

School from A1

Others expressed an interest in involving staff, parents and students.

Board member Jerry Settlemeyer suggested "a celebration that invites back, and as broadly as can be advertised... the [alumni]."

More ideas included preserving an old bell from the school and holding a raffle to increase community involvement.

SLSD Director of Communications Garrett Bridgens, speaking to *The Sentinel*, emphasized the board's commitment to a process

that adequately satisfies all affected by the move.

"We take this very seriously," he said. "We have said it, the board has said it, that we want this transition to be as smooth as possible for students, parents and staff. We're going to work really hard to make sure that happens."

Sullivan echoed the sentiment.

"We're going to do our best to honor the community, the Latham community, the alumni that have been there," he said. "We're working with our community, our staff and so on to figure out how we're going to do a real-

"We're going to do our best to honor the community, the Latham community, the alumni that have been there ..."

— Garrett Bridgens, SLSD Director of Communications

ly great transition for everyone."

The board will reconvene on Feb. 4 with a draft transition plan which will present a clearer outline of Latham's

five-month transition window.

District and board priorities for the year were also discussed at the meeting.

Sullivan, who assumed his

Measles from A1

Because the virus lives in the nose and throat of an infected person, it can spread to others through coughing and sneezing.

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), "measles is so contagious that if one person has it, 90 percent of the people close to that person who are not immune will also become infected."

Those infected with measles can spread the virus four days before and four days after the rash appears.

As such, it is recommended that individuals who display symptoms call their local health authority before visiting a doctor's office or hospital.

Protection against measles can be substantially increased through vaccination. The MMR vaccine, which includes vaccination

against the viruses mumps and rubella, is generally administered to children once between nine and 15 months of age and again before reaching six years old.

MMR vaccine refusal, however, has been on the rise over the last decade.

Controversy surrounding a 1998 report which linked the MMR vaccine to autism and later celebrity endorsement of the claim has been the genesis of a rise in skepticism about the safety of the vaccine, though this opinion has been widely rejected by the CDC, the National Academy of Medicine and other major research institutions.

Medical authorities have associated the phenomenon of vaccine refusal with increased risk for those who are not vaccinated as well as those who are.

Among the 31 cases of measles in Clark County this year, 27 were reportedly

unimmunized.

The LCPH alert comes as visitation limitations were implemented on Friday by PeaceHealth's Eugene hospital Sacred Heart Medical Center at Riverbend.

The hospital has restricted visitation to labor and delivery, mother-baby and neonatal intensive care units, citing the rise in measles and influenza cases.

Visitations are restricted for individuals under the age of 21 or those who demonstrate any of the following symptoms:

- Fever (100 degrees or higher)
- Cough
- Sore throat
- Headache
- Redness or swelling of the eyes
- Diarrhea
- Runny nose
- Vomiting

As with measles, the spread and effect of the influenza virus can be miti-

gated with up-to-date vaccinations. Washing hands regularly and covering one's mouth when coughing or sneezing can also help prevent its spread.

Sick individuals are encouraged to stay home from work or school.

Restrictions on hospital visitation have yet to make it as far as Cottage Grove.

"We don't have any visitation restrictions in place at Cottage Grove Community Medical Center," said Catherine Kroll, Director for Infection Prevention at PeaceHealth. "We're evaluating the situation daily and would make decisions about visitation based on what type of spread is happening in the community."

Information on exposure locations and the measles investigation in Clark County can be found online at www.clark.wa.gov/public-health/measles-investigation.

now two-year position July 1, 2018, had been asked by the board to give feedback preceding plans this spring to work with the Oregon School Board Association to develop board priorities.

"I've tried to be as objective as I could be ... to give you guys a little perspective," he said.

Sullivan emphasized the need for the board to develop goals and priorities that

align with district's. Topics included safety and security of students, addressing undocumented students' needs, early childhood/after-school program expansion and investing in quality instruction.

"I want to make sure we have quality teachers," said Sullivan of the last topic. "If you have sustained ... professional development, it has a direct impact on students."

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