

COMMUNITY LISTENING SESSION SUMMARY

FEBRUARY 26, 2026

5:30 P.M.

A Community Listening Session was held on February 26, 2026 in the BHS Cafeteria at 5:30 p.m. The subject of the session was to listen to questions, concerns or ideas for the upcoming 2026-27 school year.

Superintendent Shauna Schmerer opened the session by welcoming everyone in attendance. She introduced Business Manager Amanda Steimonts who addressed the upcoming budget season. She explained that the budget is in the early stages of development with meetings scheduled in March with building and department heads, to be followed up with looking at staff survey results to determine budget priorities. The first Budget Committee meeting is scheduled for May 13, 2026 at 5:30 p.m. in the BHS Library and is open to the public. This meeting will include a full review of the budget proposal. Amanda also shared that a public survey had received 80 responses so far. Some community members in attendance mentioned that they had not seen the survey, which had been shared on the District Facebook page. It was requested that it be sent out via ParentVue rather than shared on social media. It was asked if the survey results from the staff and the public surveys could be shared. Amanda said that the public survey could be shared, as well as the staff survey results with redactions for privacy.

Superintendent Schmerer addressed the staffing changes that are known at this time. Ocean Crest Principal Courtney Wehner has requested to return to teaching. As the BEA indicated a desire to see a cut at the administrative level, the district is looking at ways to absorb this change with input from staff. The options currently being considered included Shauna Schmerer as Superintendent and Ocean Crest Principal; Becky Armistead to be principal of grades K-5 and Sam Dockery as principal of grades 6-12; or Shauna Schmerer as Superintendent and HLMS principal. It was asked if the 5th grade would move to Ocean Crest. There is no room at Ocean Crest so 5th grade would stay on the HLMS campus. Becky Armistead said that if she were to move to K-5, it would be both a win and a loss for her. Sam Dockery shared that he has experience with larger campuses and is familiar with shared leadership among multiple buildings. It was asked if Jim Wright was going to stay in his role. It was confirmed that he would continue in his role, with Mariah McMonagle and Julie Boak continuing their roles as Behavior Specialists at HLMS and Ocean Crest. It was clarified that Mariah's and Julie's positions are funded with grant money.

A parent asked about the low attendance numbers and what kind of outreach is being done to get students who live in the district to enroll instead of choosing other options. Superintendent Schmerer replied that the reasons for parents choosing to not enroll their students in the district are varied, and that the district actually has more Interdistrict transfers into the district than out. Ideas from community members that were offered to increase enrollment were to offer a CTE/vocational programming like Coquille, or a homeschool option like is being offered by Port Orford School District.

Shauna shared that there has been talks with other superintendents in the area to come up with creative alternative education options, and that the district does have space to offer some alternatives.

The question of how students will be impacted by the change in administration at the schools. It was stated that there is already an established practice of students moving between the middle school and high school with electives and math classes. It was asked about the potential for other staff movements. Superintendent Schmerer said that nothing could be shared yet as decisions have not yet been made. The district will be looking at what endorsements teachers have to maximize efficiency in the district, as well absorbing positions where possible.

When asked about what other operational cuts were being made Superintendent Schmerer said the district is making a 10% cut across the board. Business Manager Amanda Steimonts added that some building line items are already at the minimum so have to find other ways to make cuts. It was asked how the district justifies the salary of the Director of Operations and Bond Projects with the bond being almost done. It was explained that there are still bond projects to complete, but once those are complete that title will become Project Manager to manage the capital improvement projects that are planned with Construction Excise Tax revenue the district has begun receiving. It was asked if the district was going to publish a list of planned projects from the CET revenue. Business Manager Amanda Steimonts shared that last year ODE came and did a 10 Year Facility Assessment, which could be shared. That assessment was used in collaboration with Amanda, Brent Robertson and ODE to compile a list of projects to use the CET funds for. The district will work on getting that list published on the website. It was asked if there was an update on the ongoing issues with the new HLMS gym floor. Becky Armistead shared that Brent Robertson has been in contact with the company that installed the flooring and it appears to be an issue with their installation. The floor will be replaced, most likely over the summer. Superintendent Schmerer also shared that the high school gym floor is near the end of its life and that it may be considered when the district starts looking at a new bond.

In closing Superintendent Schmerer asked if this listening session was helpful. It was suggested that a Zoom link for the meeting would be helpful for those not able to attend. There was a question about math not being available to all students and that some were not getting a math class. Becky Armistead explained that some students had skipped a math class and placed in a higher math class based on achievement data, and that there were no students not enrolled in math class. Last question that was asked was if staffing changes will be shared in future listening sessions. Superintendent Schmerer responded with a yes.

The meeting ended at 6:32 p.m.