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# Web: Students must be organized

**Continued from Page 14A**  
WEB leaders have to make up that missed schoolwork, so they must be well organized and studious.

Ryan Fitts said he finishes as much work as he can in class, and has a plan for when he gets home so he can keep up with his academics while participating in WEB.

But it's worth it to the students to help others.

It wasn't that long ago they were the new kids on the block at Talmadge.

"I remember I was super excited to get my locker, and then I couldn't reach the top shelf," Fitts said.

Crystal Rodriguez said she enjoys helping others feel more comfortable.

"I was really shy and

didn't want to be open that much," she said about herself in sixth grade. WEB leaders helped her get more involved and comfortable with the situation.

Sometimes WEB leaders will sit with someone at lunch who has no one else to sit by, Elijah Mierau said.

"On the rare occasion, you have to break up a

fight," he said. But they try and keep their language positive. Rather than saying, "Don't do that," they say, "That's cool, but ...."

Sixth-graders can be ornery, WEB leaders said, and they have to organize activities for everyone.

"Our goal is to make sure everyone belongs," Webb said. "It's literally what WEB stands for."

# FCSD budget includes gym money

**By Jolene Guzman**  
The Itemizer-Observer

FALLS CITY — The 2017-18 Falls City School District budget includes money to hire more teachers and, depending on how the bids come in, build an elementary school gym.

The budget committee approved the budget on May 16, with a grand total of \$4.2 million and a general fund of nearly \$3.5 million.

Next year's budget is based on state funding in the amount of \$7.9 billion. While conversation had been that the figure will be \$7.8 billion, which would mean adjustments, Superintendent Jack Thompson is now hearing the figure will be closer to \$8 billion.

"I think I'm going to be safe and I'm not having to go back and make cuts,"

Thompson said.

The approved budget gets the district a step closer to one of its main objectives at the elementary school.

"The board's long-term goal is to have a teacher at each grade level," Thompson said.

Most classes at the elementary school now have combined classes with two grade levels taught by one teacher. This year, the district split the seventh and eighth grade classes because it would be too big combined.

Next year, it's the first- and second-grade class that is projected to be crowded.

"Our first and second grade would be 35 if we left them combined," Thompson said.

The committee decided to add a teacher to split the classes, but also leave the seventh-eighth grade classes

separate, even though the student count wouldn't be so high in 2017-18.

"The board really wanted to not move backward," Thompson said.

At the high school level, the staff is being shuffled with the creation of a dean of students position, which will be filled with a "teacher on special assignment."

The position was created because Thompson will be leaving the district after this school year. He served as the high school principal in addition to superintendent.

The elementary school principal will be the district's interim superintendent next year, so a supervisory position is needed at the high school.

Student discipline, day-to-day operations in the school, and teaching two classes will be the primary responsibilities of the post, which will be filled by Micke Kidd.

The part-time science teacher will be moved to full-time and another half-time teacher will be added, with the plan now to teach language arts, Thompson said.

A \$400,000 loan to build an elementary school gym is included in the budget.

Thompson said the loan hasn't been secured yet, and the district is in the beginning stages of figuring out how much the building will cost.

He noted the vision for the building has been scaled back significantly after a bond to pay for a bigger facility failed twice. That left the district to face dealing with eventual increases to physical education requirements and crowded practice schedules at the high school gym with limited resources, Thompson said.

"The need has not changed," he said. "Kids still need a place to play."

Last week, the board agreed to pursue a bid from a steel building company for a basic structure with a floor, heat and electricity.

Thompson said that company indicated it would be possible to build that for less than \$400,000 leaving room for permit costs and a contingency for overruns. He said the district will have a better idea in a month or so if it can move forward with its plan.

The Falls City School Board is scheduled to hold a public hearing and vote on adopting the budget on June 13.

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# Committee approves DSD 2017-18 budget

**By Jolene Guzman**  
The Itemizer-Observer

DALLAS — The Dallas School District Budget Committee approved the 2017-18 budget on May 17, and set priorities for additional

funding if the Oregon Legislature sends more than \$7.8 billion to schools.

Dallas' budget is based on a funding level of \$7.8 billion for the 2017-19 biennium, but the Legislature hasn't approved the school's budget yet, leaving the door open to a higher funding level.

"Right now, the real message that we are getting is hold. We are still standing at \$7.8 billion because that is the last best information that we have," said Tami Montague, the district's fiscal services director.

Montague said the May 16 state revenue forecast indicated there will be more revenue to fill the state's shortfall.

"The irony there is that there is enough new revenue now that they believe it will kick the kicker," she said.

A "kicker" happens when revenue comes in at least 2 percent higher than estimated. The personal kicker returns money to taxpayers through a credit on tax returns. Corporate kickers go toward K-12 education.

With some uncertainty, the budget committee approved the budget as first presented, but gave instructions for the Dallas school board to follow if more money is allocated.

The committee recommended the board consider suggestions from the district's collaboration team, a group of teachers and administrators that is involved in creating the budget.

With increasing PERS costs in mind, committee member Linda Fox said the district should increase its beginning fund balance, money carried over from the previous year.

The committee also suggested the board should use unexpected resources to shrink the size of elementary classes.

After approving the budget unanimously, the committee voted to put those suggestions into a formal recommendation.

The board is scheduled to hold a public hearing on the budget on June 12.

Dallas Schools 2017-18 budget

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**Sudoku**  
Difficulty: ★★★★★☆

**Solution on Page 8A**

		5	3					
2	3	6	1					
7								6
	9	3		2				5
	7	5		9	4			6
	2			4				9
		1	2					
3	4	9	5					8

**How to do Sudoku**  
Fill in the grid so the numbers 1 through 9 appear just once in every column, row, and three-by-three square. See example above.

Row →

4	3	2	8	1	6	7	5	9
5	6	9	3	7	4	8	1	2
1	7	8	9	5	2	4	6	3
3	4	7	2	8	5	6	9	1
2	1	6	7	4	9	3	8	5
9	8	5	1	6	3	2	7	4
7	9	1	4	3	8	5	2	6
8	5	3	6	2	1	9	4	7
6	2	4	5	9	7	1	3	8

Three-by-three square →

Column ↓

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