Activity Report for Leslie Harris for the Feb. 1, 2022 meeting of Lane ESD Board

This report discusses the school board meetings I attended in January and the results of the audit committee meeting with our auditor.

School Board Meetings:

On Jan 19, 2022, I attended the McKenzie school district board meeting remotely. Superintendent Tony Scurto presented the local service plan, emphasizing changes required by state law and discussing how the Student Success Act is included in the plan. He noted that the ESD is trying to help the smaller districts gain access to federal funds for technology and is offering to provide the districts with services that will reduce the burden of state and federal reporting requirements. The chair of the McKenzie board expressed appreciation for the assistance with the reporting requirements. I believe that the board approved the plan later in the meeting.

Tony also complimented the district on their successful efforts in the aftermath of the fire and its efforts to offer CTE to students. He discussed the importance of coordinating CTE efforts throughout the county. Superintendent Lane Tompkins discussed continuing efforts to deal with the effects of the fire, including the district's historic role as resource for the community. Clearly the school is a center for the community, especially now for those who need help.

I also noted that this board, like our board is going through the biannual process of revising policies, models of which come from OASBA. The McKenzie board discussed whether and when they should deviate from the models. The majority of the board favored sticking closely to the models because there are deadlines for adopting policies and the district could need to have its attorney review deviations from the model to insure that changes don't violate the law.

On January 20, 2022, I participated remotely in the Crow/Applegate/Lorane board meeting. Because of technical difficulties, I could only hear, not watch the meeting. Carlos Sequiera reviewed the basics of the local service plan. The board had no questions or comments and approved the plan later in the meeting.

Audit Committee:

As Tony's board memo says, the auditor gave the district a very clean review and repeatedly complimented Tony, Dave and the rest of the staff for being cooperative and through during the review process. As in years past, the audit report said that the materials they received does not support a conclusion that the LESD board is being active enough in reviewing financial matters. We do need to address this, since board oversight is an important safeguard. Last year, the auditor provided the board with questions that we could ask Dave during his presentation about finances, and some on the board tried to ask them at succeeding meetings. However, it seemed to me that we all thought that was artificial and awkward. At this meeting Tony said that he thinks the board does ask appropriate questions, though this is not usually reflected in the minutes, which is what the auditor looks at to determine what role the board plays. Dave also

suggested that he could discuss particular areas, such as the capital fund, etc., in more detail, which would give the board a better idea of how decisions are being made.