



Gov. Kitzhaber meets with OSBA officers

On Friday, April 29, a delegation of OSBA officers and senior staff had the opportunity to meet with Governor Kitzhaber and exchange priorities and ideas about K-12 education and funding in Oregon. OSBA President **David Beeson**, President-Elect **Kris Howatt**, Secretary/Treasurer **Lori Theros**, and Past-President **Beth Gerot** told the governor and his staff that school board members are ready to engage in the conversation about the future of public education in Oregon and can serve as a valuable resource in shaping good public policy.

The discussion was wide ranging as OSBA officers shared their focus on improving student achievement by using quality research and data, incorporating equity in overcoming barriers that contribute to the achievement gap, supporting professional development programs to improve teacher quality and offering online education to ensure a rich curriculum for all

students. Officers also urged the governor to increase the current \$5.7 billion allocation for K-12 by accessing \$100 million out of the Education Stability Fund and asked him to include school board members on the “design teams” that will be considering changes to Oregon’s education system.

Governor Kitzhaber emphasized his desire to find more money for K-12 and expressed optimism that the May revenue forecast will bring better budget news. He reiterated his desire to bring long-term stability to school funding with the creation of the Education Investment Board to focus on the entire education continuum.

OSBA Executive Director Kevin McCann summed up the meeting, “We are excited the governor has made improving education a top priority for his administration. School board members are ready to assist the governor in his efforts and move toward long-term reinvestment in K-12 funding.”

School board members testify at budget hearings in Medford, Bend and Pendleton

The Ways and Means Committee of the Oregon Legislature continued its series of public hearings on the state budget last Friday night in Medford, and holds another hearing tonight in Bend. Tonight’s hearing will also include videoconference sites in Pendleton and La Grande.

OSBA board member **Samuel Lee III** (Winston-Dillard School Board) testified in Medford on behalf of his district and school board members across Oregon. After expressing his appreciation to the Committee and Legislature for increasing the K-12 budget allocation from Governor Kitzhaber’s original proposal, he reminded legislators that school districts across Oregon will still be closing schools, cutting days from the calendar, laying off teachers and staff, and eliminating academic programs and extracurricular activities.

Under the \$5.7 billion K-12 budget passed by the Legislature and signed by the Governor, approximately \$192 million dollars is left in the Education Stability Fund during the 2011-13 biennium. Lee urged the Committee to access another \$100 million from the fund and noted that these funds are the equivalent of funding for one

week of school statewide and would result in fewer lost school days, fewer program cuts, and fewer staff layoffs in districts across the state.

Tonight, OSBA board member **Dave Krumbein** (Pendleton School Board) and OSBA Legislative Policy Committee members **Tom Wilson** (Bend-La Pine School Board) and **Barney Lindsay** (Morrow School Board Chair) will testify on the budget.

Public records law overhaul under consideration

Attorney General John Kroger has proposed [Senate Bill 41](#), an overhaul of how public records requests are handled by school districts and other government bodies. After receiving a hearing in the Senate General Government, Consumer, and Small Business Protection Committee, the bill was amended and sent back to the Senate President’s office to be referred to another committee for further work (likely Senate Rules or Full Ways and Means).

The latest amendments to the bill include the following key provisions:

- Current public records law requires requests for records to be filled “as soon as practicable and without unreasonable delay.” The bill would replace this standard

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Action Alert!

OSBA members are urged to **contact legislators to ask their support of [House Bill 3641](#)** which invests another \$100 million from the unused \$192 million in the state Education Stability Fund, helping school districts avoid cutting additional school days, programs and staff. Please contact Tricia Yates, OSBA associate executive director, at tyates@osba.org, with questions.

Including tonight, there are two more opportunities to attend Ways and Means hearings and tell your legislators about the budget’s impact on your schools.

FRIDAY, APRIL 29 from 4-6 p.m.

Bend: The OSU-Cascades Campus, Cascades Hall, 2600 NW College Way

Pendleton: (via video link) Blue Mountain Community College

Room ST200, 2411 NW Carden Avenue (*Note room change.*)

La Grande: (via video link) Eastern Oregon University, Inlow #013, 1 University Blvd.

FRIDAY, MAY 6 from 4-6 p.m.

Newport: The Hatfield Marine Science Center, Hennings Auditorium, 2030 SE Marine Science Drive

Coos Bay: (via video link) Southwestern Oregon Community College Eden Hall, 1988 Newmark Avenue

If you are interested in attending one of these hearings and would like additional information, please contact Tricia Yates, OSBA associate executive director, at tyates@osba.org.

Legislative Highlights



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Legislative Webinar

May 18, 8:30 a.m.

Join OSBA's Legislative and Public Affairs team for a live legislative update. Hear first hand about issues at the Capitol that will affect schools.

To participate, [sign up now](#) at the OSBA website, www.osba.org – look under events. The webinar is FREE but you must register to participate.

Public contracting bills up next week

Next week in the House Rules Committee, House Bills 2062 and 3488, both relating to public contracting, will be heard.

[House Bill 2062](#) is considered a “technical fix” bill that would **clarify** pieces of previous public contracting legislation, 2009 House Bill 2867. The bill clarifies the process for performing a cost analysis or making a feasibility determination before services estimated to exceed \$250,000 are procured. The bill would allow a contracting agency to make a feasibility determination **after** entering into a contract in an *emergency*; and require a contracting agency to include potential contractor profit in the cost analysis.

[House Bill 3488](#) raises the threshold for requiring a cost analysis for procurement from \$250,000 to \$2 million. The bill requires a contracting agency to include overhead costs in estimation of costs the contracting agency would incur in

Public records – *Continued*

- with an initial 10-day response time to acknowledge and fill the records request.
- School districts and ESDs could exceed the initial 10-day deadline if necessary by 5, 15, 25, or 30 business days based on the complexity of the request. If a district is unable to fill the request within the allowable extension time, a request can be made to the local district attorney for additional time.
 - School districts and ESDs with fewer than 6000 students and/or fewer than 100 FTE would be allowed to double the extensions of 5-30 days automatically.
 - Current public records law allows school

districts and ESDs to charge for staff time, copies, et. al. associated with fulfilling the request. The bill would place a limit on charging for staff time to an amount no greater than four times Oregon's minimum wage. There are some exceptions for administrative or specialized staff (IT managers, for example) that allow actual staff costs to be charged.

- Any request made by an individual or entity that owes more than \$25 dollars in unpaid public records request fees does not need to be filled until the debt is settled.

OSBA testified in opposition to the original bill, which had much shorter timelines to fill requests, because of concern about prioritizing staff resources for records requests over other work and no acknowledgement of the resource differences between small and large districts. Staff has the opportunity to continue to provide feedback on the bill to the attorney general and his staff in the coming days. Please contact OSBA Legislative and Public Affairs Specialist Morgan Allen (mallen@osba.org) if you have any questions or would like to provide feedback on this proposal.

performing services subject to procurement. The bill removes a prohibition on proceeding with procurement if a contractor's costs are lower solely because the contractor pays employees less. HB 3488 also removes the requirement for a state contracting agency to prepare a request for an appropriation to obtain the resources necessary to perform a service that the state contracting agency determines would cost less for the state contracting agency to perform but for which the state contracting agency lacks the necessary personnel and resources.

The House Rules Committee hearing on House Bills 2062 and 3488 will occur on Wednesday, May 4 at 3:00 p.m. in Hearing Room 50, State Capitol. If you would like more information on these bills, please contact Lori Sattenspiel, Legislative and Public Affairs specialist (lsattenspiel@osba.org).

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