

Latinos speak out to keep favorite teacher at Sam Boardman

continued from page one

daughters also spoke in excellent English to the assembly. One daughter who spoke, Alejandra Pacheco, went on to Oregon State University. Another daughter, Irma Torres, 21, a student at Smith College, a prestigious private college in Northampton, MA, said that she was able to accomplish her goals because of Dawson's drive, "the drive that let me see my potential."

Ironically, Dawson does not speak Spanish.

Irma Torres presented a petition to the board that contained 199 signatures in Dawson's favor.

Dawson also plead her case to the board. "Please give me a job next year. I hope you understand how important it is to have a master teacher," said Dawson. "Please let me keep my job as a second grade teacher."

Board Chair John Renfro told those testifying that the board appreciated their involvement and input, however, the board did not act on the request, instead setting a workshop for Tuesday, May 25, at 7 p.m. at Windy River Elementary in Boardman to discuss board policy on that and other issues.

Monday evening the board approved an extensive English Language Learners Program, submitted by Chavez, which outlines the ELL vision and goals, identification of ELL students, student assessment, services for the students and parents, financial commitment of the district to the ELL program, staffing and professional development, reassessment, reclassification, monitoring and exiting of the ELL student.

The plan provides ELL students with equal access to all other district program and calls for parent and community involvement. In addition, the plan calls for compliance with the program, specifying that "all other education

services agencies contracted with the MCS D will respect the district's ELL program vision, philosophy and goals" and "will seek to comply with the nature of this same plan as it relates to the ELL students." It further states that "all employees and volunteer representatives with the MCS D will also uphold and support the directives of this plan."

In the program, Chavez lays out a five-year financial goal concerning commitment of resources to the ELL program, starting out with 65 percent of ELL American Disabilities Act funding going toward the district program the first year, 75 percent the second year, 85 percent the third year, 90 percent the fourth year and 95 percent the fifth year.

A schedule for "hiring qualified endorsed ELL bilingual licensed staff with schools having significant ELL student population" requires 10 percent of the ELL teaching staff in place for 2004-06, 20 percent for 2006-09, 30 percent for 2009-12; 40 percent for 2013-2016; and 50 percent for 2017-2020. "Teachers hired that do not have an English as a second language, ESOL or a TESOL (English as a second language) endorsement will be encouraged to acquire an ESL endorsement within a three-year period from the time they are hired."

The educational goal of the program is to have 100 percent of the ELL students reach academic and social fluency in English in five years.

Also at the meeting, the board approved:

-a tax rate of \$4.0342 per thousand assessed value for operating purposes for the 2004-05 fiscal year;

-fund 300, debt service, for a tax levy of \$1,669,624 and fund 301, debit service, for a tax levy for \$1,772,115;

-all other funds totaling \$6,189,399.

In a surprise move near the conclusion of the meeting, board member Julie Weikel, who at various times had expressed philosophical differences with other board members, submitted her resignation. Renfro said Weikel's resignation was a "total surprise" and said that the board appreciated her time and effort. He said that while he and Weikel often disagreed, he "respected her position."

Weikel stressed that her resignation should in no way be connected with the hiring of Mark Burrows as superintendent and added that he had her "total support." (Weikel earlier voted in favor of hiring former Riverside High School Principal Duane Yecha as superintendent, but he subsequently withdrew as a result of a four-three split vote, although it was in his favor.) But, she added that while the board voted earlier in a split vote to have board members elected at large, she has come to believe that move was "misguided" and suggests instead that it would be preferable to have two board members each elected from the Boardman, Irrigon and Heppner-Lexington areas and the seventh member elected at large.

Weikel had earlier in the meeting voted in favor of granting variances to Irrigon students who wanted to continue attending Riverside High School, rather than the new Irrigon High School, but the board voted four to three against granting those variances, with the exception of one request concerning a special needs student.

Besides Weikel, Boardman, Pat McNamee, Irrigon, and Craig Miles, Heppner, voted in favor of granting the variances, while Barney Lindsay, Lexington area, Bill Kuhn, Heppner, Renfro, Lexington, and Ken Matlack, Irrigon, voted against granting the variances. "We have changed the boundaries to accommodate a Heppner resident (board member Barney Lindsay, who lives slightly outside the Heppner attendance area, but whose family has traditionally attended Heppner schools), and we're denying boundary changes to other patrons," protested Weikel.

Irrigon High School is scheduled to open this fall,

with grades seven through 10. Irrigon juniors and seniors this fall will continue to attend RHS.

Of her four-year stint as board member, which includes acting as board chair, Weikel commented, "It's been kind of a long four years."

Weikel's board position will now be advertised for 20 days and then a board member will be appointed by the board to serve only until the next election.

In other business, the board:

-voted unanimously against raising junior/senior high student lunch prices from \$1.75 to \$2. The district had proposed raising the lunch prices to offset anticipated costs in opening two new kitchens at the two new elementary schools, Irrigon Elementary and Windy River Elementary, and other increased costs.

-voted five to two in favor of increasing extra-curricular pay-to-participate student fees from \$35 to \$50 for junior high school students and from \$50 to \$75 for high school students. Renfro dissented from the majority, saying, "I find it difficult to put additional undue hardship on students and parents. I'm not sure why we charge these kids to play anyway."

The increase is expected to raise around \$13,000 in additional funds for that fund. Matlack also voted against the increase, with Weikel, McNamee, Kuhn and Miles voting in favor. Columbia Middle School Principal Ron Anthony told the board that scholarships could help bridge the gap for students who cannot afford the increase in pay-to-participate fees. "We never turn a kid away from a sports program," said Anthony.

The board, at a budget committee meeting prior to the regular meeting heard that while Morrow County Unified Recreation District has granted the district \$349,000 for extra-curricular programs for the 2004-05 year, MCURD anticipates a reduction in revenues the following year. "While we have 04-05 covered, 05-06 could have a very large gap," said Lisanne Currin, a member of the MCS D Budget Committee and also a member of the MCURD Board.

-voted five to two in favor of remodeling the 90-year-old district office building in Lexington with Weikel and McNamee dissenting from the majority. "I'm opposed to spending any money on that building," said McNamee. "I don't support having the district office 45 miles away from 80 percent of the students."

The improvements, which include painting, new carpeting, window replacement, minor electrical work, refurbishing of heating and air conditioning systems and some remodeling to provide a more private office for Julie Ashbeck, board secretary and personnel director, are scheduled to be completed as soon as possible, before the new superintendent begins work. Funds had been set aside for the remodeling.

-learned from deputy clerk Rhonda Lorenz in the budget committee meeting that the district will spend approximately \$1 million more than it is expected to take in during the 04-05 fiscal year, but still anticipates having at least a \$1.5 million carryover "unless something catastrophic happens."

-learned that the district is in the process of contract negotiations with the Morrow County Education Association, the teachers' union. The district's contract with the teachers expires in June.

-learned that comparable services will continue to be provided by the Umatilla-Morrow ESD, despite reduced revenues.

-heard a report from Riverside High School Principal Dirk Dirksen on the district's expanded distance education program. Dirksen said that the district hopes to offer seven periods of V-tel between Riverside, Heppner and Irrigon high schools, including vo-ag, physics, advanced math, psychology and advanced Spanish, in addition to distance education classes and "cyber school," "about any class that you would want to take," said Dirksen.

-approved termination of: Audrey Amaral, Columbia Middle School probationary assistant custodian.

-approved non-extension of probationary classified employee for: Deborah Riley, Windy River Elementary ESL ed assistant.

-accepted resignations from: Poul Murtha, CMS math teacher; Teena Sirucek, Riverside High School department secretary at the end of the school year; Adam Eldridge, RHS advanced math teaching position; Marta Barron, A.C. Houghton Elementary ESL ed assistant.

-approved transfers for: Veronica Cortez, from RHS ESOL (English as a second language) teacher to

RHS advanced math position, replacing Adam Eldridge; Jean Strange, from CMS PE teacher to Sam Boardman Elementary/WRE PE teacher; Ellen Rollis, from HES half time library tech and two-hour food service clerical assistant to full time Title I ed assistant; Kathy Cutsforth from CMS assistant custodian to HES assistant custodian.

-approved employment for 2004-05 for: Karen Cooley ACH half-time special ed teacher; Jessica Beutler, SBE second grade teacher; Amber Kellison, SBE second grade teacher; Anna Bonney, WRE fifth grade teacher; Marianne Smith, SBE, third grade teacher; Larry French, Irrigon High School PE teacher/athletic director; Issa El Hayak, RHS ESOL teacher; Jeffrey Searles, IHS music teacher; Johanna Cochran, IHS counselor; Chris Davis, IHS social studies teacher; Jake McElligott, IES sixth-grade teacher.

-approved classified/confidential staff for 2004-05 as presented.

-approved the food service breakfast program beginning 2004-05.

-appointed Kelly Doherty to the Boardman Community Education Committee.

-approved renewal of attendance variance for a student from MCS D to Arlington School District.

-approved resolution to establish Fund 213-technology grant.

-approved maintenance to upgrade HVAC controls at CMS, RHS, SBE and HES.

-heard the following announcements: next board meeting, RHS, June 14, 7 p.m.; Heppner-Lexington Community Education Committee meeting, HES, May 18, 7 p.m.; Boardman CEC meeting, WRE, May 19, 7 p.m.; Irrigon CEC meeting, CMS, May 20, 7 p.m.; Oregon School Boards Association workshop, ESD, May 18; OSBA summer conference, Beaverton, July 10-11.

Ione School to complete first phase of brick sale

The Ione School Brick Sale will complete its first phase of orders on June 1. This deadline is needed to assure the installation of phase one bricks at the Ione School Plaza by Fall 2004. All bricks purchased after June 1 will be installed in the second phase.

Howard Mullins, vice chair of the Ione Education Foundation commented that they had great participation from friends of the Ione School.

We Print Envelopes
Heppner Gazette-Time

Re-elect



Charlotte Gray

Morrow County Justice of the Peace

- 25 Years Judicial Experience
- 25 Years Continuing Legal Education
- Law Trained Judge

Paid for by Charlotte Gray

Get Your Propane Appliances Serviced Now!

- Gas Stoves
- Gas Heaters
- Hot Water Heaters



We Repair And Maintain Your Propane Appliances. Call MCGG Now To Schedule An Appointment!

M.C.G.G. Morrow County Grain Growers Inc.



LEXINGTON, OREGON
1-800-452-7396 • 989-8221
www.mcgg.net

ANGER RESOLUTION SEMINAR

An Anger Resolution Seminar will be held Friday, May 21 from 7-9:30 p.m. and Saturday, May 22 from 9 a.m.-5:30 p.m. at the Christian Life Center, 535 W. Morgan St., Heppner.

Cost is \$35. Participants must register by Sunday, May 16 by calling 676-5581.

This seminar traces conflicts to their root causes and gives steps of action based on universal and timeless principles of Scripture, which, if followed, will resolve anger.