



# 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 Report

December 13, 2023

#### **Distinguished Guest:**

Our continued work with Oregon RTIi (Response to Instruction and Intervention) and resulting efforts manifested in our K-8 classrooms is noticed. Dr. Anita Archer, a renowned educational consultant to school districts across the country, focusing on explicit instruction and literacy, visited students and staff at Philomath Elementary School.

Dr. Archer observed staff working with students to strengthen literacy skills. Dr. Archer expressed great satisfaction with Philomath as she departed from the day. Philomath's "**Love of Learning**" was evident. Thanks to Molly Bell and Robert Blackman for their leadership and coordination with Oregon RTIi to make this great event happen.

#### **Center for Educational Leadership:**

For the last 18 months, Philomath School District administrators have been engaged in professional learning with the Center for Educational Leadership, provided through the University of Washington. At our most recent session, spent in classroom observations at Clemens Primary School and Philomath Middle School, I was overjoyed by the learning and implementation efforts evidenced by our administrators.

The work is designed to create and sustain "mutual accountability that support leaders in creating instructional practices and rigorous learning environments where all students thrive." The opportunity to work with our own staff in our own schools is very powerful.

#### **Special Education Census:**

December of each school year marks an essential requirement for each school district. The Special Education Child Count determines the number of eligible students who generate State School Fund Special Education Weight. Thanks to all our Special Educators and Student Services staff for making this collection happen.

#### **Garrett Hemann Robertson, PC:**

Our long-standing attorney, Paul Dakopolos, has recently joined the ranks of the retired. The District will continue to work with the Garrett Hemann Robertson legal team. Thanks to Paul for his service to the Philomath School District over the years.

#### **Strategic Planning and Implementation:**

As the Board is aware, we have been discussing proactive strategic planning and implementation options. The desire is to create a clear path leading the District into our academic, personnel, and facility future. Information from Studer has been included in your packet for further discussion.

### **Early Literacy Updates:**

Oregon House Bill 3198, passed in the 2023 legislative session, created the Early Literacy Success Initiative. The District is in the process of completing our application for the Early Literacy Success School District Grant. Funds from this grant are entitled—not competitive—however still requires completion of a formal application. The application is due on January 8, 2024. Thanks to Abby Couture for taking the lead on this application, with support from Eric Beasley.

### **Integrated Guidance:**

We are now a year into the Integrated Guidance planning, combining a number of ODE programs into one application. As a reminder, programs include the following:

- Career and Technical Education (CTE)
- Continuous Improvement Plan (CIP)
- Early Indicator Intervention Systems (EIS)
- Every Day Matters (EDM)
- High School Success Act (HSS)
- Student Investment Account (SIA)

Updated information will be provided at the January meeting, with opportunity for input and feedback.

### **Shout Out!**

- Thanks for the PHS presentation of '*Newsies*'. A job very well done! Thanks to Jolene Latz and Shannon Webb for their leadership, the other adults behind the scenes, and our talented students for their commitment to this production.
- Thanks to PHS Athletic Director, Mike Hood, for orchestrating a joint Fall Athletic Awards Night. Nice to see all students in fall sports represented on a shared evening.
- Thanks to our Special Education Advisory Committee (SEAC) for recognizing National Special Education Day, celebrated in Philomath schools on December 4, 2023. This day honors the changes in federal legislation that led to the nation's first federal special education law. IDEA—the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act—was signed into law in 1975!
- Thanks to PES teacher, Don Meeker, for continuing the tradition of the Falcon Singers participation in the Philomath Community Tree Lighting.
- Thanks to the following teachers for providing a quality Arts education to our students. We are seeing results of these efforts through winter concerts and art night opportunities.
  - Robin Crissey, Blodgett and Clemens Primary Schools
  - Erica Hall, Philomath High School
  - Andrea Heidinger, Philomath Middle and High Schools
  - Don Meeker, Philomath Elementary School
  - Shannon Webb, Philomath Middle School

**Dates to Remember:**

- December 13 (Wednesday) Brave Café (5:00pm @ Philomath Middle)  
Blodgett Winter Program (6:30pm)  
PSD School Board Meeting (8:00pm @ DO/ PA)  
PMS Girls Basketball vs. Cheldelin (4:00pm)
- December 14 (Thursday) PHS Winter Concert (7:00pm @ PHS Auditorium)  
KVCS High School Academic Presentation Night (6:00pm)
- December 14-16 (Th-Sat) PHS Varsity BX @ Les Schwab Tournament (Marshfield)
- December 15-16 (F-Sat) PHS Wrestling @ Grants Pass
- December 16 (Saturday) PHS Swimming @ Blanchet Catholic
- December 18-January 1 **Winter Break**
- December 19 (Tuesday) PHS Swimming vs Marist & Kennedy (4:00pm)
- December 20 (Wednesday) Benton County Wrestling Championships (8:00am @ PHS)
- December 22 (Friday) PHS Swimming vs. Sweet Home (4:00pm)
- December 27 (Wednesday) PHS Basketball vs. Sutherlin (2:00pm)
- December 28 (Thursday) PHS Basketball vs. Scappoose (2:00pm)
- December 29 (Friday) PHS Basketball vs. Marist (2:00pm)
- January 2 (Tuesday) **First Day Return Following Winter Break**
- January 3 (Wednesday) PHS Basketball vs. Amity (4:00pm)
- January 9 (Tuesday) PHS Basketball vs. Estacada (4:00pm)  
PHS Swimming vs. Blanchet Catholic & Stayton (4:00pm)
- January 10 (Wednesday) PMS Basketball vs. Newport (4:00pm)
- January 11 (Thursday) PSD Budget Committee Informational Meeting (6:00pm)