



~Members~

Kirk Baumann

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Laurie Guerrero

Rob Harrington

Cece McKee

Amanda Obien

Debbie Sauro

Lise Van Brunt

Mandy York

JEROME PRAIRIE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL CLOSURE CONSOLIDATION COMMITTEE

April 5, 2013

Board of Directors
Three Rivers School District
8550 New Hope Road
Grants Pass, OR 97527

RE: Jerome Prairie Elementary School Closure Consolidation Committee Recommendation

Dear Board of Directors:

As we stated during the work session on Monday, April 1, 2013, we recognize that this is a difficult decision for you to make. It is an equally difficult, if not more so, decision for us to study the closure of our community elementary school. We met again on Tuesday, April 2, to consider some additional information and to work on reaching a consensus on what a possible recommendation would be. All members of the committee voted, with the exception of Lise Van Brunt, who abstained because both Jerome Prairie and Madrona Elementary schools are her schools.

After many hours spent considering the information we gathered, asking many, many questions, and having discussions as a group. We have unanimously reached the decision to make the following recommendation to you:

We respectfully request that you delay the decision to close Jerome Prairie Elementary School by one year. While we recognize that Jerome Prairie may be closed, we feel that a few months' time is not enough for a decision of this magnitude with many legislative unknowns present. While we have full confidence in your ability to make the decision, we believe a decision this serious should be made with a full board, and a board that has a representative from our area. In addition, we are requesting that you seriously explore a 4-day school week and establish a process to take another look at pursuing an operating bond with the community.

Finally, we ask that you keep our committee active to help pursue information and solutions related to the requests above, not only for our school, but for all of the schools in the District. We believe we can reach out to other PTA groups and Site Councils, to work together and promote our District, as well as build community support for our schools.

As stated above, we recognize that this is a difficult decision for all involved. We deeply appreciate your thoughtful consideration of our recommendation.

Respectfully,

The Jerome Prairie Elementary School Closure Consideration Committee