

Facilities Review, Possible Bond Planning Now to Maintain Schools into the Future

For the past several months, Lincoln County School District (LCSD) administrators have been working closely with community members to review school properties and determine future needs. There has been discussion about placing a bond measure on the ballot next spring, but that decision has not yet been made by the LCSD School Board.

“It’s important that our schools offer a safe and healthy environment that encourages learning for all students,” says LCSD Superintendent **Tom Rinearson**. “That is the reason behind our extensive facilities review and planning that you’ve been hearing about over the last several months.”

Following is information about the facilities review and possible projects. However, please keep in mind that the school board has made no final decisions.

THE PLANNING PROCESS

For the past several months, Lincoln County school officials have been meeting with community leaders



AERIAL PHOTOGRAPHS OF ALL LCSD SCHOOL CAMPUSES line the wall at a meeting held in June. Dozens of representatives from throughout the county attended the meeting to listen to proposals from architectural firms. The selected firm, gLAs of Eugene, has developed draft drawings and calculated probable costs associated with any possible improvement projects.

and other involved citizens. They have been exploring different ways to upgrade schools in the most practical and efficient manner. Working together, they developed a list of proposed projects for each of the schools. The intent is to enhance the academic atmosphere and extend the useful life of our schools to serve students well into the coming decades.

Over the past year, district officials have had many conversations and meetings with school administrators and the public in each of the school district’s four geographic areas to develop a list of possible renovation projects. Draft architectural drawings of the proposed

projects were presented at a school board meeting in August. The district also hired independent professionals to conduct an extensive facilities review to determine actual physical needs of school buildings. This review was done at each school, and covers everything from the ground up: building site, parking, heating, structural, roofing, electrical, plumbing, technical, and more.

By the way, the school district is able to pay for this facilities review and initial architectural planning through Construction Excise Tax revenue, not the general fund.

DISTRICT PRIORITIES and PROPOSED PROJECTS

An initial list of possible projects at all schools was developed, and then trimmed to bring the cost down to a more manageable level. Throughout the exploration process, emphasis has been given to the “District Priorities,” as approved by the school board in September. Among these priorities are:

PRIORITY: Move Waldport High School out of the tsunami zone.

Located just 11 feet above sea level, Waldport High School is adjacent to Lint Slough and Alsea Bay, putting it at risk of inundation should there be a tsunami. This is the last remaining public school in Lincoln County located within a tsunami zone.

Proposed Project: LCSD proposes a 54,000-square-foot high school to be constructed on property the school district already owns next to the existing Crestview Heights School. The cost to build a new high school on land already owned by the school district is approximately \$20 million. A football field would be constructed at the new high school site, as well, as it doesn’t make sense to move the high school for safety reasons and leave the sporting field behind.

PRIORITY: Phase out the use of portable classroom buildings.

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Letter from Your Superintendent



Dear Lincoln County School District Residents:

We are well into fall, and our students and staff are hard at work. I am proud of the gains in student achievement our kids have achieved, despite fewer monetary resources. My hope is that everyone

keeps focused on our students’ learning and we continue to see great strides in student achievement! [See story on Page 3 about Oregon Report Card.]

You may have heard talk in your community about ideas to improve school buildings in your area. These conversations are ongoing around the district, and have generated many wonderful ideas. Folks have developed ideas for new construction to help realize the district priority of moving schools out of the tsunami zone, eliminating the use of portables, and offering enough space for smaller classes in grades kindergarten through third.

In addition, we have studied each building to determine what infrastructure needs exist there (i.e., boilers, roofs, electrical systems, etc.). It has been exciting to see the good work of

the committees in each community. We are considering making these improvements with three sources of revenue: the sale of existing property, construction excise tax revenue, and possible general obligation bonds. The School Board is in the midst of reviewing the recommendations and deciding on the scope of the projects. Our focus remains on providing the best education possible for our students. We want to be better today than we were yesterday, and better tomorrow than we are today. [See story on Page 1.]

As we head into the holiday season, remember to take a break from the many stressful demands on your time. Step back, take a deep breath, relax – and appreciate the precious gift of your family and your friendships.

I welcome your input. Please feel free to contact me by email (tom.rinearson@lincoln.k12.or.us), or phone (541-265-4403). You also can visit us on the web at www.lincoln.k12.or.us. Thanks for being a part of our district and community.

Sincerely,

Tom Rinearson, Superintendent

Lincoln County Schools
P.O. Box 1110
Newport, OR 97365

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TAKING NOTE

NEWS OF INTEREST
from around the district

Mentor Teachers, New Staff Welcomed at Orientation

Nineteen new teachers and other new licensed staff members were welcomed to Lincoln County School District during a four-day orientation before the start of the school year.

Even with budget cuts, it was necessary for LCSD to hire new teachers for the 2010/11 year because of resignations and retirements of numerous staff at the end of the last school year. Conducted by the LCSD Human Resources staff, the orientation also was open to first-year and second-year teachers who are part of the district's Mentor Program.

Mentor Program: The concept behind the Mentor Program is that new teachers come to work with four or five years of college education that has them well prepared to do the job. However, they haven't yet had much practical experience beyond a few months of student teach-

ing in a classroom. Through the Mentor Program, first-year and second-year teachers are matched with a trained mentor and receive a minimum of 90 hours of hands-on support. The mentors help beginning teachers sharpen their skills in planning instruction, managing the classroom, engaging students, understanding subject matter, assessing student learning, and communicating.

Orientation Program: During the orientation, teachers and staff had the opportunity to meet school principals and district-level administrators. They attended work sessions on a variety of helpful topics, such as how to attain high student achievement in ocean literacy and non-fiction writing, grant writing, planning and unpacking standards, total instructional alignment, classroom management skills, and more. The orientation also introduced staff to the various systems and procedures used by the school district. In addition, teachers had the opportunity to get a first-hand glimpse of the Oregon coast, with tours of the Oregon Coast Aquarium and a lunch cruise with Marine Discovery Tours.

School Cafeterias Offering More Local Foods to Kids

This school year, Lincoln County School District and its food service provider, Sodexo, are offering more locally produced foods in its school cafeterias. The goal is to support the local economy while reminding children that their

food doesn't just appear in the grocery store and on their plates – it's grown in the soil, plucked from trees, and harvested from the sea.

"Newport is a commercial fishing port and our inland areas support a variety of small farms, so it makes sense that we look closer to home for some of our food supplies," said **Steve Kappler**, Sodexo food service director.

Sodexo has begun offering local seafood products three times a month at the 11 Lincoln County schools it serves. The frequency will increase if there is a good demand for it. Pacific Shrimp, the seafood processing plant located on Yaquina Bay in Newport, has provided fresh frozen bay shrimp and Dover sole. Mo's Restaurants is providing clam chowder once a month. Other local food suppliers are being considered, but it's necessary that they consistently deliver a large enough quantity to feed thousands of students and school employees at a time – an average of 1,370 meals served during breakfast and 2,268 meals during lunch.

Kappler praises the management and staff at Mo's – in particular, Dylan McEntee and Gabrielle McEntee, great-grandchildren of the restaurant's founder – for participating in this local foods project. Because the clams used in the chowder are fresh, not frozen, the restaurant company has had to increase its liability insurance and undergo a quality assurance audit by the U.S. Department of Agriculture before being allowed to serve its chowder at the public schools.

North Area's Stuff A Bus Tradition Spreads Through District

The Stuff A Bus campaign to collect school supplies for students at the beginning of the school year began 11 years ago in Lincoln City through the efforts of KBCH radio host and community philanthropist Roger Robertson. Since then, Stuff A Bus has spread throughout the county with remarkable results!

This year alone, the Lincoln City Stuff A Bus effort generated close to \$17,000 in school supplies and cash donations. In the Newport and Toledo areas, the Stuff A Bus campaign raised well more than \$10,000 worth of supplies and donations, including a \$1,400 donation from the Newport Rotary Club. On behalf of the students who benefit from this incredibly successful fund-raiser, Lincoln County School District thanks you!

Stuff A Bus is sponsored by the five radio stations in the Yaquina Bay Communications group (KBCH, KNCU, KNPT, KYTE and KCRF and KBCH) with generous support from many community members, organizations and businesses, including Mid Columbia Bus Co. and Tanger Outlet Center.

In photo, LCSD Superintendent **Tom Rinearson** (from left) accepts a \$1,400 check from **Bill Bain**, president of Newport Rotary, and **Dave Miller**, owner of Yaquina Bay Communications. ♦



Sam Case Hosts First 'Tribes Parents Night'

On Thursday, Oct. 14, Sam Case Primary School in Newport hosted its first ever Tribes Parents Night.

Tribes Night was a one-hour event in which parents and community members were invited to join Sam Case staff to learn more about the Tribes program, how it is being implemented at Sam Case, and what it means for kids: Creating a safe and caring environment in which kids can do well!

Parents learned about and used the Tribes Agreements of Attentive Listening, Appreciation/No Put-Downs, Mutual Respect, the Right to Participate or Pass, and Personal Best. They completed a Community Circle activity called "Something Good" in which they shared something good that is happening in their own lives.

"The Community Circle is one of the Tribes tools we are using at Sam Case as a safe way for students to share about themselves or to build inclusion," said Principal **Ryan Relken**.

Parents also completed a Tribes activity called "Dream Quilt." Each parent shared a dream of what they want Sam Case and the community to be for their children. Each dream was written on a 4x4 inch square piece of paper. The pieces will be connected to squares created by students and formed into one giant Sam Case "Dream Quilt."

"We want Tribes Parents Night to become a Sam Case tradition and one of the many ways that we will continue to work with parents and the community to do what is best for kids," Relken added. ♦

Helping Hands Campaign Creates First Phase of New Playground

Last year, Newport Intermediate School (NIS) received some of the old playground equipment from the recently closed Yaquina View Elementary School. However, the equipment was outdated and didn't suit the needs of children in older grades. So, the newly merged Sam Case/NIS Boosters started a "Helping Hands" campaign to raise funds for a much needed playground to serve hundreds of children and parents in the community for years to come.

To date, the Boosters have raised more than \$40,000 through the Helping Hands campaign, including a generous \$10,000 donation from TLC Federal Credit Union. The old equipment was removed to make room for the first phase of the new playground, with an additional \$20,000 needed to complete the project.

Helping celebrate during the ribbon cutting in September are, from left, **Stacy Minner** from TLC Credit Union, Principal **Majalise Tolan**, **Jody Hanna** of the Boosters, School Board members **Liz Martin** and **Ron Beck**, Superintendent **Tom Rinearson**, Assistant Superintendent **Sara Johnson** and Newport Police Officer **Andy Ashpole**. For information on how you can contribute to the project, send an email to: sc.nis.boosters@gmail.com. ♦



Annual Oregon Report Card: Four LCSD Schools Graded 'Outstanding'

Congratulations to four LCSD schools for earning the top grade of "Outstanding" in the Oregon Department of Education annual report card:

Crestview Heights School in Waldport
Isaac Newton Magnet School in Newport
Taft 7-12 High School in Lincoln City
Toledo Jr./Sr. High School in Toledo

This is the SECOND CONSECUTIVE YEAR for both Crestview Heights and Isaac Newton to be rated as outstanding, as well!

"This is exciting news that reaffirms that we are on the right track," says Superintendent **Tom Rinearson**. "There are many reporting tools that help us keep track of how well we are educating our children, but the Oregon Report Card specifically tracks individual student growth, and recognizes that growth."

The most recent Oregon Report Card assesses the performance of the state's public schools during the 2009-2010 school year. The results for the local school district and its schools are very encouraging, district officials said.

Along with the four "outstanding" schools, 10 schools were graded "satisfactory," while none received the bottom grade of "in need of improvement," says **Mary Kelly**, LCSD data coordinator.

MARY KELLY
LCSD Data
Coordinator

Two of the district's schools, Lincoln City Career Tech and Siletz Early College Academy, were not rated because of insufficient student numbers to calculate a score.

The report card shows that most LCSD schools exceeded state standards for academic achievement in many areas. Students are tested in grades 3-8 and grade 10 in the areas of reading and math. They also are tested in grade 10 writing and grades 5, 8 and 10 science; however, the writing and science test results aren't included in the overall rating.

AYP vs. Report Card: Each September, school districts in Oregon receive Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) reports showing how well students met certain statewide standards in academics and attendance during the previous school year, and graduation rates for the two years prior. AYP is a key part of the federal No Child Left

Behind Act (NCLB). Under the act, schools are expected to meet state-set goals based on student achievement data collected by the state assessment system (Oregon Assessment of Knowledge and Skills, or OAKS).

While the Oregon Report Card and the AYP use the same data, there is a difference between the two, Kelly says.

"AYP is more black and white. Either you make it or you don't," she says. "The Oregon Report Card includes participation in the science and writing assessments and is more inclusive of all students. Most importantly, the achievement index for the Oregon Report Card is now calculated on individual student academic growth. It tracks students' improvement, and honors that improvement."

For example, Taft 7-12 High School and Toledo Jr./Sr. High School didn't make AYP, but did show enough progress to earn an outstanding rating in achievement; this, along with the ratings of outstanding in participation and graduation rates, awarded them a rating of outstanding overall, she explains.

Financial Data: The Oregon Report Card also provides some financial data about the school district. During the past school year, LCSD spent \$5,167 per student in direct classroom support, compared to the state average of \$4,670. This refers to regular and special programs related directly to instruction, and includes talented and gifted, special education, Title I, and summer school.

■ LCSD spent \$1,442 per student toward the maintenance of buildings, compared to the state average of \$1,430.

■ LCSD spent \$328 per student at the District Office, compared to the state average of \$366.

■ LCSD received \$404 per student, compared to the state average of \$393, from the Linn-Benton-Lincoln ESD in the form of funding and services provided.

■ In the area of classroom support, LCSD spent \$1,418 per student compared to the state average of \$1,444. Classroom support refers to extracurricular expenditures and support services including guidance, health, speech, school principals, library media, and staff development.

Highly Qualified Teachers: In LCSD, 97.8 percent of all teachers are "highly qualified," compared to the state



average of 96 percent.

Oregon requires teachers to be fully licensed, hold at least a bachelor's degree, and meet state requirements to demonstrate mastery of subject knowledge, either by exam or major in the core academic area. All teachers of core academic subjects (English, reading, language arts, math, science, foreign languages, social studies, and the arts) must now meet the definition of highly qualified teacher.

It is possible for a teacher to meet all qualifications and still not meet the highly qualified definition if the class assignment is outside the teacher's academic licensure. The federal designation of "highly qualified" is given when a teacher's assignment matches the area of preparation, credentials, and licensure.

Purpose of Oregon Report Card: As mandated by the 1999 state legislature, ODE produces yearly report cards for schools and districts each October. The purpose of these report cards is threefold: to communicate the many good things occurring in Oregon's public schools; to provide a fair and reliable means of reporting ratings of current school performance and improvement over time; and to demonstrate to the public that the schools are accountable for their work.

For Lincoln County School administrators, a fourth purpose of the report card is to help drive continued conversation and improvement efforts.

"Our district data team works with individual schools to help them analyze complex school data so they can pinpoint areas of strength and areas of weakness," Rinearson says. "The numbers are only helpful if we can understand them and use them to improve."

The ODE Report Cards for all public schools and school districts are available for the public to view online on the Lincoln County School District website, www.lincoln.k12.or.us (go to "AYP and ODE Report Cards" link in left hand column). ♦



MARY KELLY
LCSD Data
Coordinator

HANDS-ON SQUID LITERACY!

A large Humboldt Squid provided excellent instructional material for more than 30 LCSD teachers during the second year kickoff for the Oregon Coast Aquatic and Marine Science Partnership (OCAMP).

Funded by a three-year grant, OCAMP partners teachers with local scientists and informal science educators to study marine and aquatic science and to bring this new knowledge back into their classrooms to help students become more "ocean literate."

The two-day workshop was held in August at the Hatfield Marine Science Center in Newport. Teachers watched and listened as scientists and science educators demonstrated dissection techniques on the giant cephalopod at the front of the classroom. Then, the teachers turned their attention to their own, smaller squids to dissect in the search for suckers, beaks, syphons and other intriguing body parts.

□ **Photo 1:** (clockwise from left) Teachers **Kristen Takano Becker** of Toledo Elementary, **Robyn Medici** and **Amanda Middlebrooks**, both of Crestview Heights, and **Matt Falby** of Oceanlake Elementary examine their tiny squids.

□ **Photo 2:** Graduate research assistant **Sarikka Attoe** (left) and Public Marine Education Specialist **Dr. Bill Hanshumaker** (right), both of Oregon State University's Department of Fisheries and Wildlife, demonstrate their knowledge of the Humboldt Squid, while teachers **Mary Beth Guerena** of Oceanlake Elementary and **Lorna Meyers** of Siletz Valley Charter Schools provide some hands-on assistance. ♦



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Planning for the Future

continued from Page 1

Currently, there are 39 portable classroom buildings located at seven of our school campuses. Portable classrooms are meant to be temporary. However, most of these portables have been in place for decades and are between 30 and 45 years old – well past their useful life. Also, students and teachers in portable classrooms are exposed to weather and are isolated from the main school building, which can pose a safety risk.

Portable Classrooms at LCSD Schools	
NORTH AREA	
Oceanlake Elementary.....	5
Taft Elementary	4
EAST AREA	
Toledo Elementary.....	11
Toledo Jr./Sr. High	7
WEST AREA	
Newport High	4
Newport Prep Academy	2
SOUTH AREA	
Waldport High	6
TOTAL.....	39

students and teachers in portable classrooms are exposed to weather and are isolated from the main school building, which can pose a safety risk.

Proposed Projects: If the portable classrooms are removed, the school district would have to provide classrooms within the school building in place of these temporary structures. More than half of the school district's

modular classrooms are located at the East Area schools – 11 at Toledo Elementary and 7 at Toledo Junior/Senior High. In the North Area, there are 5 modular classrooms at Oceanlake Elementary and 4 at Taft Elementary. In the West Area, there are 6 portable classrooms on the Newport High School/Prep Academy campus. In the South Area, Waldport High School has 6 portable classrooms.

PRIORITY: Ensure that facilities will encompass the reduction of class size in grades K-3 to a ratio of 18-22 students per teacher.

While bond money can't pay for teachers' salaries, it can pay for additional classrooms. In the earlier grades, when younger students are developing learning skills to last a lifetime, it's most important that student-teacher ratios be brought to a reasonable level.

Proposed Projects: With the removal of portable classrooms, LCSD proposes constructing new classrooms: 6 at Oceanlake Elementary, 6 at Taft Elementary, 12 at Toledo Elementary, 5 at Toledo Junior/Senior High, 2 at Sam Case Primary, and 6 at Newport High.

PRIORITY: Ensure all LCSD facilities are ADA compliant.

The Americans with Disabilities Act seeks to remove physical barriers to public spaces. While our older buildings are "grandfathered in," any time we do major remodeling or new construction, we must provide ADA-approved access to the physically disabled.

Proposed Projects: All of our new construction and major remodeling will include ADA-approved access. Of particular note is Toledo Junior/Senior High School. Built on a sloping site, the school has multiple levels. An elevator should be added to improve ADA-accessibility. Also of concern is the band room at Newport High; a new band room would be ADA-accessible whereas the current one is not.

The list of other proposed projects include smaller additions, remodeling, maintenance, site improvements, and/or sports improvements at all schools in the district.

WHY TIMING IS RIGHT FOR A BOND MEASURE

We know we have an obligation to improve our schools for all students, now and for years to come. The question is how to pay for these improvements. After considering the few available options, LCSD administrators feel the best choice, for the school district and the community, is to issue 15-year general obligation bonds in the amount of \$63 million, generating \$60.6 million for school construction.

Here are reasons why they feel the timing is right to ask voters to approve a bond measure.

Your school taxes for bonded indebtedness would remain unchanged.

Voters approved a \$38.9 million bond measure in 1995. That enabled the district to build Taft 7-12 High School in Lincoln City, Newport Middle School (now called Newport Intermediate), and Crestview

Heights School in Waldport. The bond also paid for necessary improvements to all other schools throughout the district, in Lincoln City, Toledo, Newport and Waldport.

Currently, Lincoln County property owners pay 79 cents per \$1,000 in assessed valuation toward the 1995 general obligation bonds. This is equal to approximately

LCSD Schools Construction Dates

Newport High.....	1950
Newport Prep Academy.....	1950
Oceanlake Elementary	1951
Taft Elementary	1951
Toledo Jr./Sr. High	1955
Sam Case Primary	1958
Waldport High	1958
Toledo Elementary.....	1987
Newport Intermediate	1997
Taft 7-12 High	1997
Crestview Heights	1997

\$158 a year on a home assessed at \$200,000. This bond will mature on June 15, 2012. If voters approve the proposed bond measure during the election in May 2011, this bonded indebtedness tax would simply roll over from one bond to the other and remain at the same level – while generating additional revenue that would help to build and improve schools for all students.

It's important to note that school district administrators continually search for additional funding from other sources. When the district receives grants or donations from government, private or business entities, it helps the financial bottom line.

Construction is more affordable and interest rates lower than ever.

The downturn in the economy has created competition among builders and subcontractors, helping to drive down prices. The sluggish economy has also resulted in significantly lower interest rates. This is good news for the school district and anyone who wants to borrow money and build now.

District will reinvest in the local community.

The LCSD School Board realizes that many local residents are struggling to make ends meet during this tough economy. If the bond is approved and construction moves forward, the school board would be committed to using Lincoln County subcontractors, companies and workers on this project as much as contracting laws allow. They also would appoint a volunteer oversight committee consisting of local residents. ♦

For current information about the LCSD facilities review, go online to the school district website (www.lincoln.k12.or.us) or call the District Office at 541-265-9211.



Toledo Elementary Principal **Bob Shindelman** and **Stacie Briggs**, teacher at Crestview Heights School in Waldport, examine aerial photos of LCSD school properties during the architect's selection meeting.

IMPORTANT DATES

- **VETERANS DAY**
No School, No Staff *Thursday, Nov. 11*
- **CONTRACT REDUCTION DAY**
No School, No Staff *Friday, Nov. 12*
- **THANKSGIVING BREAK**
No School, No Staff *Wednesday, Nov. 24,
Thursday, Nov. 25 & Friday, Nov. 26*
- **TWO-WEEK WINTER BREAK**
*beginning Monday, Dec. 20
school back in session Jan. 3 or Jan. 4
depending on area and school*
- **MARTIN LUTHER KING DAY**
No School, No Staff *Monday, Jan. 17*
- **RECORDS DAY**
No School, No Staff *Monday, Jan. 31*

Lincoln County School District has six calendars for its different areas and schools. Calendars with the approval date of Aug. 24, 2010, reflect the 12-day contract reduction for the 2010-2011 school year. Please contact individual schools for a copy or go online to the LCSD website at:

www.lincoln.k12.or.us

Your School Board

Ron Beck Chairman
Jean Turner Vice Chairman
Karen Bondley - Brenda Brown - Liz Martin

LCSD VISION:

Quality Learning For All

LCSD MISSION:

To Develop Passionate Learners
and Responsible Citizens

DISTRICT DIALOG

Current and Past Editions of "District Dialog" are available in Spanish and English online at: www.lincoln.k12.or.us or by calling Communications Coordinator Mary Jo Kerlin at 541-265-4412