

Voters to weigh in on Sunset Rec expansion

'We'll deal with the curveballs as they come'

By R.J. Marx
Seaside Signal

The Sunset Empire Park and Recreation District Board of Directors voted unanimously Tuesday, April 17, to support a November bond for expansion of the aquatic facility on Broadway.

Plans for the \$15 million to \$18 million bond include indoor gym space, fitness rooms and enhanced youth programming areas.

"The time has come that the district take action to serve the entire population and be able to offer a more robust fitness and wellness program, through the creation or acquisition of more indoor recreation space," Skyler Archibald, the district's executive director, wrote in the district's budget document, distributed at Tuesday's meeting.

The bond will be voted on by residents of the independent taxing district, who include most residents of the



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Tournament swimmers at the Sunset Rec pool.

Seaside School District, excluding Cannon Beach and Gearhart.

The goal of the expansion is to provide indoor recreation space for the community, Archibald said. With the relocation of Broadway Middle School to a new campus in the Southeast Hills, the recreation district could lose even more space.

"There is no real indoor recreation space for public use, and when the school is built, there will be even less for general user groups and individuals," Archibald said. "We're really excited to move this forward with this plan."

Board member Michael Hinton asked fellow board members to "do our homework" to analyze district leases with the city, and to make sure rights of way are clearly delineated and deeded. "I'm in favor of fine-tuning the plan and getting our ducks in a row."

The district was formed in 1969 and the Sunset pool opened in 1978. Since that time, programming has expanded to a fitness center, community center, senior lunch program, preschool and playing fields. The district employs seven full-time staff, with an annual budget of \$2.8 million. Last spring, district board

members discussed the possibility of expansion, either funded through a bond or system development charges — the fees paid by builders to the city for essential infrastructure.

Over the past three years, the district has invested about \$60,000 in consultants for building expansion.

Board members met at a workshop early this month, supporting a base plan rather than an enhanced proposal that would have called for the purchase of all or a portion of Broadway Middle School.

The enhanced plan would have added between \$7 million and \$9 million to the pro-

posal, not including costs for the purchase of school district buildings.

The base plan, prepared by consultants Ballard King with Opsis Architecture, will add a second level to the aquatic facility on Broadway. If approved by voters, the facility will see a new entrance, gym, preschool rooms, an administrative office, lobby expansion, party room and storage. According to architects, the expanded facility could be completed by 2021.

Board member Jeremy Mills said while he had some misgivings about the timing of the bond, the project's benefits outweighed his concerns.



R.J. MARX/SEASIDE SIGNAL

Skyler Archibald, executive director of the Sunset Empire Park and Recreation District.

"I think this project is so very needed. I'm definitely on board."

Board members Mills, Hinton, Veronica Russell and Edward Hassan joined board president Alan Evans in voting for the bond proposal.

"We'll deal with curveballs as they come," Archibald said. "It's nearly impossible for us to make every right choice along the way, but as long as I have your support moving forward, I'm hopeful that next month I can provide the timeline and some of the actions that need to take place."

He hopes to have bond language finalized by the board's July meeting, he said.

Campus construction to begin in June with earthmoving

Campus from Page 1A

Idehara said construction is expected to begin with erosion control measures.

"You'll see some fencing going up, then you'll see mobilization of getting equipment on the site," she said. "Then you'll see stump removal and chip grinding for those erosion control measures. Then we start earthmoving."



R.J. MARX

Noelle Idehara of Hoffman Construction Co. and Seaside School District Superintendent Dr. Sheila Roley.

Broadway Middle School principal steps down

By Brenna Visser
Seaside Signal

The principal of Broadway Middle School announced his resignation Tuesday, April 17, to the Seaside School District board.

After serving two years as assistant principal and another two as principal, Robert Rusk said he decided to step down at the end of this school year to move to Vancouver, Washington, to address "family needs." He has taken a job as the principal of Seton



BRENNA VISSER

Broadway Middle School Principal Robert Rusk will step down at the end of this school year.

Catholic College Prep, a high school in the Vancouver area. "(Seaside) is an amazing

community. The students, the staff, the supportive board ... It's going to be really difficult to leave," Rusk said. "Even though I've only been here four years, this community feels like family."

Rusk said some of his favorite moments as principal included seeing Seaside's soccer team head to the state tournament as a volunteer coach, as well as getting to greet all of the students every morning at the front doors.

The school board unanimously accepted the resig-

nation, but with a collective sense of sadness. Superintendent Sheila Roley said Rusk is known for his ability to connect with students, and commended him for "building a culture of positive behavior and high expectations" at the middle school. The search process to find Rusk's replacement will begin immediately.

"(Rusk) has done a wonderful job. We'll miss him very much," Roley said. "I'm sure he'll be as much of an asset to (Seton Catholic College Prep) as he was for us."

Juntos program empowers local families, offers college prep assistance

Juntos from Page 1A

is why the curriculum is shared in Spanish, Mitchell said. Another issue families face is uncertainty about how legal documentation, or the lack thereof, affects students' opportunities.

In Oregon, there are multiple options for all students to not only attend a post-secondary institution — whether it be community college or a university — but also obtain financial aid through the Oregon Student Aid Application, institutions themselves, or other sources, Stanley said. Mitchell agreed many families don't realize how many resources are available to them.

Seaside workshop

The Juntos class took place at Seaside High School, and dinner and childcare were offered. Attendance varied each Tuesday evening over the course of the workshop, but Rosario Alcantar, of Seaside, was a consistent participant.

Alcantar has a son in 11th grade at Seaside High School, as well as an older daughter. When her daughter graduated a few years ago, Alcantar felt she was unprepared and lacking in pertinent knowledge to assist and support her, so she signed up for the Juntos class to be better informed this time around.



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Seaside School District hosted a six-week workshop through OSU's Juntos program to help educate and empower families with students seeking higher education.

When asked what was the most important information she'd learned, Alcantar, who was translated by Campos, replied, "everything." To elaborate, she added she learned where to apply for financial aid; the importance of visiting various universities before selecting one; and the higher education opportunities available to Dreamers or undocumented students.

Also, her son was leaning toward attending a university, she said, but after taking the workshop, they're more seriously discussing community college as a valuable option. The same applies to Alcantar's daughter, who has not yet achieved a college degree, but now plans to go back.

For those parents on the

fence about participating in a Juntos program, she said, she would encourage them to "think about their child's education, because education starts at home."

Mitchell was complimentary of Alcantar's dedication throughout the course of the class and for finishing strong, as it can be difficult for

parents to add one more activity to their busy agendas.

"Was it a sacrifice of time for her? Sure. But it is her child's education," Mitchell said.

Involving the whole family

Juntos, which translates as "together" is Spanish, was a program started at North Carolina State University in 2007. In 2012, OSU adopted the program and adapted it for Oregon communities. Its mission is empowering families around education by providing culturally relevant activities and workshops for 8th- to 12th-grade students and parents. Juntos coordinators work directly with school districts and other community partners to implement programs locally.

OSU recently expanded Juntos to coastal, central and eastern areas in Oregon, and Sande Minnich Brown, the curriculum and Title III director for the Seaside School

District, was instrumental in bringing the program to the community and handling logistics. A pilot version of Juntos' college readiness workshop was offered at a couple sites in Clatsop County last school year.

In addition to the six-week workshop, Stanley said, the Juntos program includes follow-up monthly or bimonthly family nights to promote family and community engagement; college visits; and advisement throughout the college application and financial aid process.

"It's a sustainable program throughout the year that families can call on for assistance," he said.

This year, the college readiness class has been offered in Seaside, Tillamook, Newport and Lincoln City. A joint class for the Astoria and Warrenton school districts started Tuesday, April 24, at the Warrenton Grade School. The class, facilitated by Amanda Casian-Marquez, a grade school teacher, and Andrea Gonzales,

with the Lower Columbia Hispanic Council, runs from 5:30 to 8 p.m. Dinner and childcare is provided.

At the conclusion, participants from both that workshop and the Seaside workshop will travel to Corvallis for a tour of OSU. High school students, parents and siblings are invited along, as "one of the biggest parts of the program is the whole family is involved," Stanley said.

As a benefit, students of all ages get a glimpse of what's possible and realize going on to higher education is an obtainable goal, he said. A nice side effect is many parents are also inspired to pursue further education, whether it be acquiring a GED or working toward a college degree.

"Education is something no one can take away from you," Stanley said.

SUB-BIDS REQUESTED

Seaside School District- New Middle/ High Schools
Seaside, Oregon

Bid Package: #1 Site Work & Utilities
(Includes Site Work, Utilities & Retaining Walls, Underground Elec & Tele, Grading & Surface of the Gravel Road)

Bids Due: April 26th • 2:00pm

Bid Documents:
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