

March 3, 2022



Things are looking up!

Dear Butte Falls Charter School Parents and Community Members,

We closed out February with a well-attended School Board Listening Session at our elementary campus on February 28. Approximately 50 individuals attended this 75-minute meeting and shared concerns about the impact of the state school restrictions on students and families. Another 50 or so watched via YouTube Live. Even as the state begins to relax COVID-19 restrictions, the participants expressed hope about the opportunity for our school and community to rebound. Ideas were shared on how the school can work with parents to make the school a more welcoming place for families and reduce dysregulated behaviors that have emerged in students as they have returned to school. Several parents requested a review of the elementary discipline policy to better support students feeling emotionally safe at school.

It was an evening of listening for the board as parents shared their hopes for their children and for the future of the school. Board Chair Katie Misfeldt thanked all the participants and Board members Aaron Worman and Mark Carlton expressed a desire for everyone to work together to make the school better.



Butte Falls Charter School parents and District patrons speak to the School Board about concerns and hopes for the District as state mandates relax. These past two years have been difficult for families, children and communities. 2/28 2020

State COVID-19 requirements are relaxing as Omicron variant subsides. In a dramatic turn of events the state of Oregon has changed the requirement for facemasks in schools to a recommendation. **For our District that means that, effective Saturday, March 12, facemasks are optional, based on personal preference, but not required.** For safety reasons we will still require employees who work in our school kitchen to wear facemasks for the remainder of this school year. There are some other changes in state requirements and recommendations, but they appear to be less constrictive than what we are currently doing.

Public Comment is welcome at School Board meetings. Per Oregon laws, meetings of the School Board are open to the public. This means that the public may observe these meetings. The School

Board reserves time at each meeting for public comment. For the past two years, the meetings have been streamed live via YouTube to allow the public to observe the meetings. When someone wishes to make a public comment to the board during the meeting, we have provided them access via Zoom. Now that COVID-19 infection and hospitalization rates are dropping, we will work to provide access in person. You may also provide feedback to the District and to the School Board by sending written comments to Feedback@buttefalls.k12.or.us.

Winter weather. Aside from the big dump of snow in December, the warmer temperatures have allowed our students to be outside quite a bit these past two months. It still is wintry cold in the morning so make sure your student has enough layers of clothing when they go out the door. By having school on Friday, February 23, we were able to make up our second of two snow days we had in December. We made up the previous one on Friday, January 21.

Radon Testing Complete: The results are in (and good)! Radon is a naturally-occurring radioactive gas that can cause lung cancer. Radon gas is inert, colorless and odorless. Radon is naturally in the atmosphere in trace amounts. Outdoors, radon disperses rapidly and, generally, is not a health issue. Most radon exposure occurs inside homes, schools and workplaces. Radon gas becomes trapped indoors after it enters buildings through cracks and other holes in the foundation. Indoor radon can be controlled and managed with proven, cost-effective techniques.



A lonely sentinel welcomes K-7 students to the cafeteria.

With the help of a State Technical Assistance Program (TAP) grant, we were able to contact with Environmental Inspection Services and complete a District-wide assessment of all of our facilities this past December. We had two areas that tested slightly over the recommended threshold. When we retested they were at acceptable levels. You can see the results for every classroom and office area at our website (www.buttefalls.k12.or.us) Click on **ABOUT US**, Click on **Healthy and Safe Schools**, Click on **Radon Gas**. We were reimbursed through the grant for the \$10,000+ this testing cost. The State of Oregon is funding this assessment to develop a state-wide assessment of radon gas.

The District was also able to complete a District-wide Seismic Assessment of all facilities in the District. That assessment was conducted by ZCS Engineering and Architecture, Inc. The \$25,000 cost was funded by a second TAP grant from the State of Oregon.



Junior Loggers (Grades 2-4) rush for the rebound. 02/05/2022

We've got Game! February brought a lot of basketball. Thank you, parents and families, for supporting our players as they worked hard and played tough. Thank you, Coaches (Kyndi Sutfin-Perry, Billie Jean Myers, Roni Burg, and Dennis Burg). It was fun to have kid activity in our gyms!



Middle School Loggers ready to leap! 02/03/2022

Buddy Reading. Throughout this year we have enjoyed a wonderful partnership matching our fourth grade students with kindergartners and our fifth grade students with first graders. The older students read books with and to the younger students in small groups of 2-3 students.

This has been a substitute for the SMART (Start Making A Reader Today) program we have had for years under the coordination of volunteer Kathy Harrington. SMART Reading of the Rogue Valley Area will continue its practice of providing new books to our Kindergarten and First Grade students this spring. We hope to restart the SMART Volunteer Readers program in our school this next Fall.

If you would like more information about SMART Reading,

visit <https://smartreading.org/about-smart/local-offices/rogue-valley-area/> Funding for SMART reading comes from contributors in Jackson and Josephine counties.



Buddy Reading in action! 02/03/2022

Important Dates ahead:

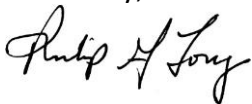
- **Butte Falls School Board Meeting** - Monday, March 14 at 6:00 p.m. View on YouTube or request a Zoom Link if you want to make a comment during the Public Comment portion of the meeting.
- **Spring Break** – Monday, March 21, through Thursday, March 24
- **End of Third Grading Period** – April 8
- **Parent/Teacher Conferences** – April 21-22

Questions? If you have questions, please use our district Feedback@buttefalls.k12.or.us account. I will be checking this periodically and will try to answer your questions or direct you to someone who can answer. You may also call the school office (541-865-3563) and leave your question with the office manager. We will research your question and give you a response.

We appreciate your support and feedback as we all work to provide quality teaching and learning on campus, all-day, every day for all of our students.

Thanks for working with us.

Sincerely,



Dr. Phil Long, Superintendent
JCSD#91 (Butte Falls)