

Board resists change in ESD service allocations

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Superintendent Funderburg presented the board with the proposed 2003-2004 funding resolution for the Northwest Regional Educational Service District (NWRES D). Superintendents from all 20 school districts within NWRES D negotiated the plan. By statute, the resolution must be approved by two-thirds of the district boards representing a majority of the students in the NWRES D, on or before March 1.

In the past, Funderburg said, if approval is not received by the deadline, the ESD could develop a budget. However, the law changed last year and no funding will be distributed to any district until a resolution plan is approved. Funderburg said that Beaverton and Hillsboro school boards had not approved the resolution plan as of Feb. 13. A delegation of superintendents and school board chairmen from across the NWRES D will be appealing to the Hillsboro school board to urge their approval of the resolution.

In prior agreements, Funderburg explained, Beaverton and Hillsboro districts have received additional funds from the ESD pool by receiving more dollars per student in transition dollars, in exchange for approving smaller districts' greater use of ESD provided services. It is worth noting that the current disagreement occurs in an environment where NWRES D funding is rising because of statewide equalization. Currently Multnomah ESD, which has slightly fewer students than the NWRES D, receives far more dollars.

At issue is the statutory definition that sets the mission of ESDs to "assist school districts and the Department of Education in achieving Oregon's educational goals by providing equitable, high quality, cost-effective and locally responsible ed-

ucational services at a regional level." According to Funderburg, Beaverton and Hillsboro want more of the dollars at the expense of services to the smaller districts. Property owners pay both school district and ESD taxes. Beaverton and Hillsboro residents create revenue for their school districts. ESD revenue should be spread equitably across the ESD according to the mission of the ESD and Oregon's educational goals.

The resolution plan, developed over the last ten months, received consensus from all regional superintendents. According to the plan 10 percent of the state school fund (SSF) dollars will be used for NWRES D operations. The remaining 90 percent of SSF will be allocated 75 percent in service credits and 25 percent in core services. The proposal provides service credits to districts based on the percentage of students in the district.

Core services provided by the NWRES D include many special education services and support, technology services and support in curriculum and staff development. The Beaverton and Hillsboro school districts both have easy access to special education services provided by the ESD. These large districts are also able to provide technology services, as well as instructional improvement services in curriculum and staff development, within their own districts. Core services are approved at \$4.7 million for the 2003-2004 school year with the remaining balance, \$136,112 divided equally among the four

counties.

Funderburg urged the board to approve the resolution plan saying, "Our students deserve equitable services." The board unanimously agreed to support the proposed resolution plan as written.

Student Reports

WGS students told the board about making dream catchers in class with members of the Rattling Thunder Intertribal group. K-6 classes will explore Native American folklore and beliefs over the next two months. Funding for the program is provided by Run for the Arts.

Junior high students Cody Gwin and Kevin Johnson said that 35% of all students received honors of some kind at the February 11th assembly. Junior high students are working to raise money to provide bleachers and picnic tables for their campus.

High School public relations representative Sammy Purvee reported that seniors are busy completing their projects, due February 25th. She said that junior Rachael Bentson had received recognition by the Daughter of the American Revolution. Purvee invited the board to attend student council meetings.

In other business the board: Heard a report from Michelle Blum that the Future's committee had sent out 37 questionnaires to community members asking for information and participation.

Appointed Tobie Finzel and Cindy Naillon to the budget committee. Both are previous members of the committee.

Health Notes

By Audeen Wagner



New Clinic Manager

Heidi Bistrup has been at her job since October and, by now, is very comfortable with her position as Clinic Manager at Providence Family Medicine-Vernonia. She has been a Providence employee for four years, and this is her first challenge in management. Her background includes work at a women's clinic, billing and surgery coordinator, and is familiar with the day-to-day

workings of a busy clinic.

Though her work experience has been in the city, Heidi is familiar with country life—she grew up in Gaston. She started working in the fields at a very young age and, at 16, left the fields to work at Flavorland in Forest Grove for several summers. Heidi has a BS degree in Physical Education from the University of the Ozarks in Arkansas, and a BA in French from Oregon State University. She enrolled in a Master's program at Iowa State, then after one year, transferred to Oregon State to continue her studies, where she received her degree in French. She had spent a year in France as a high school exchange student, and is fluent in that language. Her focus at Providence-Vernonia is to "keep things running as smoothly as possible," she says. An early project was to reorganize all the storage and supply areas, to help increase efficiency. She is well-trained in clinic operation, from billing to insurance, office procedures and more.

Heidi is a single lady, and returned to Gaston after college to share the family home with her brother and mom. She loves gardening, skiing and world travel, and likes to keep her life busy. It's obvious that she is sincere when she says, "I don't like to be bored!" She has ambitious plans and aspirations for Vernonia; plans are underway for a clinic open house, to invite the community to come in, learn more about the clinic and get better acquainted with office personnel. Welcome, Heidi!

Clinic Hours

The clinic is open Monday through Friday, with the following schedule:

Monday, Thursday	7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m.
Tuesday, Wed., Friday	8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Please remember that appointments are needed, whether it is for lab work, an injection, physical therapy, or to see a healthcare provider. To make an appointment, call 503-429-9191.

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