

# Written Public Comment

May 20, 2024

## Tim Davis

Community member

Keizer

Topic: 5. Motion to Approve 24-25 Proposed Budget

I'm concerned that cutting the ROTC programs is a big step backwards for our students. Especially since more than half of the money & resources required for the program and staffing is paid for by our military. I'm not aware of another student group that does more community service than ROTC. And The skills, training, accountability and discipline that the ROTC students learn is fundamental to the long-term success of our country.

**Submitted:** 5/19/2024 20:06:30

# Connor Mayberry

Community member

Keizer

Topic: 5. Motion to Approve 24-25 Proposed Budget

I have been told that this document must be limited to 375 words. Unfortunately, I have been known to enjoy the sound of my own voice, and it is impossible for me to summarize just how much good OR-20121, the AFJROTC at McNary High, has done in my life. My name is Connor Mayberry, I am an alumni of McNary High School (class of 2019), and I am the man that I am today because of the combined efforts friends, family, and the McNary AFJROTC. I am saddened to hear about the financial status of the Salem-Keizer school district, and the plans to remove AFJROTC. Units like the one at McNary strives to, "... motivate young people to be better citizens," and creates an environment for students to better themselves academically, physically, mentally and socially. However, don't just take my word for it. Ask the recipients of the thousands of cumulative community service hours McNary AFJROTC cadets have worked, ask the veterans in and around Keizer who are celebrated and represented through the McNary AFJROTC, ask the parents of cadets who get to watch their children march down River Road during the Iris Festival, ask the McNary alum who received scholarships and job offers because of their efforts in the AFJROTC, ask the students who improved their physical and mental wellbeing in the program.

While my story does not represent all prior cadets, I can only hope that others can sympathize and understand it. I was the type of student who drifted in and out of class barely trying, rarely caring, remarkably unremarkable. However, that changed when I was entrusted – and taken out of my comfort zone – with a leadership position through the McNary AFJROTC. Sadly, it was rare for any McNary faculty to look at me and say, "you are better than you think you are, and you are capable of so much more." The AFJROTC filled this gap at McNary, and kept pushing for more. I had the opportunity to go to Hawaii because the McNary AFJROTC self-funded the trip, I had clothes because the McNary AFJROTC self-funded for the materials, I had food because the McNary AFJROTC self-funded for shared meals. Why is it a program that self-funds so much is at risk because of Salem-Keizer budget cuts? I understand that budget cuts are a lose-lose situation for everybody, but I am who I am because of the AFJROTC and I would never want to be anybody else. Keeping the AFJROTC will ensure that this experience and change is passed down to the future graduates of McNary.

**Submitted:** 5/20/2024 12:48:08

# Kelsey Frazier

Staff

Keizer

Topic: 5. Motion to Approve 24-25 Proposed Budget

Dear Salem-Keizer,

My name is Kelsey, and I am currently employed as a School Based Health Assistant – this is my second school year in this position. On Monday April 15, 2024, during the Salem-Keizer Public School Board meeting our Superintendent, Andrea Castañeda, and our Deputy Superintendent, Olga Cobb, briefly touched on this position, the cuts, and the duties. Here are the quotes:

“The hours are where the work gets done. Our school based health assistants are very important parts of our office teams.... They’re also very often the people that students know when they come to the front office, they’re there to help. They’re the people who families know as well” - Superintendent Castañeda

“They play an important role to help manage some of the health plans that our students have. If a student needs medication around lunch time, this is the role of the health assistant ..... usually that’s when kids start coming to the office to follow whatever guidelines are in their health plan.” - Deputy Superintendent Cobb

Here is my response:

I work for 6 hours a day in the SBHA position. Students do not wait until lunch time to come down to the office. Student’s health plans do not wait until lunch time. I support every student at my school, all day long. As of May 20th, my health room has seen 1470 students - I have the data. The data that no one bothered to look at when making these cuts. SBHA’s will all move to a two-hour position. This is detrimental to all students. Students need predictability and with these cuts, they will lack predictability in their most vulnerable times.

The SBHA position is also responsible for ALL students’ immunization records. This includes recording immunizations, calling families on missing immunizations, educating families on state law, finding immunization clinics for families, filing documents accordingly, and then eventually excluding students on exclusion day. This is all done by the health assistant, with little to no direct supervision.

Have I mentioned students with chronic illnesses? Students with T1 Diabetes need constant support. Students with asthma need to use their inhalers at any moment. I have around 25 inhalers in my building alone, and I am responsible for multiple diabetic students. Diabetic and asthmatic emergencies do not happen within a set two-hour

window of time. It can happen anytime a student is at school. These emergencies WILL happen when there is no SBHA on duty.

The work that I do cannot be done in two hours. I will not be able to serve the students in the way that I currently do if I am only at work 10 hours a week. While I can appreciate there aren't as strict COVID protocols in place, there are several protocols in place that I follow and implement every single day.

While cutting SBHA's, the district also cut 3 RN positions and 9 LPN positions.

To every student and family who rely on health services, I am sorry. Our kids are going to feel the effect of this.

Kelsey Frazier

**Submitted:** 5/20/2024 14:49:37