

Bend-La Pine Schools form Boundary Advisory Committee

by *Bend_Weekly_News_Sources*

Public Input Welcome As 32 Community And School Representative Will Help Community Draw New School Attendance Areas

Bend-La Pine Schools announced on Wednesday the 2007-08 Bend-La Pine Schools Boundary Advisory committee, a group that will review current Bend-La Pine Schools school attendance area boundaries and consider community input as they develop new attendance area recommendations for the 24 current schools and three new elementary schools slated to open in the next two years. "We look forward to hearing from the committee, and the community, to better understand their needs and interests in this process," said Deputy Superintendent Ron Wilkinson. Wilkinson will serve as an advisor to the committee. The committee will schedule nine opportunities to gather and share community input and progress with the community. The first of these community forums will take place on November 29 at 4 p.m. at High Lakes Elementary School and 6 p.m. at Lava Ridge Elementary School and again on December 4 at 5 p.m. at La Pine Middle School.

Community members, parents and students will be asked to share comments and suggestions with committee members and provide input on future school boundaries. "Our goal will be to balance the enrollment at our schools so that we can most effectively meet the needs of our students," Wilkinson said. "At the same time, we want to ensure that we are taking into account the interests and needs of those who will be affected by any attendance area changes." The committee will meet regularly through February 2008 and have an attendance area recommendation for the 27 Bend-La Pine Schools to the superintendent by March 1, 2008. Three new elementary schools, two in Bend and one in La Pine, are being built thanks to the 2006 voter approved \$119 million school bond. Once complete, the new schools will provide classroom space for an additional 1,500 students.

The 32-member committee includes: Wells Ashby, Erin Austin, Melissa Beaver, Stephanie Bennett, Josh Boehme, Donald Bolduc, Diana Bourdo, Linda Burley, Skip Butler, Scott Crisp, Daryn Cullen, Carolyn Ervin, Tara Farstvedt, Tina Ficher, Brooke Frandsen, Carol Hammett, Ben Hansen, Susan Heberlein, Andy High, Kelle Hildebrandt, Steve Hill (ex-officio), Allison Highberger, Teresa Hjeresen (ex-officio), Barbry Hogue, Lisa Johnston, Mike Kever, Amy Lundstrom, Denise MacNeil, Sue McAdam, Tina McGeary, Brian Uballez, Dan Wolnick and Tod Young.

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