



## CITY OF WHEELER

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Neahkahnie School District Board  
504 N. Third Ave./PO Box 28  
Rockaway Beach, OR 97136

April 19, 2016

RE: Nehalem Elementary School (NES) Swim Program

Dear Members of the Board

I wanted to commend and thank you, and Principal Woika for your handling of the Nehalem Swim Program decision. I was very impressed with your proactive approach to resolving a problem that our communities obviously feel very passionate about.

The practice of having this critical program stems from a generations old tradition that I believe saves lives. Water safety and awareness is a critical skill for any child living in our coastal county and is something we take very seriously. Equally important is the underlying message to our children of their value to our community, an important protective factor, according to research and experience, for positive youth development.

I know that as a Board you are elected to fulfill an essential function for our schools but in the end you are neighbors who volunteered to help everyone's children. It can be a difficult and often thankless job. The ability for a Board to compromise and work with its communities is the sign of a healthy decision making process.

So from me personally and the community that I represent, I want to thank you for stepping up to the plate, listening to your community and parents, and making a really good decision. As a community we will continue to support the program and upkeep of the facilities to the best of our abilities. We appreciate your commitment and support.

Sincerely,

Stevie S. Burden, Mayor  
City of Wheeler