



Legislative Webinar

Wednesday, May 18, 8:30-9:30 a.m.

Register NOW for May 18 OSBA Legislative Webinar

Rep. Greg Smith joins OSBA legislative update

On Wednesday, May 18, 8:30-9:30 a.m., OSBA's Legislative and Public Affairs team hosts its second webinar to update you on the legislative session. Hear first hand about key issues at the Capitol that will affect schools. Submit your questions during the webinar and get the answers you need.

Joint Ways and Means Committee member Representative Greg Smith (R-Heppner) will provide a briefing on the state revenue forecast, 2011-13 state bud-

get for education and potential additional reserve fund investment in K-12 ([House Bill 3641](#)). The state revenue forecast is expected to be released on May 12. Smith has a track record as a supporter of education investment.

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. Log-in information and a link to test your system will be emailed to you.

OSBA members testify at Ways and Means hearings in Bend and Pendleton

Jim Middleton, President of Central Oregon Community College, led off the Ways and Means state budget hearing in Bend on April 29. The hearings format included two satellite facilities to accommodate citizens in Pendleton and La Grande wishing to testify on their state budget concerns.

Dave Krumbein, OSBA board member (Pendleton SD), asked the Ways and Means Committee to dip further into the state Education Stability Fund to help limit further reductions in calendar days and additional teacher layoffs. Krumbein also asked the committee to be aware that districts cannot continue to be mandated to do things for which they receive no additional funding, including full-day kindergarten.

Barney Lindsey, OSBA Legislative Policy Committee member and Morrow school board chair, urged further state investment: "In Morrow County we are very proud of the wheat, cattle and kids we raise, our kids being our greatest pride and joy. At this time I would like to ask this committee to consider additional appropriation of funds from the education stability fund. School districts have needs now! The time to utilize this fund is now!"

Peggy Kincaid, Bend-LaPine school board chair, talked of the disinvestment in

Tonight is the last opportunity to attend Ways and Means hearings and tell your legislators about the budget's impact on your schools.

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

K-12 education and stressed the harm done in devaluing teachers.

A principal in the John Day School District gave heart-felt testimony about the impacts the financial climate has had on the school and the community. Another principal, from Hines in Harney County, said, "I get kind of emotional. I have some really dynamic, young teachers, and they are going to lose their jobs. They will lose their homes and there's no opportunity in our community for other employment."

Community college board members, community members and administrators testified about the need to increase money

Continued

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 to avoid cutting additional school days, programs and staff. Please contact Tricia Yates, OSBA associate executive director, at tyates@osba.org, with questions.

Senate Judiciary considers ban on all guns in schools

This week the Senate Judiciary Committee completed two days of public testimony on a wide range of legislation related to firearms, handguns and concealed handgun licenses (CHLs). The committee invited members of the public and Oregon's K-12 education community to weigh in on the issue of prohibiting CHL holders from carrying concealed weapons in schools.

Organizations like CeaseFire Oregon, the Oregon Education Association, the Oregon School Employees Association, State Senator Ginny Burdick (D-Portland), and Superintendent of Public Instruction Susan Castillo testified in favor of an outright ban on all firearms in schools, including firearms carried by CHL holders. Organizations like the Oregon Firearms Federation and the National Rifle Association testified in opposition to any changes to current law that would prohibit CHL holders from carrying their firearms into a school building.

OSBA Associate Executive Director Joe Wehrli testified before the committee, provided copies of OSBA sample policy documents, and asked the committee to consider several things when deliberating the issue of guns in schools, including:

- OSBA supports the right of each local school board to decide when and how guns are brought onto school grounds. OSBA supports local control for each board to decide what is best for the safety and security of their students.
- OSBA supports legislation that would uphold the 2009 Oregon appellate

Continued

Public contracting bill gets another hearing

A bill to amend the public contracting process was heard in the House Rules Committee this week.

House Bill 3488 raises the threshold for requiring a cost analysis for procurement from \$250,000 to \$2 million. The bill also requires the contracting agency to **include overhead costs** in estimating the costs a contracting agency would incur in performing the service being procured. The bill removes the prohibition on proceeding with the procurement if a contractor's costs are

Mandate relief hearing May 9

Two bills from OSBA's Mandate Relief Project are scheduled for public hearing before the House Rules Committee on Monday, May 9, at 3 p.m., in Hearing Room E.

SB 800 eliminates or revises 28 outdated or redundant state laws. **SB 560** reduces the paperwork burden on district continuous improvement plans, requiring districts to only submit significant changes to their plans.

The third product of the Mandate Relief Project, **House Bill 3370**, died in the House Education Committee due to internal deadlines but may be considered in the interim. HB 3370 would have required the Legislative Fiscal Office to prepare fiscal impact statements for a bill if it imposes a new duty or increased level of service on a school district or ESD,

The Mandate Relief Project brought together education leaders including OSBA, COSA, OEA, OSEA, AFT-Oregon, OAESD and the Oregon Department of Education.

lower solely because the contractor pays employees less. Rep. Mark Johnson, (R-Hood River), Rep. Jason Conger (R-Bend), and Rep Gene Whisnant (R-Sunriver), testified in support of the bill.

Lori Sattenspiel, OSBA legislative and public affairs specialist, also testified in support, joined by Russ Allen, business manager at the Greater Albany SD; Nick Hogan, business manager at Hood River County SD; and John Rexford, assistant superintendent, Bend-LaPine SD.

Rexford said, "House Bill 3488 is a way to add to our budgetary 'tool kit' as we work on fixing our current and future budget challenges. Adding tools and removing barriers does not mean we will be rushing out to change how we do business."

Allen cited the budgetary challenges school districts face, and noted, "Any operation required to downsize ought to first look outside their core mission for potential cost savings. In education, this usually means looking for reductions outside of the classroom. This includes looking at whether or not there are other organizations that can provide certain support services at a reduced cost."

Hogan testified that currently the Hood River County SD doesn't contract out for any services, but the district has been contacted by a provider for landscape maintenance services. The district would like to consider this but feels the current law would not allow them this option. Hogan asked for barriers to be removed so all options are available in these tough economic times.

The bill is awaiting further action in the House Rules Committee.

Gun ban – Continued

court's decision in the Medford gun case. OSBA believes each school district has the right to require employees to leave their weapons at home even if they have a valid CHL.

The committee took no action and did not bring forward any formal proposals or amendments during the hearings. OSBA Legislative and Public Affairs Specialist Morgan Allen (mallen@osba.org) will continue to monitor this intense debate.

Ways & Means hearing – Continued

for the community college support fund to \$425 million. As evidence of the need for additional resources, they cited the continuing large enrollment figures, wait-lists for students to enroll in classes and the need for workforce training and retraining for dislocated workers. Central Oregon Community College has experienced swelling enrollment, as has Blue Mountain Community College (BMCC). Art Hill, BMCC vice president for Economic Development, noted that the college had a 25 percent enrollment increase, but an 18 percent decrease in state revenue, which has necessitated a substantial tuition increase.

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