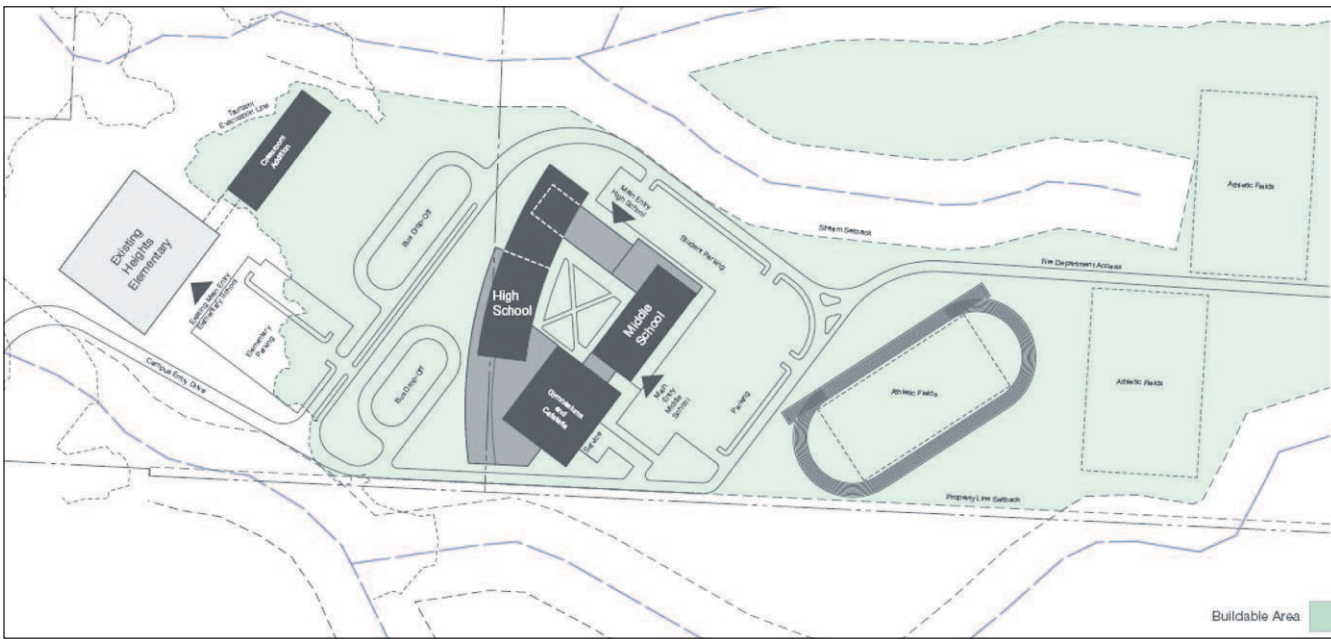


# Seaside K-12 design on table



New Seaside School District campus as rendered by architects Dull Olson Weekes.

## Tsunami threat drives \$99.7 million bond

By R.J. Marx  
Seaside Signal

The Seaside School District has unveiled a site concept for a proposed \$99.7 million K-12 campus plan.

Drawings by the architects Dull Olson Weekes illustrate the existing Seaside Heights Elementary School, which would be enhanced with a classroom addition. New buildings to the south include a high school, middle school, gymnasium and cafeteria. Main entryways for the middle and high schools are shown, as well as roadways, bus drop-off areas, parking

and athletic fields.

If approved by district voters on in November, the campus would be built on portions of the 80 acres east of Seaside Heights Elementary School donated by Weyerhaeuser Co.

"It shows the current Seaside Heights Elementary School and new addition, middle school and high school complexes, the roads," Seaside School District Superintendent-emeritus Doug Dougherty said Wednesday. "Other than that, the actual work that goes into drawings of classrooms or interior pieces won't be done until after the bond because they are so expensive to purchase from the architect."

Buildings will be either

two or three stories, Dougherty said. Utilities and other infrastructure details will not be developed until after the bond is decided.

Seaside School District serves 1,550 students from communities across south Clatsop County. Gearhart Elementary School, Broadway Middle School and Seaside High School are located near sea level, endangering all students and school staff in the event of a tsunami. The buildings are rated by the Oregon Department of Geology and Mineral Industries as having a high probability of catastrophic collapse in an earthquake.

The new campus could be used for the general public as well as students in an emer-

gency, Dougherty said. Because of the slope, \$2.75 million of the total budget must cover the cost of engineered pier foundations.

In a fact sheet prepared by Vote Yes for Local Schools, supporters of the bond said the major areas removed from the 2013 bond include replacement of Seaside Heights Elementary School, an auditorium, varsity football field, varsity boys and girls soccer fields, varsity baseball fields, a covered bleachers and locker room complex and all but the emergency shelter components that are required by law.

Will there be add-ons? "We have no other plans at this point," Dougherty said. "That's all we can afford, unfortunately."

# District seeks grant money for safer sidewalks for schoolchildren

## Sidewalks essential to student safety

By Katherine Lacaze  
For Seaside Signal

It's difficult to encourage students to bike and walk to school if they don't have access to a comprehensive system of safe sidewalks and trails. To rectify the situation in Seaside, which lacks sidewalks along many streets, the Public Works Department is leading an effort to start a local Safe Routes to School program.

Safe Routes to School, a national organization that currently isn't represented in Clatsop County, supports opportunities to make walking and bicycling to school safer and more accessible for children through a collaboration of local governments, schools and communities.

"This program also provides for cities to obtain grant money to put in sidewalks and make improvements so we do have safer streets," Public Works Director Dale McDowell said during a presentation at the Seaside School District's Board of Directors meeting Sept. 20. "I don't want children out walking in the middle of the street or even between cars to get to school."

To apply for funding, the community first must create an action plan through a team-based process. Drawing conclusions from collected information, "the team will be able to recommend priority projects and activities that the school, municipality and community can advance to promote safe walking and bicycling," according to information from Safe Routes to School.

McDowell approached former Seaside Superintendent Doug Dougherty with the

idea of pursuing funding three years ago. While Dougherty was on board, they realized it was premature, as the school district is working to move three of its four school campuses out of the tsunami inundation zone.

The district hopes to use

**More parents today 'drive their students to school, creating more congestion and not allowing kids to walk safely in that traffic around the school.'**

Shasia Fry,  
transportation options specialist

the Seaside Heights Elementary School site as a starting point to create campuses for the other grades. The November General Election ballot will include a bond measure to fund that endeavor.

With the potential move in mind, McDowell said he would use the funding to install more sidewalks near Seaside Heights, or within a one-mile radius, according to the program criteria.

"I can't get the whole town, but I want to get as much as I can," McDowell said.

McDowell told the school board he is not officially requesting anything from the district at this time, but he eventually will need a school representative to be on the action plan development team. The representative can help identify "where our real problem issues are" and what areas should be the first to receive sidewalks, McDowell said.

The team also will include

Shasia Fry, the transportation options specialist for North West Transportation Options, who shared with the school board how the Safe Routes to School program promotes healthy lifestyles, environmental awareness, safety and traffic relief.

In 1969, substantially more students were walking or biking to school than were being driven; now the situation has flip-flopped, she said. Parents identified distance and fear of traffic as the two main issues.

"Then they drive their students to school, creating more

congestion and not allowing kids to walk safely in that traffic around the school," Fry said.

She and McDowell are encouraging Seaside to participate in the international Walk and Bike to School Day on Oct. 5. This will be a way for them to "gauge the interest from the parents in this idea ... to see if the Safe Routes to School program would be viable here," Fry said.

As the program's funding comes from federal tax dollars that are received by each state's Department of Transportation, Seaside has contributed over the years to putting in more sidewalks in Hood River, Portland, Eugene, Redmond, Bend and Corvallis, to name a few, McDowell said.

"We've provided money for them to put sidewalks in their towns," he added. "I think it's time we put some sidewalks in our town."

# Grant requires expansion of preschool program

Grant from Page 1A

"It's really exciting that we're getting this off the ground," she said, adding if the program is successful, the district can re-apply for sustaining grants.

Part of this initiative will entail monthly professional meetings involving the preschool and kindergarten teachers so they can collaborate and "try to build a

very smooth transition from preschool into kindergarten, so the preschools are aligned with what kindergarten readiness requires," Roley said.

The board unanimously approved a memorandum of understanding to work with the recreation district on this program.

"The funds are channeled through us; they're doing most of the labor," Roley said.

# Candidate forum at City Hall

Candidates for public office in Seaside and Gearhart will be featured at a public forum Monday, Oct. 3, at 7 p.m. at Seaside City Hall. All are invited to this meet and greet with an opportunity for community members to question those running for public office.

Sponsored by Seaside AAUW, this is one of continuing public service events held each year to help inform our community about candidates seeking office.

Gearhart council candidates who are running for re-election are Sue Lorain

and Dan Jesse, both unopposed. Matt Brown and Bob Shortman are in contention for the mayoral position and will be present to address questions.

Seaside council members Randy Frank, Seth Morrissey, and Don Johnson are seeking re-election. Frank and Morrissey are unopposed. Tom Horning will be facing Don Johnson for the position representing Ward 3.

All candidates have indicated they will be participating in the community event. City Hall is located at 989 Broadway.

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