

Board Report
Newbridge HS

April 7, 2009

Number of students 107

I will begin with the topic that is most pressing on the minds of my school staff members. Will Newbridge High School and the Rogue Valley Correctional Facility exist next year? The Oregon Youth Authority central administration in Salem has recommended closure of the facility if budget reductions reach the 25-30% range. The good news is that currently the state is estimating a reduction of 20% or lower will be necessary. Even if the reduction exceeds 20%, there is a question about whether the legislature would allow the agency to close Rogue Valley YCF. It is the only facility in Southern Oregon; it is also the largest of the "new" facilities currently in operation. It is impossible to say anything for sure until the May budget forecast is released, but based on everything I know right now, I believe that it is unlikely the facility will close.

Hence, we are in the process of starting to prepare for a summer session (part of the next biennium's budget), upgrading technology and ordering supplies for next year. The state does not allow us to carry-over any dollars from one biennium to the next (no EFB), so we must do our purchasing now. We actually have more money to spend before the end of the year than we had anticipated. Although our general fund was reduced about \$50,000 or 2.5% by the state, we enjoyed an overall increase in our budget of \$60,000 because of increases to our IDEA and Title 1 D grant funds. We have submitted a Request for Qualifications and will soon be submitting a Request for Proposals to renew our contract with ODE for providing educational services at Rogue Valley.

Our school year has gone quite well. We are nearing the end of our third quarter, and we have 8-10 students on track to graduate on June 22. I commend my staff for continuing to provide an excellent educational experience for our youth. Most of our students arrive below grade level in ability and short on credits earned. Not surprisingly, we do not fare well on state reading, math, and writing tests compared to regular high schools. However, on measures of improvement in reading and math we are usually above state and national averages for correctional programs. Over the past two years we have placed an emphasis on reading and writing across the curriculum, looked for ways to connect math into various curricular areas, and identified vocational/career links in every classroom. Most recently, Bonnie Cameron, special education teacher, provided some in-service training on working with special education students. Upcoming, we have a review training scheduled with OYA on maintaining appropriate boundaries with youth.

Respectfully submitted,
Dave Fuller