

Dear Central Linn Community,

The CL School Board is keeping busy through these winter months, as is the CL Staff and, of course, our hardworking students for whom we all find ourselves asking, "Is this the best for our students?"

We celebrate the good things: Cheerleaders winning State this year, the Lady Cobra's Basketball team with an outstanding season, the CL Wrestlers placing second in State, the continued alignment and training of elementary staff using the math curriculum, Bridges. (We are privileged to have Ms. Carroll as an expert teaching in our District, and helping our staff become more skilled in this school-wide endeavor.) We celebrate Carole Boaz's years of service as she prepares for retirement. She has given so much of herself to our children, often her car is the lone vehicle in the evenings and weekends at the elementary school. We know that all our teachers are working hard to prepare students for the Smarter Balance Tests, which will begin early spring.

We celebrate our continued partnership with the Calapooyia Watershed and the Outdoor School Grant of over \$19,000. We are also grateful to be the recipients of a grant to implement social-emotional curriculum into our grade school classrooms. Teachers will have access to Second Step and Sanford Harmony in their classrooms to work on communication and appropriate interaction skills. Also, the elementary has received a \$1,000 Selco Grant to purchase a Bullying Prevention program. Teachers will have access to these materials to use for targeted groups.

We celebrate another clean financial audit of the Central Linn School District Budget, nine (9) years in a row!

We celebrate the work the maintenance team is doing and how they are using School Dude, a maintenance app system, to more efficiently complete work orders. The Team has completed 320 work orders to-date with 56 orders remaining on the books. We are also pleased that the maintenance team is discussing their role in school attendance by increasing the sanitizing of our buildings to help fight student illness. All staff play a crucial role in the educational success of our community.

First drafts for the 2018-2019 school calendar are being proposed, revised, and evaluated.

Budget meetings have been set. The first budget committee meeting will be May 7, 6:30 PM, at the high school. Approving the school budget is crucial, while not always drawing large crowds, it is the gas that keeps our school district running.

The School Board is also working toward writing new District goals around the themes of Students, Staff, Community, Board and Facilities. There is discussion on holding regularly scheduled work sessions, that would allow time for more focused discussions. Sometimes only meeting once a month can be limiting. The Board is recognizing that some community members are using the School Board group email. On average, we are receiving one to two messages a month. We would love to hear from more of you. What is great about the group email is that we all receive the same message versus an email going to one or two of us with your thoughts, and then trying to relay that to other Board members. It is much better for clarity of communication. While we may not personally respond to your emails, we are taking in all the information as we proceed in our volunteer role as school board members. Your messages are read and noted.

Currently, we are accepting bids for Flat Roof Life Extension and Overlay Roof Life Extension projects. Extending the life of the existing roofs is a top priority on both buildings. This is not a decision we take lightly. If we decide to extend the life of the roofs out of the current District budget we will be taking out a loan, and that loan repayment will mean fewer dollars going into classrooms and personnel for the next ten (10) years. Our initial estimate on the flat roof at the high school and the flat portions of the elementary would mean \$188,800 would be spent each year to repay this loan. We are still waiting on solid bids for the top roof portion of the elementary school building.

We have a tight working budget and 85% of our budget goes to personnel. That is the nature of school budgets, a truth present in all school districts. Our School Board has chosen this solution in the past when a loan was taken to fix the heating in the elementary school and to purchase much needed buses. (The heating system loan was for \$750,000 and there is a remaining balance of \$596,289 yet to pay. The Bluebird bus loan for six (6) buses was \$120,000 with a remaining balance of \$96,639; the loan for the propane bus loan was \$104,652 with a remaining balance of \$49,104.) Again, there are less dollars going into the academics for our students but is necessary to continue functioning as a school district.

We are thankful to Larry Northern Jr. and Randy and Carolyn Raschein who volunteered time and money to install new Cobra Dome lighting and to the First Baptist Church for their donation of elementary gym equipment.

A list is being generated and prioritized for what school facility improvements must be completed to keep our children safe and dry.

Respectively submitted,
Director Rebekah Schneiter
Communications Officer

2/26/18