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Seaside campus preliminary plan.

Campus relocation project rolls ahead

Final reading ahead before adoption

By R.J. Marx
Cannon Beach Gazette

The Seaside District's drive to bring a new campus to the Southeast Hills rolled along as City Councilors gave the nod to code changes necessary for construction. On Monday, Sept. 25, the city presented the ordinances necessary to complete the comprehensive plan amendment, which would move three endangered schools to higher ground out of the tsunami zone.

Relocation of Seaside High School, Gearhart Elementary School and Broadway Middle School is anticipated in September 2020.

The ordinances are considered administrative steps endorsing the plan, Mayor Jay Barber said. A third reading is required for adoption of the ordinance.

About 49 acres of zoned forest land on the 89-acre campus, donated to the district by Weyerhaeuser Co., needs to be brought into Seaside's urban growth boundary and rezoned before building can proceed. Another 40 acres, already in Seaside but zoned low-density residential also requires a zone change. Both parcels will be rezoned as institutional campus, a designation for properties more than 20 acres intended for

large-scale uses such as hospitals and school campuses.

Seaside's John Dunzer was a lone voice in opposition to ordinance changes designed to facilitate construction of the new campus. "This urban growth boundary expansion — the concept is wrong," Dunzer said.

The council's decision did not meet state goals, he said.

Dunzer said the city could find alternate sites within the urban growth boundary that did not require the ordinance changes.

"We can do this on the existing ground inside the city," he said. "There's absolutely no reason to spend all that money going up that hillside. Absolutely none. It won't make them any safer, it will not make them any smarter. It will not make them any of those things."

After a public hearing on both ordinances, councilors unanimously voted to approve both ordinances in first and second readings by title only. A third reading is planned for the council's Oct. 9 meeting.

"This is one of the key pieces in moving the schools up onto the new property," former superintendent and member of the district's construction oversight committee Doug Dougherty said in August. "This is a major step."

Should the council pass the third reading as expected, Dunzer said he intends to file an appeal of the decision with the state's Land Use of Board of Appeals.

Students get with the 'program'

By R.J. Marx
Cannon Beach Gazette

Four professional programmers, including two Microsoft employees in Redmond, Washington, will be making a difference at Seaside High School via a program called Technology Education and Literacy in Schools, or TEALS.

Jeff Hiatt, a local professional programmer who telecommutes to a company in Portland, will be in the classroom in person as a teaching assistant.

Sam Nelson, a Seaside High School graduate who lives in Springfield, where he works for a startup company, will support students via teleconference.

Microsoft employees Sandy Spinrad and Sean Mitchell will teacher the class via teleconference.

TEALS is in four schools in Oregon — one each in Seaside, Bend, Portland, and Amity and in 352 schools nationally this year.

"One new program that I'm really excited about is our TEALS program," Seaside High School Principal Jeff Roberts said at the start of the school year.

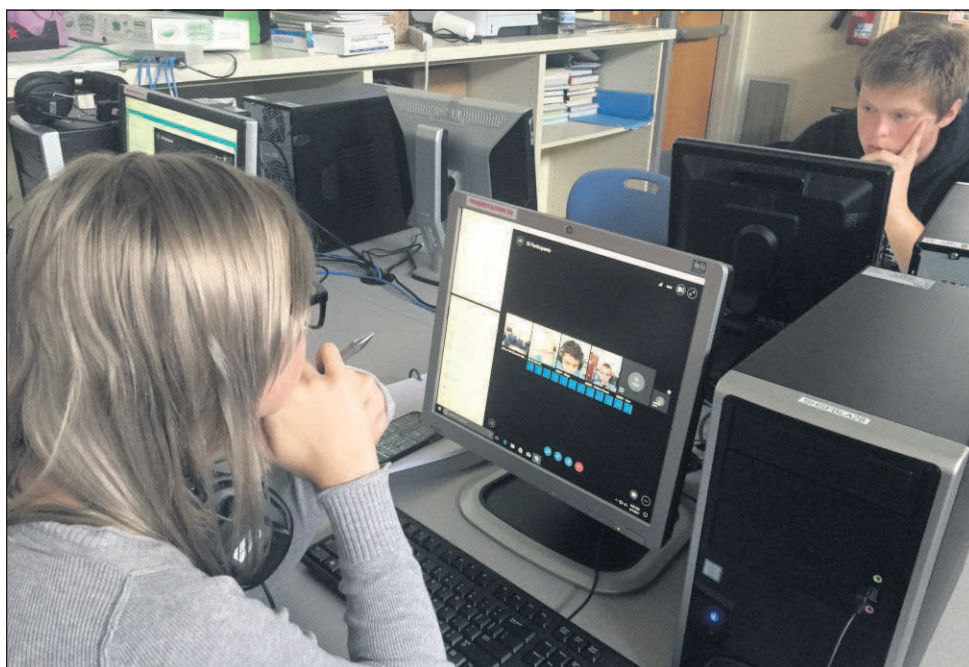
TEALS is a cooperative effort between Microsoft Philanthropies and school districts to introduce students to coding, Roberts said.

Microsoft provides volunteers who will work directly with a classroom teacher to co-teach classes on coding.

"After two years of co-teaching the class we will have the ability to offer the class independently and turn it into an AP computer science program," Roberts said.

The goal of TEALS is to help ensure that high schools teachers teaching computer science teach to a student's capacity through high-caliber curriculum and volunteer support, Anthony Papini, Volunteer Engagement Manager for Microsoft Philanthropies said.

Volunteers are industry professionals who have aca-



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Emma Dullaart in foreground; Luke Nelson, at right.

demical and professional background in computer science have gone through training.

The goal is to partner educators with computer science experts together in the classroom, Papini said.

Seaside School District Curriculum Director Sande Brown said she learned about the TEALS program when she went to the National Science Conference in Portland a year ago.

"It is difficult to find high-school teachers for computer science as people with CS degrees usually end up going into the better paying field of computer science programming/ coding," Brown said. "So Microsoft wanted to come alongside current teachers in schools and help build their capacity to teach computer science."

In Seaside, science and math teacher Doug Mitchell already had some programming experience. He volunteered to be the TEALS teacher, Brown said.

Classroom teachers are supported by the four programmers.

"The first year they support a beginning programming class, and the second year they support an advanced



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Kevin Wang, a Microsoft software engineer who founded the TEALS program.

programming class, increasing the responsibility of the classroom teacher over time to take over the class," Brown said.

The professional programmers leave after two years.

The school district pays the programmers a stipend. The school district also seeks local professional programmers to teacher or provide classroom support.

"TEALS will provide programmers if we can't," Brown said.

Courses include an introduction to computer science course using SNAP, a visual object-oriented language.

"The goal with this course is not so much to teach cod-

ing, but to teach the foundation of computer science," Brown said. "To make sure students understand how this all works."

Students learn using games like Hangman, Space Invaders and Mario Brothers.

The second semester introduces data types, functions, loops and the Python language.

The results appear to be paying off, Papini said. "We have seen, consistently, year to year, half of the students who take TEALS courses say they're more likely to pursue careers in computer science."

Nine out of 10 students say TEALS is beneficial to their learning, and TEALS students scored higher on national computer programming exams.

TEALS also provides the curriculum and summer training for the classroom teacher and the professional programmers.

"We want to continue to make a deep impact in Seaside and other parts of Oregon to ensure students have access to rigorous high-quality computer science and that teachers are able to build their capacity to teach computer science," Papini said.

Seaside gets new online science curriculum

Students learn by doing, not just watching

By R.J. Marx
Cannon Beach Gazette

Students at Seaside High School will see big changes this fall with a newly adopted science and technology curriculum.

A science program, STEMscopes, helps kids get experiential learning to meet national standards. A computer science program developed by Microsoft helps students get the kind of computer training needed to understand advanced programming.

The program was developed by teachers and scientists at Rice University in Houston to meet national standards for science, known as the Next Generation Science Standards.

"Teachers were very excited during the training today," Sande Brown, the Seaside School District's curriculum director, said after a teacher training at the high school Wednesday. "We know that excitement will translate to the students once school starts. Excited students are engaged students, and engaged students are learning."

The program focuses on connecting science to reading, writing, speaking and math and helps students prepare for careers in science and technology, Brown said. Students learn by doing, not just watching, and kids work in groups to solve problems.

"We are also excited about this curriculum because it is our school district's first completely online curriculum," Brown said. "By purchasing this online curriculum instead of textbooks, we were able to

save money and use some of that money to purchase computers and science materials and equipment for the classrooms."

Although the curriculum is online, teachers have the flexibility of downloading and printing paper copies of worksheets, information pages or tests online in a program that varies by grade level.

"The focus, however, is to have students doing science, not just be on the computer," Brown said.

The text is in both English and Spanish, and the computer can read out loud text in both languages.

The "textbook" language is differentiated by grade level, above grade level, and below grade level so students of a range of reading levels can access the new learning, Brown said. It also has a connection to news and other books on relevant science topics.

The program is easily updated and the company makes corrections or suggested revisions quickly.

The program focuses on what educators call the "5 E's" of science education, Brown said: engage, explore, explain, elaborate and evaluate.

"This is a big leap forward in having the new bonus of having an online resource," Seaside School District Superintendent Sheila Roley said.

The school district typically buys new textbooks every seven years. The online component will provide the opportunity for continuous updates, she added.

"The critical thing to take away is that we still believe that science instruction is a process of discovery for students," Roley said. "The heart of the program is still science."

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