

SLSD reviews superintendent goals for 2016-2017

By Caitlyn May
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The last final has been graded and students have been enjoying summer for a little under a week but work for the South Lane School District was still in full swing on Thursday, June 22.

The board was given a report by South Lane Superintendent Krista Parent on her progress concerning goals for the 2016-2017 school year.

Parent was given seven, multi-part goals to focus on during the year including managing the newly passed bond measure, addressing student attendance, create more equitable practices throughout the school district, create a system that requires diploma earners to meet essential skills in reading, math and writing, and improve the graduation rate.

Parent informed the board that a number of her goals had

been completed, while others were still in progress.

South Lane's latest stats showed the four-year graduation rate jumping from 64.3 percent to 72 percent.

In regards to the bond issue, Parent noted that the new Harrison Elementary School had broken ground and the work on upgrades to the pool would begin after the district set up a planning committee to give input on the potential design of

the facility.

Attendance is an ongoing battle throughout the state and Parent informed the board that ongoing plans to combat the issue include coming up with a district-wide plan that would see staff time dedicated to forming solutions to the problem. Earlier this year, South Lane revealed that up to 50 percent of its high schoolers were considered chronically absent. At the time, the board decided on withholding prom and graduation ceremonies for students who continued to miss an exorbitant number of school days. According to South Lane, the method worked and students began showing up to class more regularly.

"The math and science, you have to do. You have to learn to write an essay but maybe there's something else they want to come to school for," said board member Gary Mort. Cottage Grove High School currently utilized elective classes and board members have noted music classes and the school's sports programs also lure stu-

dents to school.

In order to create a more equitable school environment when students do attend, Parent said the administration read "High Performing, High Poverty Schools" and hosted book clubs revolving around five books on equity. The goal is to create a school environment that offer the same opportunities to students no matter their household's income level, gender or race. In addition, Parent informed the board that South Lane Mental Health would be partnering with the South Lane School District to offer basic training in trauma to better aid students who may be affected by outside factors.

Kindergarten and how the district would address it was a more involved goal, according to Parent.

"Schools across the district are very split on whether or not to delay full-day start for kinders," Parent wrote in her report to the board. "Dorena and Bohemia are starting their kinders full-day from the start of school with Harrison, Lon-

don and Latham waiting until September 25."

The issue of kindergarten scheduling is one that was listed as ongoing for the board with board members noting that child care options become deciding factors for parents' schedules. All day kindergarten alleviates that issue while switching between all day and half day creates a problem for families. Likewise, Parent noted that poor attendance is not just a high school senior issue. Kindergarten has the second highest rate of absenteeism.

Goals Parent counted as done included increasing the graduation rate, managing the bond measure, ensuring diploma earners met the essential skills in reading, math and writing, and continuing to create effective feedback for faculty and staff. Parent highlighted this as her most successful goals and noted that principals had undergone training to better communicate with their instructors, to better serve students.

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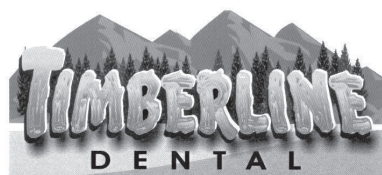
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BMD in need of volunteers



The Bohemia Mining Days Board put a request out for volunteers to help set up and take down the event during the city council meeting on Monday, June 26.

By Caitlyn May
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The Bohemia Mining Days Board gave a presentation to the city council on Monday, June 26 and while it focused on the packed schedule for the four-day schedule, it did have one urgent request: volunteers. The group currently has 32 residents signed up to help manage the

chaos of BMD but according to organizers, the more, the merrier.

Nine different committees are expected to contribute to the traditional festival that will host an historical treasure hunt, history talks, a parade, silent auction, carnival and live music. But according to the board, those events and attractions don't set

themselves up.

"We have been given 50 tickets to the Home Free concert to give away to people willing to donate their time to help up set up and take down Bohemia Mining Days," said festival coordinator Cindy Weeldreyer. To volunteer, and win a chance at tickets, visit bohemiaminingdays.org.

WOE gets \$2,000 for lights

By Caitlyn May
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The WOE Fairgrounds Board got its wish: funding for a lighting system at the fairgrounds.

The request came after the budget cycle for the city closed but according to fair board officials, the lighting, or lack thereof at the site made for a dangerous situation.

The board had previously requested funds or assistance from the city council after failing to meet budget time lines.

After speaking with Cottage Grove City Manager Richard Meyers, the group compiled a list of needs and presented it to the board on Monday night. While WOE Fairgrounds Vice President Ken Schwieger previously told The Sentinel that several projects on the grounds were in need of funding, WOE

requested the \$2,000 to complete the installation of six LED lights.

The city council, in approving the overall city budget prepared to make a motion to amend the budget to include the requested \$2,000. However, community development and planning director Faye Stewart noticed that the request did not take into account the cost of permits to perform the work.

After amending the amendment to include an additional \$500 for permit costs, the city approved the budget and gave the green light to the WOE's funding request. The money is set to come from the community promotions fund.

The city completed its budget process earlier this year with \$28,000 in room tax funds going to the chamber of commerce and the local museum to fix its

faulty roof. The chamber was allotted \$8,000 for printing costs in addition to the money already earmarked for the organization to promote Cottage Grove

Currently, the fairgrounds earns money through means including gate charges for events and overflow parking from the race track. However, the WOE does not charge the 4-H club which utilizes the grounds, according to Schwieger. It also does not charge a fee for the group putting on the lumberjack show or the Friends of the Cottage Grove Carousel for storing the antique carousel pieces in a barn on the property.

"As far as income, we don't have much," said Schwieger.

Councilman Mike Fleck made the motion to approve the WOE funds and councilman Ken Roberts seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Library meetings

Friends of the Mildred Whipple Library have their meetings on the last Monday of the month at 1 p.m. in the Drain library. Everyone is welcome to attend the meetings.

BMD volunteers

Applications for volunteers for Bohemia Mining Days are now available at The Sentinel, public library, KNND and com-

munity center.

Concerts in the Park

Concerts in the Park start this Wednesday with Jerry Zybach and Blues Kats. The show starts at 6:30 p.m. in Bohemia Park. Everyone is invited to attend.

Art Walk

Art Walk is set for this Friday beginning at 6 p.m. and running until 8 p.m. on Main St. in downtown.

Music Festival

The annual People's Pick Live Music Festival is set for June 30 and July 1 in Bohemia Park. Local artists are set to perform including 2106, Daybots and Crooked Day.

Symphony

The symphony is coming. Help pay for it by buying a chocolate bar at city hall.