



April 8, 2011

K-12 budget approved by Ways and Means

Contact your Legislator about inadequate K-12 budget!

On April 8, the Joint Committee on Ways and Means gave final approval to a K-12 budget ([Senate Bill 5552](#)) that provides \$5.7 billion to the State School Fund for the 2011-13 biennium. Rep. Mary Nolan (D-Portland) was the lone dissenting vote.

Earlier in the week OSBA board members **Dick Morley** (North Santiam SD), **Mike Blanchard** (Dallas SD) and **Linda Brown** (Lake Oswego SD) shared their appreciation for increases in the K-12 budget over Governor Kitzhaber's proposal, but urged the committee to access \$192 million dollars in the Education Stability Fund that are not slated to be spent. They joined dozens of other public education supporters in warning that there would still be draconian cuts to school programs, teacher and staff layoffs, closure of schools, and more school days cut from the calendar. Linda Brown summed it up saying, "What we are facing goes far

Action Alert!

OSBA is asking school board members to contact their legislators about the K-12 budget.

beyond cuts to programs and reduction in school days; it is amputation."

Senate Bill 5552 will head to the full Senate and House for votes expected next week. Please urge your legislators to improve the inadequate K-12 budget by using more of the Education Stability Fund to avoid more lost school days, cuts to academic programs, and larger class sizes for students. You can make a difference by sharing your story – tell your legislator what a \$5.7 billion budget means for your district, your schools, and your students.

Mandate relief bills pass Senate Ed

Two of the three bills from OSBA's Mandate Relief Project passed the Senate Education Committee this week. On unanimous votes, the committee approved **Senate Bills 560** and **800**, sending them to the full Senate with a "do pass" recommendation.

SB 800, sponsored by Sen. Suzanne Bonamici (D-Beaverton) at the request of State Supt. Susan Castillo, OSBA and other education coalition members eliminates or revises 28 outdated or redundant state laws. Statutes listed for amendment or repeal include:

- Simplifying statewide and school and district report cards by putting some information on the Internet and allowing e-mailing of reports
- Repealing community service guideline requirements
- Eliminating state mandates relating to local school committees
- Eliminating a duplicate report on race and ethnic characteristics of high school graduates
- Eliminating a teaching requirement for the Irish Potato Famine, arms race and conflict resolution
- Eliminating the requirement that districts withhold grade reports, diplomas and re-

ords of students who owe more than \$50

- Eliminating the requirement that districts record contents of student dental certificates
- Eliminating redundant and outdated requirements that superintendent distribute and prepare education laws

SB 560, sponsored by Sen. Betsy Johnson (D-Scappoose), reduces the paperwork burden on district continuous improvement plans. Districts may only be required to submit significant changes to their plans.

The third product of the Mandate Relief Project, **House Bill 3370**, is still in the House Education Committee. Sponsored by Rep. Jeff Barker (D-Aloha), this critical bill requires the Legislative Fiscal Office to prepare fiscal impact statements setting forth the effect of a bill on expenditures if the bill imposes a new duty or increased level of service on a school district or ESD.

The Mandate Relief Project is an effort initiated by OSBA, in partnership with the Confederation of School Administrators, Oregon Education Association, Oregon School Employees Association, AFT-Oregon, Oregon Association of Education Service Districts and Oregon Department of Education.

Gov's ed plan heard in Senate Ed; OSBA testifies

On April 5, the Senate Education Committee heard testimony on **Senate Bill 909**, which would establish the Oregon Education Investment Board and create a "seamless and strategic education budget from birth through grade 20."

Testimony began with Governor Kitzhaber, who stressed the importance of a new approach to education to deliver better results for students, more resources for teachers, and better value for the state. "We have underinvested in our children, our education system and our future for too long," he said.

In the current system, multiple agencies and boards administer programs and budgets that are charged with the education of our children, he explained. The new plan would address barriers to learning and teaching, funding uncertainty and volatility, inefficient and duplicative early childhood services, underachievement by at-risk children, dropout rates, the low percentage of Oregonians with a post-secondary degree, and move toward performance-based, strategic investments in education.

Current members of the Education Investment Team spoke to the committee on their work to determine how to create a zero-to-twenty continuum of human investment that would have every child entering school ready to learn and leaving the first grade reading, moving through grade levels according to his abilities and graduating fully prepared for college or workforce training.

One committee member questioned whether a system that has a single board overseeing all of the education system will be too top-down and controlling and stifle innovation. Assurances came from several stakeholders that the purpose of the board is not to hold back creativity, but to support it.

Kevin McCann, executive director of the Oregon School Boards Association, also testified on the governor's vision for Oregon schools. The decisions of the OSBA board, at its meeting on April 2, set the course for his testimony:

Sen. Hass and Members of the Committee: I'm Kevin McCann, Executive Director of the Oregon School Boards Association.

Continued

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Gov's ed plan – Continued

tion. I'm here today on behalf of the OSBA Board of Directors and our 1,400 locally-elected school board members to applaud the governor's bold approach to re-energizing the commitment of Oregonians to make education our highest public priority.

Our Board of Directors met last weekend to hear from Nancy Golden and Duncan Wyse about key elements of the governor's vision. They support the following:

- *They concur with the governor's assertion that education is seriously underfunded at all levels in Oregon and that we must invest in education to strengthen Oregon's economy.*

- *They support the concept of a statewide performance-based budget that leads to clear understanding of statewide human investments that fuel education, which in turn drives successful lives for Oregonians.*
- *They concur with Dr. Golden's statement that under this vision, "local control becomes more important than ever before." They agree that the state's role of procuring education services from local districts must be based on achieving agreed-upon outcomes and that we must have the best assessment systems that measure individual student progress against world-class standards.*
- *They believe that, as a system of educa-*

tion, we collectively must remove any barriers that limit the success of students from birth through graduate school regardless of the path chosen by learners. This is a primary goal of the governor's "zero-to-twenty" proposal.

If public deliberation about the Oregon Education Investment Board is the preferred vehicle for re-energizing our commitment as Oregonians to making education our highest priority, you have our pledge to engage our members in helping drive this effort. School board members want to be involved at the highest levels in shaping this new vision.

Read details of **SB 909** at www.osba.org/Resources/Article/Legislative/BillTracking.aspx?key=SB_09090&ptadd=:%20SB09090%20.

Read the **SB 909 amendments** approved by the committee on April 5 at www.osba.org/News%20Center/Announcements/~media/Files/News/SB%20909%20proposed%20amendments.ashx.

Statewide collective bargaining bill heard in House Committee

House Bill 3539, which would have the state establish an annual percentage by which school boards can increase the total amount of money used for employee salary and benefits under a collective bargaining agreement, was heard this week in the House Business and Labor Committee. Committee co-chairs Mike Schaufler (D-Happy Valley) and Bill Kennemer (R-Oregon City) ushered proponents and opponents through testimony on the issue of statewide collective bargaining.

Lisa Freiley, OSBA Associate Executive Director for Legal, Labor and Employment Services, testified before the committee, providing valuable information about the collective bargaining process. She said the proposal has arisen before during difficult financial times for the state and public education in 1995 and 2005. HB 3539 would, in

effect, pre-determine 75-85 percent of each school budget, she noted. This determination would be made in isolation from all the other elements of contract negotiations: number of days employees work, class preparation time offered, the level of staffing and number of students in classrooms, the number of student contact minutes for staff, and other decisions local boards make every year in creating and maintaining educational programs for their students. These crucial elements work in tandem with negotiations over compensation.

Freiley urged the committee to reject a one-size-fits-all solution and preserve each school board's ability to address the individual character and needs of its local workforce and community and to make local comprehensive educational policy decisions. No action was taken on the bill.

If your plan is for a year, plant rice. If your plan is for a decade, plant trees. If your plan is for a lifetime, educate children.
— Confucius

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