



School Zone

APRIL 26, 2017

A monthly newsletter covering area schools

SLSD waits for final budget numbers

BY CAITLYN MAY
cmay@cgsentinel.com

The Oregon State Legislature warned entities around the state that it would be facing nearly a \$2 billion deficit as it geared up to fund programs and departments for the next two years. For Oregon schools, less money equated to more cuts but without a final budget from the legislature, institutions are left guessing at a number and for South Lane School District, that number is between \$1 million and \$1.8 million.

South Lane Superintendent Krista Parent has been holding budget meetings with various educators around the district to illustrate the dire situation.

According to information distributed during those meetings, the school district has several options in making up the budgetary shortfall. To close the \$1.8 million gap, it could eliminate 25 teachers for a value of \$70,000 each. It could also cut 20.5 days from school at \$88,000 a piece. However, Parent has noted that a portion of South Lane's students have had just a fraction of their education consist of a full calendar due to cut days to comply with budget restrictions. Further, inclement weather has left students at home more than usual this year which could potential cause a larger problem.

Students are required to attend school for a certain number of instructional hours per year. When school days fall away to snow days and budget cuts, schools can be left responsible to the state to explain the short-coming. According to

Parent, SLSD has yet to be in the "penalty box" concerning instructional hours but if the school is forced to cut days due to the budget and the area experiences another harsh winter, that could change.

Also on the list of possible money-saving options is sports at the high school level. Eliminating the program would save the school \$200,000. However, it is noted that such a move could cost the district up to 100 students. In a state where students can choose where they go to school, athletic programs draw in potential players and losing 100 students would amount to a \$750,000 loss for the district.

Other suggestions on the list include closing Latham School which would displace 120 students, stalling already delayed math adoption at the elementary level, terminating 31 custodians, 39 secretaries, 21 administrators or cutting all middle school athletics.

The district has cut days in the past and according to Parent, may have to do so in the future. Because the legislature lays out a two-year budget, further cuts could be waiting for the 2017-2018 school year. Parent noted that the district is unaware of exactly how the legislative budget would affect next year but any budget shortfall would place services, teachers and school days back on the chopping block.

An answer on the final budget is due from the legislature in the coming weeks which will allow South Lane School District to begin finalizing the cuts to services for the school year.

Lion's Pride Pageant heads to the finish line

Students work to raise money for the Children's Miracle Network



Pictured above from left to right: Contestants Tanner Howe, Hunter Gipson, Blake Sentman, Kory Parent, Brent Ollivant, TJ Bellamy, Zane Levings, coordinators Savannah Crump, Carly Sand, Cassidy Lusson, Keara Murphy, contestants Hannah Albrecht, Lauren Fields and Elizabeth Poe. See page 2 for story.

Inside:
School briefs pg. 2
Changes at Lincoln pg. 3
Updates from Latham & Dorena pg.3

New school construction begins

Equipment is scheduled to be on site this week



The new Harrison Elementary School on Taylor Ave. will officially begin construction this week with heavy equipment scheduled to be on site this week to start demolition of structures on the property. The official groundbreaking was held last month with several community leaders coming out to mark the occasion. The new Harrison Elementary will sit in the space of the old high school and the final cost will hover around \$23 million, funded through a bond measure approved by voters in November. The school is expected to be up and running in time for the new class to attend in September of 2017.



Take Us Back to College

Special Digital Subscription Rates for Students

Your digital subscription keeps you connected to the people and places you know and love with unlimited access for as little as \$10.00 per year!

Cottage Grove Sentinel
Your Hometown News

In Print, Online & Mobile
541.942.3325 • www.cgsentinel.com

