



For November 2019

A monthly newsletter covering area schools

SLSD SUPERINTENDENT SULLIVAN STEPS DOWN

DAMIEN SHERWOOD
Cottage Grove Sentinel

South Lane School District's search for a superintendent candidate took a turn early last month when current Superintendent Larry Sullivan announced his resignation due to "serious health reasons related to cancer."

The announcement, made by Sullivan during executive session and later reiterated by the board in public session, made the superintendent's final day Nov. 30.

"It's regretful that he's leaving us because I believe he's done a great job as superintendent here," Board President Sherry Duerst-Higgins said when the board returned to regular session. "To me, this is very

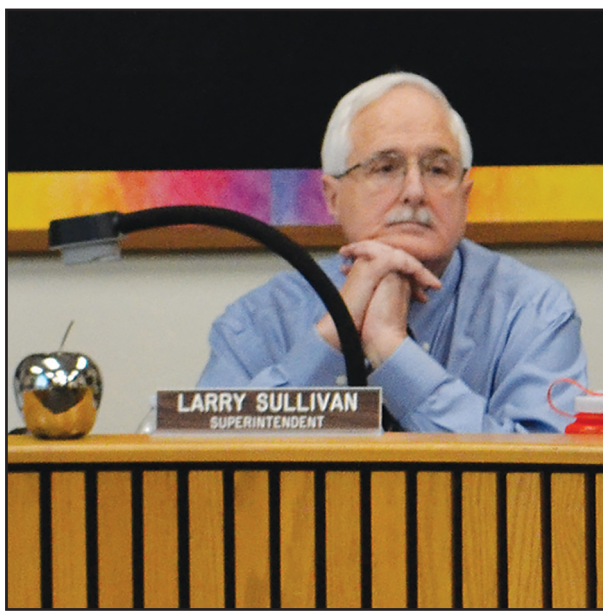
sad."

The superintendent search had originally looked at a deadline of March to find a permanent replacement for Sullivan, who had initially taken the position in an interim capacity May 2018.

Following Sullivan's resignation, the board consulted Steve Kelley, director of board development and executive searches for the Oregon School Boards Association, who was already present at the meeting.

Kelley provided the board with several options in how to proceed, including two timeline choices for the search for Sullivan's replacement.

In choosing a temporary replacement, Kelley



File photo/Cottage Grove Sentinel

SLSD Superintendent Larry Sullivan looks on during a school district meeting. Sullivan stepped down early last month due to health reasons related to cancer. His last day was Nov. 30.

produced the list of desired qualities and qualifications developed during the search for an interim superintendent last year, which resulted in the selection of

Sullivan.

Kelley made a distinction from the previous interim superintendent search, which looked for a candidate who could establish a solid founda-

tion for moving forward in the wake of scandal.

"As I see it, [this candidate] is, 'I bring you my superintendent experience and I'm going to rely on staff ... and help the board get through the next six months,'" he said.

The next interim superintendent will serve until July 1, 2020, which is when the permanent superintendent begins work.

Board members agreed that anyone taking the interim position should be ineligible from applying for the permanent position.

The board was hesitant to choose a candidate from inside the already short-staffed district and Kelley told the board he could provide a list of retired

superintendents.

Kelley and the board agreed that community input would be needed before adopting a list of qualities and qualifications desired in the new interim superintendent, one of the requirements before the board can conduct interviews in executive session.

"You could do it tonight. I think it meets the letter of the law, but I don't think it meets the spirit of the law," said Kelley.

After deliberation, the board voted to declare vacancy of Sullivan's position and adopt the more expedient of the timeline choices, with a target hire date for Dec. 2. (With a full story in the Dec. 5 edition of *The Sentinel*.)

ADDAMS FAMILY MARKS FIRST OF THREE CGHS PRODUCTIONS

NICK SNYDER
Cottage Grove Sentinel

The Cottage Grove High School (CGHS) drama department kicked off its 2019-20 season in November with "The Addams Family" musical.

Based on audience numbers, it was a successful opening run for director Janet Rust and her talented cast of actors and actresses.

"We had to put up three extra rows of chairs last night," Rust said when asked about Friday's premiere.

The comedy production centered around Wednesday Addams, daughter of Gomez and Morticia, who falls in love with a "normal" boy, Lucas Beineke. The two star-crossed lovers from divergent backgrounds must find a way to obtain both parents' approval with help — and occasional roadblocks — from the other zany members of the titular family.

"I really loved the Addams Family when I was a kid," Rust said. "I also listened to the music and I really liked

it and thought it would be appropriate for high school. It's fun, the kids get into the campiness of it and I have the right kids for it too."

Juniors Enzo Valdez (Gomez), Alex Keedy (Morticia), Darcy Rust (Wednesday) and sophomore Maia Wilhour (Lucas) took on the leading roles, while fellow sophomore John Swanson gave a particularly memorable performance as Uncle Fester.

"Our Fester, John, it took us a month to be

See CGHS 4C

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