

January 8, 2026 Superintendent Report

As we begin the new year, I want to recognize the dedication and professionalism of our staff across the district. The work happening in classrooms continues to make a meaningful difference for students every day. I also want to acknowledge that many staff are adjusting to changes in class size and staffing changes as the District responds to declining enrollment and takes responsible steps to stabilize the district's budget. These adjustments are not easy, and I appreciate the flexibility of our staff and their continued focus on students.

Port Theater Update

I also want to provide an update on the potential purchase of the Port Theater as a performing arts center. We explored this opportunity thoughtfully, with a focus on long-term value for students and the district. The intent was that any purchase would be funded through the sale of the Viking Lane property, which would have generated one-time capital funds appropriate for a facility investment, not for ongoing staffing or operating costs. After careful budget review, we submitted what we believed to be a reasonable and responsible offer. When the counteroffer came back significantly higher, it became clear that the cost no longer aligned with our commitment to financial prudence. As a result, I believe, unfortunately, that it is time to step away from this opportunity and continue to look forward.

Viking Lane

We received final paperwork regarding the sale of 10.10 acres on Viking Lane from BPA. After receiving approval from Mr. McClintock, the Board Chair, I have signed and executed the agreement. Mike Keane, from GHR Law, will continue to work with BPA on the next steps of drafting a construction and access maintenance easement for the property. We are very excited about this, as this sale generates an additional \$695,000 of unexpected revenue to our districts capital improvement fund, plus an additional \$15,000 dedicated to the construction of a trail system on the remaining land at North Bay Elementary School.

Operational Levy Update

Since the last update, a staff survey has been distributed to help prioritize potential levy-supported needs. I also met yesterday with certified union leadership and OEA's political strategist to discuss possible next steps. The shared goal of this work is to identify meaningful positions that could expand student opportunities, enhance student safety, strengthen our CTE programs, and add enriching elective options at the high school. I want to acknowledge the certified union's leadership and our staff for continuing to seek creative, proactive approaches to addressing the budgetary

constraints caused by declining enrollment, while remaining focused on student success. Any potential levy effort would rely heavily on grassroots staff involvement; however, managing a Political Action Committee is a significant undertaking for individuals who are also working full time. The certified union is currently exploring options for leadership support in this area. Our intent is to bring additional information to the board at the February meeting so the board can discuss and determine whether to place a levy measure on the May ballot.

Special Shout Outs!

Eva Varga

Marti McAllister

Tonight, we want to take a moment to recognize and thank our Certified and Classified Union Representatives for the important work they do for the North Bend School District. They give their time and energy often above and beyond their regular responsibilities to support staff, work collaboratively with administration, and help keep communication open and respectful. Much of their work happens behind the scenes, but its impact is felt throughout our schools. We truly appreciate their dedication, their willingness to step in when needed, and the partnership they provide in supporting our staff and, ultimately, our students. Thank you for everything you do for our district.

Gary Prince

We also want to thank one of our teachers, Gary Prince, who stepped in to serve as assistant principal at the high school in a time of need. He took on this role with professionalism and continues to do an exceptional job, now spending a couple of weeks at the Middle School. We are grateful for his dedication and commitment to the North Bend School District.

Legislative Forum

On January 6, 2026, a few district administrators and board members attended a legislative forum hosted at the ESD. Legislators Boomer Wright, Court Boice, Dick Anderson, and David Brock Smith were in attendance. As they prepare for the upcoming short legislative session, the forum provided an opportunity for school districts to share priorities and discuss what support legislators should be advocating for on behalf of public education.

The primary focus of our regional superintendents was to stress the importance of keeping our current state school fund dollars intact this biennium, and to encourage the governor's office to utilize the Educational Stability Fund to help ensure that further reductions to the State School Fund do not occur, as the state has done 9 times in the past.

Board Member Appreciation Month

Before we move on, I want to take a moment to recognize our board members in honor of Oregon School Board Member Appreciation Month. Serving on a school board requires a tremendous commitment of time, thought, and care. You are asked to navigate complex educational, financial, and policy decisions, often balancing competing needs, always with students at the center.

I want to thank each of you for your willingness to serve our community, for the thoughtful questions you ask, and for the steady leadership you provide, especially during times of change. Your work is not always visible, but it is deeply impactful, and it plays a critical role in shaping the opportunities available to our students and staff. On behalf of the district, I truly appreciate your dedication, service, and continued commitment to our schools.