

Jan.
2021

Oregon Small Schools Association

REOPENING OUR DOORS

Executive Administrator, R. Michael Carter

Despite the COVID-19 crisis, it has been a very successful year for the OSSA partnering with COSA. Here are some highlights that have been accomplished this year by OSSA.

- Awarded Nine \$1,000 student scholarships and recognized the Administrator of the Year and the Teacher of the Year.
- Successful lobbying for various issues that are important to Small School District in Oregon.
- Updated our policies, procedures, and website with our COSA partners to better support our members.
- Provided the first all-virtual conference in the State of Oregon last spring with a keynote from Chris Spetzer from Stanford University on decision making, and it was a huge success.
- Partnered with U of O and COSA to provide, for the second time, a special session designed for small schools at the annual law conference.
- Sent a powerful and united letter to Governor Brown to reopen schools.
- We are developing an administrative mentor program to better support small school districts and programs.

VALUABLE RESOURCES FOR REOPENING

Check out the CDC's page for guidance on Schools and Child Care Programs

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/schools-childcare/index.html>

1. These guidelines include planning for Promoting behaviors that reduce COVID-19's spread
2. Maintaining healthy environments
3. Maintaining healthy operations
4. Preparing for when someone gets sick

Take the time to read, to keep up with all the changes and ask questions and seek the support of your collegial community. We are here for you!

The COVID-19 crisis has impacted all walks of life, but it has had a tremendous impact on the educational system. The last few months have been a major challenge at all levels of school administration, and this is no exception in the small-school environments. The overall impact of these processes policies on the educational system will be difficult to assess: self-isolation, social distancing, quarantine, and other significant factors. Students, parents, and staff have lost their ability to function in their "communities," and they are suffering from various levels of social isolation, loneliness, and depression. Every one of us has been asked to forgo personal contact and interaction with their students and with their professional colleagues and had our traditional notions of collaboration challenged. It has been a

Continued...

Reopening: Decision-Making Indicators
<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/schools-childcare/indicators.html>

Get Ready for In-Person Learning: How to Plan and Execute a COVID-19 Mitigation Walkthrough
<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/schools-childcare/321420-Walkthrough.pdf>

Resources for Teacher and Staff
<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/schools-childcare/resources-teachers-staff.html>

Classroom Poster: What if a Student Shows Signs of COVID in My Classroom?
<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/downloads/community/schools->

Bonding Time

Creative Finance when we need it most...
Your peers share their experiences below

strange and difficult journey, but we have made the most of the situations and we should all be proud of our efforts and keep focused on the challenging times are still ahead.

As educational leaders what can we do to continue progress? There are a lot of strategies out there, and each of us must work to determine our own path and continue to lead our various school districts to survive and thrive in this crisis.

Here are some helpful strategies that you may find useful in your leadership role.

- Help yourself and others practice patience, kindness, and understanding.
- Use art, music, nature, and exercise to distract yourself and relieve stress.
- Reach out and support a colleague and send positive communications randomly to support others who are also being challenged by the crisis.
- Take time to exercise and make time for yourself. (Sharpen the Saw)
- Accept the fact that things are changing constantly, and that flexibility is the number one coping strategy we have to adopt. As leaders we need to make decisions based on the facts available, and as things change, be flexible and move on.
- Our students and staff need extra support during this difficult time, and as leaders, we need to continue to reach out to each of them and let them know that you care about their wellbeing.

ENTERPRIZING ENTERPRISE

When approaching the community, Erika Pinkerton reminded stakeholders of financial details that might be common knowledge to district financial officers. It makes for compelling arguments:

Roof Replacement

Could you pay for a new roof out of the district's annual maintenance budget?

- Annual maintenance and repair budget is about \$40,000 per year.
- Roof replacement would cost about \$1.4 million.

“We are extremely grateful for the support from our community to secure this \$4 million dollar bond which allows us to receive an additional \$4 million dollars in matching funds. With these funds we will be able to ensure that the school district facilities are safe and secure.”

- Erika Pinkerton, Enterprise School District

Enterprise's Four Bond Goals

- Repair and update facilities
- Address storm water runoff
- Improve accessibility
- Improve safety and security

PROMISING PERRYDALE

The bond value would be an estimated \$3.03 million and would cost \$1.50 per \$1,000 assessed value over 20 years with the matching funds from the OSCIM grant for an additional \$3 million. The bond funds will be used for facility improvements, such as HVAC upgrades, developing a new multi-purpose room, and increasing classroom square footage to accommodate our current enrollment levels and educational needs. The schools' kindergarten modular was purchased over 40 years ago and will be replaced. The drama program currently does not have a large enough space for props, costumes, and sound equipment. Perrydale must also conform to new state regulations regarding increased PE time; this could not be completed using the existing gym, which is also being used as a cafeteria and drama storage space.

The current elementary classrooms do not have HVAC, or educational space for breakout groups. A new structure would be built on the concrete area of the playground. The building would consist of a multi-purpose room (Auxillary gym), which could be used for school plays, recess during inclement weather, and a space for practices and games. Additional restrooms would also be included in the building and additional classroom space. The current elementary wing would be reconfigured and remodeled as well as current office spaces.

-Eric Milburn, Perrydale School District.



To join OSSA, or to request more information...

OSSA Executive Director
Michael Carter
Lake County SD
carter.michael@lakeview.k12.or.us
work 541-947-3347
cell 503-369-9486

AARON MILLER REGION 1
Vernonia SD, 503-989-0769

ERIC MILBURN REGION 2
Perrydale SD, 503-623-2040
*Board President

BRYAN STARR - REGION 3
Harrisburg SD, 541-995-6626

NANETTE HAGAN REGION 4
Myrtle Point SD 541-580-0025

DARRICK COPE - REGION 5
Helix SD, 541-457-2175
**Board Vice Chair

GAIL BUERMANN- REGION 6
North Lake SD, 541-576-2121

MARK REDMOND - REGION 7
Malheur ESD, 541-473-3138

ERIKA PINKERTON - At-Large
Enterprise SD, 541-426-3812

KEVIN PURNELL - At-Large
Adrian SD, 541-372-2335

COSA LOBBYIST
Morgan Allen
503-201-1864

COSA Assistant Director / OSSA
Lead Partner
Colin Cameron
colin@cosa.k12.or.us
503-581-31 41

EX-OFFICIO MEMBERS
Lori Sattenspiel, OSBA
503-588-2800

Information, stories to share, please contact:

Oregon Small Schools Association

707 13th St. SE,
Suite 100
Salem OR 97301
503-581-3141
<https://oregonssa.org/>

