



SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

April 13, 2015

FOCUS ON FINANCE AND SCHOOL RELOCATION

- The State School Fund picture for Sherman County School District has eroded a bit based upon the latest action of the Oregon Legislative Assembly. As you recall, most districts, including ours, would have been able to sustain existing programs and services if we were to have been funded at \$7.5 billion for the biennium. Although there have been verbal commitments from various legislators about increasing funding, the existing bill, passed by both houses at \$7.255 billion, is on its way to the Governor's desk for signature. If additional late session funding is not provided through legislative action, the district will have to either combine some support services or dip deeper into its available reserves.
- Plans for relocation of the elementary program continue to move forward. Joining the design and development team is the general contractor Kirby-Nagelhout. They were selected out of a pool of four general contractor proposals to function as the district's "construction management general contractor. The Construction Manager / General Contractor (CM/GC) project delivery method allows an owner to hire, for the duration of the construction project, a construction manager at or near the beginning of the design process to provide constructability input and value added advice. The basis for selection is experience with the CM/GC process and a track record of cost saving because of their "in the construction business" knowledge of material and labor costs, and construction cost saving methods. During the design phase, the construction manager provides input regarding scheduling, pricing, phasing and other input that helps the owner design a more constructible project.

At approximately an average of 50% to 90% of the completion of project design, the District and Kirby-Nagelhout will negotiate a 'guaranteed maximum price' and completion date for the construction of the project based on the defined scope, schedule, and construction documents. In phased projects such as the school district's, the parties may execute several contracts for construction services; at each of those points, the construction manager becomes the general contractor.¹

THE K-12 COMPREHENSIVE EDUCATION PROGRAM – Single campus plan for 2016-17

- As noted in a previous report, in December 2014, the Sherman County School District Board of Directors voted in the majority their intent "to consolidate the educational program into a single K-12 campus program."² With that action, the District administration began working with the personnel at both schools to plan and develop the staffing plan and education

¹ General source: Federal Highway Administration

program structure that will ensure the highest quality of instruction and student performance when the new, single campus school welcomes students for the 2016-17 school year. Since that time, the Board appointed Design Committee has worked tirelessly to refine the vision with an eye on creating the best and most functional facility within the resources of the school district. The school relocation has been phased, with construction on new Ag/Science building and Kitchen facility being scheduled for completion by the beginning of the 15-16 school year. The full K-12 program, which may also include pre-school, is scheduled to begin in the fall of 2016.

OTHER ITEMS OF INTEREST

- As evidenced in tonight's agenda, the District is extremely fortunate to be able to welcome back Wes Owens as their new superintendent of schools. Mr. Owen's reputation as an innovative and caring school administrator speaks to the leadership potential the school district will require as it evolves into a single K-12 program. Mr. Owens most recently has served as the principal of St. Paul High School in St. Paul, Oregon.
- A part of the requirements for planning the education K-12 program for 2016-17 will be the inclusion of site and/or curriculum committees as required by state law. They, along with the District's licensed and classified staff, will provide the final recommendation to the board for their concurrence and understanding during the 2015-16 school year. The Board, through its budget committee or administration, will then confirm the final education plan for the one campus, K-12 Comprehensive Education Program.
- Finally, the District administration continues to work with county, regional, state and federal government entities on issues of housing, economic development, and community revitalization. Most recently regional representatives and individuals from state government met at the invitation of the County Court to discuss the housing needs of the County. The District also is committed to participation in the community revitalization effort led by Mid-Columbia Economic Development, with a special focus on supporting the community visioning process in Grass Valley and the use of Sherman Elementary as a part of Grass Valley's resource base.

Respectfully Submitted,



Dr. Peter M. Tarzian, Superintendent