



Philomath School District 17J

Benton County School District No. 17J, 1620 Applegate Street Philomath OR 97370 (541) 929-3169

Graduate EVERY student and transition each into a job, training, or college.

Philomath School District 17J

Board of Directors

Superintendent's Report

December 12, 2022

School Attendance:

As with other areas in Oregon, Philomath continues to see a rise in pediatric cases and hospitalizations related to respiratory viruses. We are seeing this play out in school attendance of both students and staff. We will continue to watch student and staff attendance this week, along with availability of substitute teachers and healthy bus drivers. Should changes need to occur, we will notify families as soon as possible.

Kings Valley Charter School closed last Tuesday – Friday, utilizing Wednesday – Friday for comprehensive distance learning. KVCS is back in session today.

Updates Today!

Blodgett Elementary School had an overly high number of students out of school today. We made the decision this afternoon to close Blodgett for the remainder of the week, due to excessive student illness. These days will not be made up by students as enough instructional minutes are in place for the school year. Staff members will be assisting with responsibilities at other schools in the District for these days.

Philomath High School was made aware of some concerns in the early afternoon. As a result of some sewer concerns, **Philomath High School** and **Philomath Academy** will be closed on Tuesday, December 13th. Both schools will reopen on Wednesday, December 14th. While we understand this to be an inconvenience, health and safety come first for our students and staff.

(Note: OSAA will allow PHS Home Swim Meet tomorrow afternoon).

State health experts at the Oregon Health Authority continue to encourage all individuals at increased risk of severe disease (and their caregivers) to take steps to prevent RSV and other respiratory infections this flu season. They recommend the following:

- Stay up-to-date on flu and COVID-19 vaccinations (should you choose to be vaccinated);
- Keep your child(ren) home when ill;
- Practice good hand hygiene by washing hands thoroughly and frequently;
- Keep high-touch surface areas clean and disinfected; and
- Strongly consider wearing a face covering in indoor spaces.

Synergy:

With support from LBL, Philomath held an initial Kick-Off Meeting on Friday, December 2nd, to launch our conversion to the new Student Information System (SIS). The team will be meeting monthly to continue preparations for the transition.

Oregon Statewide Assessment:

- Oregon Statewide Assessment Summative Assessments will be given to all students in grades 3-8 and 11. The tests consist of the following:
 - Language Arts (Grades 3-8, 11)
 - Mathematics (Grades 3-8, 11)
 - Science (Grades 5, 8, 11)
- Annual Notice was posted on PSD web page on 12/12/2022.
- The District encourages all students to participate in State Assessment as it provides essential data about student, school, and district goals.
- Opt-Out notices will be sent to PHS students when we return to school in early January.
- Opt-Out notices will be sent to elementary and middle school families in late January/ early February with semester grade reports.

Legislative Updates:

Philomath will have a new House Representative and a new Senator as we approach the 2023 Legislative Session. The re-districting process will put Philomath more in line with the central Oregon coast instead of Corvallis and the valley.

- House Representative: David Gomberg (was Representative Dan Rayfield)
- Senator: Dick Anderson (was Senator Sarah Gelser-Blouin)

With the change in Oregon's Governor, her budget is not required to be public until the first of February 2023. The current projected information suggests \$9.5 billion for education funding in the 2023-2025 biennium. This amount would provide flat funding for Philomath.

School districts across the state are advocating for at least \$10.3 billion for education funding. With other issues ahead of education on the legislative agenda, advocacy for this higher amount is essential. To that end, I will be meeting with our legislators immediately following the first of the calendar year.

Technology Updates:

- Cyber-Security Support:
 - During the 2022-2023 school year, PSD has contracted with LBL to provide cyber-security education and support.
 - Into the future, cyber-security will be a Tier 1 service provided by LBL.
- Staffing:
 - Staffing needs are being adjusted following the sudden loss of our colleague, Steven Voong.
 - Following the departure of Jennifer Kessel to LBL, Steven was slated to work remotely from his home in Colorado to assist with needed tasks.
 - LBL continues to be a great support to our District.

Professional Learning:

Hooray for the first in-person professional learning session in quite some time for our Instructional Assistants! Thanks to LBL and our own PSD Student Services Department for providing training related to student behavior for such an awesome group. We hope this is the first of many more opportunities for our classified staff members.

PSD Equity Committee:

After not meeting for much of the last school year, our PSD Equity Committee met on December 5, 2022. While primarily an update session, the group looks forward to meeting regularly once again.

I keeping with the same topic, I was able to participate last week in the COSA Equity Academy II. Information was presented by the Oregon Center for Educational Equity (OCEE).

COVID Vaccine Clinics:

As we wind down the calendar year, Philomath School District is hosting two COVID Vaccine Clinics.

- December 16, 2022 (Friday) 4:00pm-7:00pm @ Clemens Primary School

School Traffic Safety Study:

No updates at this time.

Board and Superintendent Goals:

Board	Superintendent
Base decisions on equitable support and advocacy for the academic and social-emotional needs of all students and staff.	1. Ensure equitable opportunities for every student.
Serve as stewards of District resources to support long-term needs for academic, social, and economic sustainability.	2. Promote ongoing success and growth, including academic as well as social-emotional components.
	3. Provide leadership opportunities to administrators and others, as appropriate, in the District.
Carefully consider and adopt policy to support long-term needs for academic, social, and safety within the District.	4. Provide a safe, welcoming, respectful, and rigorous learning environment for every member of the school community.
Foster open communication and continue meaningful engagement and collaboration at every level in the District.	5. Support effective communication throughout the District.

Board Work Session – Trimester versus Semester:

Following a few meetings this fall, questions have arisen about the advantages and/or disadvantages of a high school trimester versus a high school semester system. With a number of questions remaining unanswered, the request was to schedule a work session in order to educate and inform. A date for this session will need to be determined.

