to say I saw absolutely nothing wrong with your

letter. It was well thought out and it was very clear that it was your opinion. To me, it was very clear. I did receive some correspondence from somebody in the district or in the community who made the inference that it was possibly illegal, which I vehemently oppose that, because what that person was stating would have been an infringement on your constitutional rights to freedom of speech. And that person also demanded

King expressed willingness to continue the conversation at a later time, saying, "I don't have a dog in the fight."

He had, however, submitted his own opinion piece to the Siuslaw News, which ran May 12, countered Mann-Heintz' Guest Viewpoint with "New School Board Needs Wise Representation." During the meeting,

Sneddon asked for any further comment from the board, which prompted Director Diana Pimlott to comment that I think if there's nobody there to as a board member, it is assist with designing and important that any com- lesson ments we make may be that money can just sit considered as a reflection there in the account and of the entire board as a go unused," he said. "We whole. And we need to be need someone that can asvery careful at any point of sist teachers in designing our tenure, to ensure that lessons as well as co-teach our viewpoint isn't misrepresented as the opinion of other opportunities across the entire board. I'm glad the grade levels to address to see that we're having this discussion, and that we'll be looking at this later on this summer as we that can assist with eighth review our board principles or standings."

Later, when the meeting concluded, Sneddon asked that future agenda addiglad to bring this up, Denfirm the process with Robnis, because we will have, ert's Rules of Order. During the rest of the

> meeting, the board passed the consent agenda and heard a first reading of Policy EEAE, "Student Transportation in Private Vehicles." The board also reviewed Policy EBBB-AR, es that we have put in for "Accident/Incident port."

In addition, the board received a report on the 2021-22 proposed budget, which was approved by the Budget Committee on April 28. Business Manager Kari said, "In my 16 years on

Blake talked about two positions the district is looking to add. These would be for a Talented and Gifted (TAG) coordinator and an shouldn't be the end." administrator to help with the transition between be approved at the Siuslaw middle and high school. According to Grzeskowiak, the TAG coordinator

students from kindergarten to 12th grade. "We have staff in place term would expire on June to do testing and identi-

fication, and we can put

lessons and coordinate those unique needs."

The second position would be a "utility person grade/ninth grade transition, attendance services, alternative services, and helping shepherd those kids into a more successtions be submitted ahead ful path from eighth- to of time to the board chair ninth- to 10th grade," so they will have time to Grzeskowiak said. "In esresearch the item and con-sence, being a second assistant principal between the middle school and the high school."

While the district has looked into adding this position in the past, supplemental funds may be coming from the state. "These are the piec-

board consideration as we go forward with the final draft of the budget for next year," Grzeskowiak said. The board seemed amenable to these new po-

sitions. Director Paul Burns

the board, TAG has been

underfunded and under promoted in the schools. ... It's a good start, but it The 2021-22 budget will

School Board meeting on Wednesday, June 16. In other Budget Comwould be able to work with mittee news, there is now an open position on the committee. The partial

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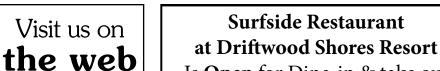
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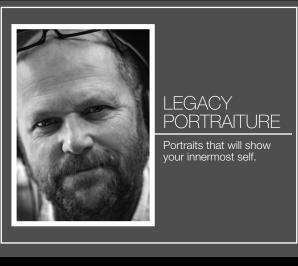
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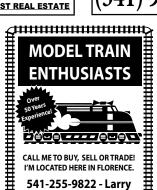
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