

SLSD board gears up for 2017 with marathon meeting

By Zach Silva

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Monday night South Lane School District had their first school board meeting of the 2017-18 school year. The meeting, that was nearly two hours, went over a variety of topics including the following:

Bond Update:

A key aspect of the meeting was the discussion of the bond that the school board is working with. Last May, the district passed a \$36 million dol-

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CGHS head Iton Udosonata announced his departure for North Eugene.

And while changes are taking place all over the South Lane School District--most notably the addition of a new elementary school that will open its doors next fall--Ingman is relying on the past to step into the future.

"There's a mission statement," he said. "Teachers and faculty back in the day, got together and wrote these mission statement. When I show other educators this mission statement they say it's the best one they've ever seen."

It asks that students put their best foot forward, be engaged and

that the faculty provide a welcoming, safe environment for students.

They've solicited the help of technology and a new app, Spirit, to help them in their task. The app allows students and faculty to "check in" at sporting events and other school related activities. The more check ins a team has, the more points and whoever has the most points, wins. What exactly they win is still in flux but for now, a Dutch Bros. card for free coffee is the prize.

"There's so much research that says when students are connected to their schools, attendance rates go up," Ingman said.

Cottage Grove High

lar bond for various improvements and upgrades around the district. The biggest hurdle that the district is facing is that the pre-bond estimate for the new Harrison Elementary School was 18.4 million but has since been pushed to 23.4 million.

"The cost escalation is really difficult," said South Lane superintendent Krista Parent. "Just trying to figure out how do we honor what the citizens voted for in terms of the bond and still stay within budget. We have to do that and we're finding ways to do that but you can see that it's taking some maneuvering of dollars to be able to do that. I think we're going to be fine but we want to keep the board updated all the time about that."

In addition to the new school, the money

School seniors had a nearly 50 percent chronic absentee issue last year before the district opted to withhold prom and graduation from students who continued to miss class. Ingman is hoping that the new approach, getting kids involved in school, will help.

"If a student is in three clubs, the attendance rate goes into the high 90s," he said, though admits transportation for after school activities remains a problem.

Still, students can choose from lunch clubs as well.

"No club interferes with another," Ingman said of the lunch schedule.

The 720 students

enrolled at CGHS this year will also benefit from the \$388,000 in CTE funds coming into the district from Measure 98. The funds must be used for college preparation and dropout prevention as well as career training.

Students will also have eight new teachers and a principal determined to make the first year at his "dream job" a good one.

"The school is big enough to offer things like wood shop and drama but it's small enough that everyone knows everyone," he said. "I want to create a positive school atmosphere and connect kids to school, those are my goals."

from the bond is going to a number of projects and with each project, the price is changing for how much it will cost. One element is for safety and security which was initially for a new Lincoln Middle School front office and some renovations to the middle school. This was going to cost 1.4 million dollars but because of the changes, now it will just focus on the office which will save the district 700,000 dollars which will then go to the new school.

Parent noted that there are various other projects that have been cut down, but not eliminated, to save money including the Kennedy High School, Harrison Elementary property reuse and upgrades to technology. Those projects will save over 500,000 dollars. The money is also going to an early learning center that was initially going to be one million dollars but is now priced at 1.8 million. Other money from the bond is going to the pool, fees, permits and equipment.

"When we built Cottage Grove High School 14 years ago, it was just the school. We didn't have all these other projects so it makes it a little more challenging this time," said Parent.

School Board Goals:

The school board continued to work on their goals for the current school year and are going to work to finalize the wording in them next meeting.

"From the superintendent's perspective, the way I want to see goals happen in this district is I want all of the goals aligned. So principals do goals, teachers do goals, the board does goals, the superintendent does goals. And typically what happens is I suggest goals for the year, they give input to that, and that kind of sets the tones for principals and everybody to build off of," said

Parent.

Parent and the board keyed in on three main goals of focusing on the bond, community engagement and communication. Various board members noted that these are all working with the ultimate goal of helping students learn.

New Hires:

Director of Human Resources and Staff Effectiveness Brian McCasline gave a brief presentation on the new hires who are now part of the district.

McCasline noted that there were 46 new hires around the district in varying positions. There were 18 new certified teachers brought on (five at bohemia, four at Latham, three at Harrison, two at Lincoln and one at CGHS, Dorena, Kennedy and London) in addition to the 28 classified hires. The classified hires include 16 education assistants, five food service positions, four bus drivers and one counselor, administrator and supervisor. McCasline highlighted the success of the summer trainings with these groups.

Additionally, over 60 math teachers across the district took part in a workshop going over the new math curriculum this summer in preparation for the school year.

Air Quality

Because of the wildfires around the state, superintendent Parent went over how the district is dealing with changes in the air quality. To determine both athletic contests and outdoor recess, Parent is using the guidelines that the Oregon School Activities Association (OSAA) sent out last week. Every two hours throughout the day the district monitors the air quality index to determine how to proceed.

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ground and is hoping that, with the aid of an attorney, the group can do what the November 2016 ballot measure failed to do: fund the library.

The group is planning on proposing a 40 cent per \$1,000 of assessed value tax--four cents less than the one proposed in November.

"It would follow the school district boundaries because you have the problem of people outside the city and that would take care of it if it followed the school district," Johns said.

The group reportedly had first intended to created a five year rate but after speaking with an attorney, was directed to a permanent rate.

Solutions to the library crisis in Douglas have been varied and in some places around the county, non-existent. Volunteers have stepped forward to run the library in places like Yoncalla but services fall short of what they had been when the library was open under county funding sources. And in some communities, like Drain, the buildings still lay shuttered.

"We have a small enough volunteer base that we can't divide our efforts," Johns said of possibly opening the library with the help of volunteers.

The group went before the Drain City Council on Monday, September 11 to present its plan and see what the city would be

willing to offer.

According to city administrator Steve Dahl--who noted he could not speak for the council--the city would be willing to offer the same package it did to the county in regards to the library. It would include the building, sewer and water and wifi and Internet access.

While the group has the support of its volunteers and the city, Johns said the effort is far from over. The question, due to the timing of requirements to place something on the ballot, would not appear until the May 2018 election.

"None of this is real until we file that paper work next month," she said.

Worship Directory

DRAIN:

HOPE U.M.C.

131 W "A" St. Drain, OR
541-315-1617
Pastor: Lura Kidner-Miesen
Fellowship & Song: 11:30am
Potluck Lunch: 12:00pm
Worship: 12:30pm

COTTAGE GROVE:

6th & Gibbs Church of Christ

195 N. 6th St. • 541-942-3822
Pastor: Aaron Earlywine
Youth & Families Pastor:
Seth Bailey
Service: 10am,
Sunday School: 9am for all ages
Christian Education
Nursery for pre-k - 3rd Grade
www.6thandgibbs.com

Calvary Baptist Church

77873 S 6th St • 541-942-4290
Pastor: Riley Hendricks
Sunday School: 9:45am
Worship: 11:00am
The Journey: Sunday 5:00pm
Praying Thru Life: Wednesday 6:00pm

Calvary Chapel Cottage Grove

1447 Hwy 99 (Village Plaza)
541-942-6842
Pastor: Jeff Smith
Two Services on Sun:
9am & 10:45am
Youth Group Bible Study
Child Care 10:45am Service Only
www.cgalvary.org

Center for Spiritual Living

Cottage Grove
700 Gibbs Ave.
(Community Center)
Rev. Bobby Lee
Meets Sunday 3:00 p.m.
cslcottagegrove@gmail.com

Church of Christ

420 Monroe St • 541-942-8565
Sunday Service: 10:30am

Cottage Grove Bible Church

1200 East Quincy Avenue
541-942-4771
Pastor: Bob Singer
Worship 11am
Sunday School: 9:45am
AWANA age 3-8th Grade,
Wednesdays Sept-May, 6:30pm
www.cgbible.org

Cottage Grove Faith Center

33761 Row River Rd.
541-942-4851
Lead Pastor: Kevin Prueft
www.cg4.tv
Full Children's Ministry available
Service: 10:00am

Delight Valley

Church of Christ
33087 Saginaw Rd. East
541-942-7711
Pastor: Bob Friend
Two Services:
9am - Classic in the Chapel
10:30am - Contemporary in the Auditorium

First Presbyterian Church

3rd and Adams St
541-942-4479
Pastor: Karen Hill
Worship: 10:00am
Sunday School: 10:00am
www.cgpresbynews.com

Hope Fellowship

United Pentecostal Church
100 S. Gateway Blvd.
541-942-2061

Pastor: Dave Bragg

Worship: 11:00am Sunday
Bible Study: 7:00pm Wednesday
www.hopefellowshipupc.com
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Living Faith Assembly

467 S. 10th St. • 541-942-2612
Pastor Rulon Combs
Worship & Children's Church 10:00 am
Youth 180 Mondays 5:30-8pm

Non-Denominational Church of Christ

1041 Penoyer Ave
541-942-8928
Preacher: Tony Martin
Sunday Bible Study: 10:00am
Sunday Worship: 10:50am & 5:30pm
www.penoyeravococ.com

Old Time Gospel Fellowship

103 S. 5th St. • 541-942-4999
Pastor: Jim Edwards
Sunday Service: 10:00am
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Our Lady of Perpetual Help and St. Philip Benizi Catholic Churches

1025 N. 19th St.
541-942-3420 / 541-942-4712
Father: Joseph Hung Nguyen
Euch. Liturgies; Sat. 5:30pm
Sunday: 10:30am
St. Philip Benizi, Creswell:
552 Holbrook Lane
541-895-8686, Sunday: 8:30am

St. Andrews Episcopal Church

1301 W. Main • 541-767-9050
Rev. Lawrence Crumb
"Church with the flags."
Worship: Sunday 10:30am
All Welcome

Seventh-day Adventist Church

820 South 10th Street
541-942-5213
Pastor: Kevin Miller
Bible Study: Saturday, 9:15 am
Worship Service: Saturday, 10:40 am
Mid-week Service: Wednesday, 1:00 pm

Trinity Lutheran Church

6th & Quincy • 541-942-2373
Pastor: James L. Markus
Sunday School & Adult Education 9:15am
Sunday Worship 10:30 am
Comm. Kitchen Free Meal Tue & Thur 5:00pm TLC Groups
tlccg.com

United Methodist Church

334 Washington • 541-942-3033
Pastor: Lura Kidner-Miesen
Worship: 10:30am
Comm. Dinner (Adults \$5, Kids Free)
2nd & 3rd Monday 5-6:00pm
cottagegroveumc.org

"VICTORY" Country Church

913 S. 6th Street • 541-942-5913
Pastor: Barbara Dockery
Worship Service: 10:00am
Message: "WE BELIEVE IN MIRACLES"

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@ 541-942-3325

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