“The MORNING AFTER”

Here is what you missed from the March 3rd, 2009 Santiam Canyon School Board Meeting. The ninth meeting of the 2008-2009 school year began in Mill City at 6:30 PM; Board Chair; Dan Lemke opened the regular Board meeting with the flag salute. Also present were Board members; Paul Eide, Randy Moberg, Arnie White and Michelle Sims, Superintendent; Brad Yates, Business Manager; Steve Nielsen, administrators, students, staff and patrons.

For monthly RECOGNITIONS, the District RECOGNIZED, Heidi Luckey. Heidi goes above and beyond on all the activities at the high school, always goes out of her way to be helpful and does an awesome job. Heidi is dependable, conscientious and loves to help. Heidi records every event at the high school and makes sure every group gets recognition in the yearbook and newspaper. Thanks Heidi for all you do!

Mill City Middle School RECOGNIZED the efforts of Charla Howard. Along with her numerous responsibilities, Charla has made it her mission to improve the reading skills of students in the special education program. She has worked incredibly hard in collaborating with teachers to identify and assist in the reading needs of these students. Charla is never afraid to take on a challenge and her dedication to the students is exceptional. Thank you Charla for your professionalism and enthusiasm; we are fortunate to have you at the middle school and the students are much better for it.

Gates Elementary RECOGNIZED Stacey Nordmo, Carla Ohrt, Noreen Bassett, Susan Bright, and Shannon Stearns for their work in creating a Christmas store for students to purchase gifts for their parents. Your efforts allowed for the children to have a happy holiday that otherwise may not have happened. We appreciate your dedication to the students of Gates Elementary. Thanks you Ladies!

For COMMUNICATIONS this month, ASB Representative, Kerissa Warriner presented news from the high school. She began with State Girls basketball at Pendleton March 4-7, Wolverettes at Dallas March 7, March 10th Winter sports awards 5th period, March 12th academic awards night in the auditorium at 6:30pm, March 14th Spring dance in the gym at 8-11, March 16th -21 Missoula Children's theatre after school in the auditorium (Cost 25.00 per child or 50.00 for 2 or more from the same family) March 18th Town Performance for Wolverettes, March 19-21 Wolverettes State competition at Portland University, March 23-27 Spring break and April 3rd blood drive. The Board approved the request from the FFA Class to attend the State Convention in LaGrande in late March.

The month’s INFORMATION AND REPORTS started with the Second Readings of Policy: IKE-AR – Retention for Students K – 8th Grade: This revised administrative rule provides procedures and forms for staff and parents when a student has been recommended for retention. The Board approved this policy. The Budget Calendar for 09-10 Budget Meetings was presented by Steve Nielsen and approved by the Board. The Board Accepted Resignations / Retirements. The Board announced the acceptance of the resignation of Vic Lease, as football coach and Athletic Director and the retirement of Myra Mumey, after 31 years in the District, as a classroom aid and school secretary. The Board adopted the Revised 2008-2009 School Calendar, which reflect the five (5) “Cut-Days” recently identified. Letters and the revised calendar have been sent home with Students. With the grim forecasts and projections for reduced
funding from state funding sources over the next biennium, the District continues to explore cost saving measures. The Board spent time discussing budget shortfalls for the next biennium and one of these measures being looked at is the “Four-Day” School Year for 2009/2010. This schedule is already used by more than forty-four (44) school Districts across the state, mostly small rural schools like Santiam, with several other Districts looking to make the change for next year. The schedule still provides students with the required number of instructional hours through a constant four days of school per-week. There is no school on most Fridays, and extends the day by thirty to forty minutes. All staff inservice and grading days will occur on Fridays. If there is a Monday holiday, school will run Tuesday through Friday. Projected savings will be realized from student transportation, utilities and reduced days for staff. We are looking into grants available to offer free lunches for students on days that there is no school, similar to the summer lunch program. Research on a “Four-Day” school week shows: BENEFITS: Dropout Rates Decline # Discipline Referrals Drop # Student Achievement is Not Affected # Student and Staff Attendance Improves # Less Interruptions / Longer Class Periods # Less Class Time Missed Due to Friday Sports / Activities # Increased School Morale / Positive Attitudes # High School Students Can Better Manage Part-time Employment # Savings on Utility Bills, Transportation, Substitute Pay, Building Wear and Tear. CONCERNS: Childcare # Primary Aged Students # At Risk Students / Retention. A copy of the “Four-Day” calendar is included in the March Morning After. The Board approved the Extension of Certified and Confidential Contracts. After discussion with administration and evaluations, the Board will be finalizing Administrative recommendations for certified staff and my recommendations for extending contracts to confidential staff. They also reviewed the superintendent’s evaluation and moved to extend his contract.

This month’s ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS started with Gates principal, Jack Thompson, who was absent and his report read: Santiam Canyon Together in conjunction with Linn County Drug and Alcohol Prevention are sponsoring a 4th grade family night on March 4th, 6-7:30 PM. The activity will be Are you Smarter Than a 4th Grader. Food and fun will be provided. K-12 Special Education students are taking a Field trip on Thursday, March 12th to Garten Recycling Center and Salem Riverfront Carousel. On February 27th the 6th grade students from MCMS came to Gates Elementary to read to the Kindergarten students. Nellie Edge is scheduled to come to Gates Elementary on March fourth. Nellie is a renowned children’s author. Gates Elementary is celebrating Read Across America day (March 13th) with pajama day, green eggs and ham, and a book walk in the afternoon. February thirteenth Gates students celebrated Oregon’s 150th Birthday by wearing shirts from any place in Oregon. All the places were located on the map in the main hall with the child’s name attached. We celebrated the 100th day of school with many projects and math activities involving the number 100. This is always a milestone in the year. Gates will be having our Magazine Drive again this year. March 9-30 students will be around to help you renew your magazine subscriptions or to purchase new magazines. 40% of all proceeds go to Gates and are used for school assemblies, purchasing of school shirts, nature trail projects and many other activities around school. Thank you in advance for supporting our school.
Grandparent’s day for 1st grade students is coming up March 20th. If you are the grandparent of a 1st grade student clear your calendar and come have fun with your grandchild.

Next to report was middle school principal, Jim Beck. He started by announcing that the next Tiger assembly is March 10 at 1:30. In addition to our regular awards, we will be awarding certificates for the wrestling and boys/girls basketball teams. They will begin the second round of state testing next week. This round will include science for fifth and eighth grade students. This month will be having our annual IditaRead home reading contest and middle school track and softball/baseball will be starting after spring break which is the week of March 23rd.

Last to report was high school principal, Dave Plotts. His report began talking about the Girl’s basketball team headed to the state tournament in Pendleton. They will leave tomorrow at 9am. We will be having a school send off at that time. The first game for them is Thursday at 1:30pm against Portland Christian. Though the school would like to, we are not sending a rooter bus this because we are trying to be sensitive to the current budget situation. Spring sports are underway and so far there is a great turnout for baseball, softball and track. Coaches have been working hard in trying to get as many students to get involved in something this spring. The Wolverettes state competition is only a little over two weeks away. It will be Friday and Saturday (March 20th and 21st) at the Chiles Center on the University of Portland campus. Last week at Sprague the girls took first place. Winter sports awards will be Tuesday, March 10th during 5th period. Thursday, March 12th at 6:30pm in the auditorium will be the 1st semester awards night.

Spring Parent-Teacher Conferences will be Monday, March 16th and Wednesday, March 18th in the commons. Notices will be sent out next week to parents. Monday, March 9th the entire school will be doing its annual Oregon Healthy Teen survey. The high school will begin doing forecasting for next year’s classes the week of March 9th. Schedules need to be inputted to the ESD the following week. Notices have been sent to those seniors in danger of not graduating. These students also have been talked to by Ms. Dunn and Mr. Plotts. Interviews for the Quinn scholarship will be Thursday, the week after Spring break.

The SUPERINTENDENT’S REPORT from superintendent Yates, started with and up date on the Wellness Grant. The District was asked by OEA Choice to submit a grant for the development of a staff wellness program, which was submitted in February. We were one of five Districts who were asked to then present our proposal to the OEA Choice committee on February 25th and should know if we have been accepted sometime in March if our proposal was accepted. This years OYCC Summer grant has been turned in along with next years school year grant. The summer grant, if successful will fund our summer youth work program, which will employ students for a work crew. Part of the new federal stimulus package has additional funds for summer youth employment. We are hoping to access these fund/grants to employ more students over the summer. The Board was presented a copy of the Oregon Small Schools Report. This report was conducted by the state of Oregon to further understand the plight of small schools in Oregon. The report serves to support the maintenance of funding, more than just by student numbers, to maintain adequate funding for small rural schools.
There were no **Patron Comments**.

As in the past, if you are not on our mailing list and would like the Morning After mailed to you at your home or business; please contact Nicole at the District office at (503-897-2321). We just finish the month with some nice weather and the spring sports seasons begin, bringing on the rain and snow. Congratulations to the Girls Basketball team for making the state tournament, we wish them the best!

Sincerely,

John B. Yates  
Superintendent