

Community News

Achieving Excellence in Education

Budget issues dominate district planning for 2011-12



Dear Neighbor,

Our goal is to provide the best education for our students, but we must do it with available resources.

We have stretched our funds with successful grants that currently total almost \$10 million for limited-term specific programs.

We reached contract settlement with our classified employee group and continue to work toward an agreement with our licensed employees.

And, we are developing a budget process that will provide multiple opportunities for public input.

We expect that this budget process will be unique in several ways: state revenue reductions are

expected to continue one-time revenue resources such as stimulus dollars will end, and the School Board is committed to building a multi-year, sustainable plan. The Quality Education Commission (QEC) has released a new Quality Education Model (QEM), which illustrates the gap between what is needed to fund quality school programs and what has actually been available to fund schools in Oregon.

Education's share of Oregon's state budget between 2003-2011 has declined from 44.8 percent to 38.8 percent. We remain committed to making decisions in the best interest of students during these challenging budget times.

We would like your input on our initial budget reduction survey available now at www.msd.k12.or.us.

Sincerely,
Maryalice Russell, Ed.D., Superintendent

Columbus, Grandhaven and Memorial get outstanding report card ratings

The annual state report cards rated Columbus, Memorial and Grandhaven elementary schools outstanding.

The ratings are based on academic scores, continuing programs and participation rates in state tests. Starting last year, it also accounted for significant achievement improvement and increases in participation among subgroups that traditionally receive lower scores.

The report cards are mailed home to parents. They are also available online at www.ode.state.or.us/data/reportcard/reports.aspx.

MACA videos show students, school

Every day, MACA students see a video broadcast announcement feed. They also get video advertisements with helpful reminders about topics such as school pride, responsibility, recycling and other civic messages.

The videos are produced by students. Teacher Ericson Teller said they teach real-world skills and give students a voice in their own school.

To see some of the videos, visit the District Vimeo channel: www.vimeo.com/channels/123380.

Upcoming Events:

Jan. 10

School Board Meeting

Jan. 17

No School: Martin Luther King Jr. Day

Jan. 24

School Board Work Session

Jan. 25

District Safety Informational Night, Duniway Middle School, 6:30 p.m.

For more events, including school performances, see the District Web site: www.msd.k12.or.us.



State economy will guide district budget decisions

The McMinnville School District is facing a statewide revenue shortfall next year and will develop a budget based on estimated revenue. The process is set to begin this month. See timeline at right.

Where did this shortfall come from?

Less state funding: Revenue sources have dropped due to the poor economy.

Fewer students: MSDs enrollment has been growing for many years. This year enrollment has declined.

Use of one-time funds: The district has been spending reserves and federal stimulus dollars to support operations. Like a family spending their savings to cover monthly household expenses, this helps make ends meet in the short term, but it isn't sustainable.

Rising costs: Increases include salary and benefit costs, utilities and materials.

What have we done so far? MSD has made substantial budget reductions in recent years. The district has cut employee days, school staff and central office staff, employee compensation agreements, funding for athletics and extracurricular activities. We have offset further General Fund reductions through the use of stimulus, federal or one-time facilities grants. When stimulus or grant funds are exhausted, those additional programs and personnel will be reduced.

What comes next?

The McMinnville School Board is working to develop a sustainable budget. Their goal is a multi-year plan that will bring services in line with revenue, and continue to provide all kids with a sound education.

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November
2010

Board establishes budget calendar

- Staff and community communications
- State economic forecast update: Nov. 19, 2010
- Special budget work session to discuss state of the economy: Nov. 29, 2010

December
2010/
January
2011

Administrative staff develops list of possible scenarios to balance budget based on various K-12 allocation levels.

Online budget reduction survey available to staff and community

Await release of the Governor's recommended budget.

January 26: Superintendent coffee, budget

February/
March 2011

Feb. 8: Superintendent coffee, budget reduction discussion

Feb. 23: Budget Committee Work session

Superintendent presents initial scenarios to Budget Committee
Public input opportunity

March 1: Release of estimated state school fund (SSF) revenues for 2011-12.

March 23: Budget Committee Work session

Superintendent presents recommendations based on March SSF estimate.

April 2011

April 20: First Budget Committee meeting

Superintendent presents budget message and proposed budget for 2011-12.

Public input opportunity.

May 2011

Budget Committee Meetings: May 11 and 25
Elementary and Secondary Levels presentations
District level presentations

Public input opportunity

Budget Committee approves budget at last meeting in May. Official budget hearing and adoption by board scheduled for June 1 meeting.

Enrollment dip reverses trend, reduces state revenue

As of Oct. 1, district enrollment was 162 students less than projected. We have 156 fewer students in the district than we had at this time last year.

Districts are funded on a per pupil basis. A

decline in students represents a decrease in funding.

The district is commissioning a study by Portland State University Population Research Center to project enrollment trends into the future.

	Actual	Actual
	10/1/2009	10/1/2010
Total District Enrollment	6,567	6,411 (156)
	Projected	Actual
	6,573	6,411 (162)

Bargaining update: District requests mediation

After a series of negotiation sessions between the District and the McMinnville Education Association, the District requested mediation.

The teams have been meeting since March 10 and are still divided by agreements on salary and insurance benefits.

The mediator is an impartial third party, employed by the state, who helps the two sides find acceptable solutions to their differences. Mediation is successful in most negotiations.

The District sought mediation in order to expedite a

settlement. Three mediation sessions have been held by this publication date: Oct. 26, Nov. 17 and Dec. 14.

“We believe a mediator will help us reach a settlement, which is in everyone’s best interest,” said Superintendent Maryalice Russell. “It is important for staff to have a contract in place,” she said.

For bargaining updates and information about the District and union proposals, see the District Web site: www.msd.k12.or.us. Updates are on the right side of the page.

The next mediation session is scheduled for Jan. 31.

Swimming lessons teach third graders survival skills



A week-long water safety and basic swimming course is offered in the fall to every third-grade student in the McMinnville School District.

The program is a PE unit provided through the McMinnville Aquatic Center. With the help of school staff and parent volunteers, students learn lifesaving skills and build confidence in the pool.

The program relies on volunteers to help students in the pool. If you would like to volunteer, contact your local school office or Scott Johnson, physical education specialist, 503-565-4742. All volunteers must complete a criminal background check before working with students.

Cathy Carnahan honored in D.C. for national principal title



Duniway Principal Cathy Carnahan traveled to Washington, D. C., on Oct. 1 to accept the award for National Middle Level Principal of the Year.

She attended a ceremony and banquet sponsored by the National Association of Secondary School Principals and visited Oregon Senator Jeff Merkley (pictured with Cathy and husband Scott at left) in his offices.

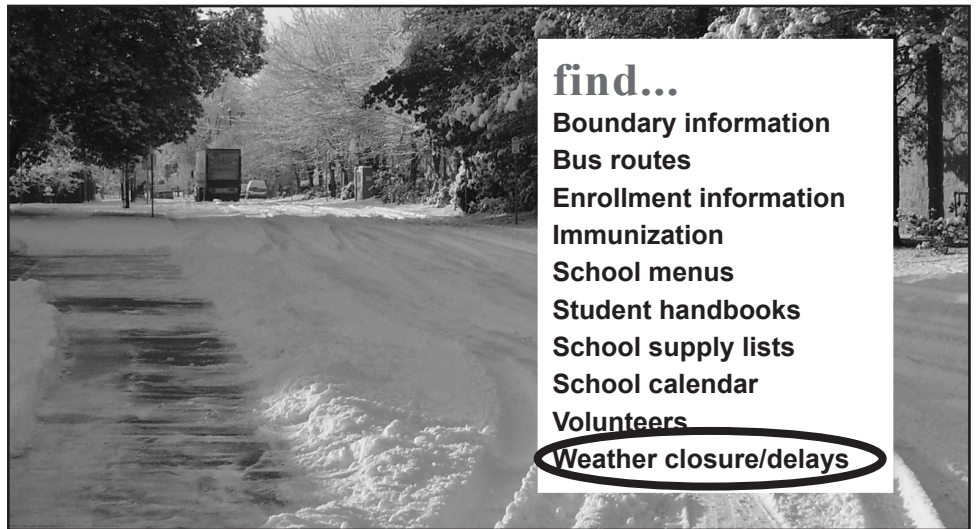
Cathy has been at Duniway since 1993, when she started as a teacher. She also served as assistant principal before being named principal. She is credited with creating a collaborative staff climate, increasing test scores, decreasing referrals and improving attendance rates.

School weather closure and delay information

Winter weather may force school closures or delays.

Inclement weather information will be posted on the district Web site: www.msd.k12.or.us (go to weather closures in quick tabs at the bottom).

Information will also be posted on radio and TV stations, or you can sign up for email/text messages at www.flashalert.net/news.html?id=114



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For More Information

For more information about the McMinnville School District, please contact us:
Phone: 503.565.4000 • E-mail: info@msd.k12.or.us • Web: www.msd.k12.or.us



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