

I attended two school board meetings with Tony last month. At the Siuslaw School Board meeting on February 10th I went in time to hear a Special Presentation from Chris Johnson, Siuslaw High School Athletic Director regarding the Oregon School Activities Association's latest guidelines for safe practices for school sports. He was very much hoping to start up the football program, so he was appealing to the Board to waive some of the drug testing required and also asking for the purchase of rapid Covid tests that are needed to meet State guidelines.

At the Bethel School Board on February 21st, meeting , I stayed for a presentation from Tina Gutierrez-Schmitt regarding the Lane Arts Council. They are providing a new program to invigorate distance learning through accessible , Hands-on projects for students. The literary and performing arts lessons are delivered live stream and also recorded. The mission is to keep kids mentally and physically healthy through these challenging times.

I also interviewed Grant Matthews, Associate Vice President for CTE at Lane Community College on February 23rd, regarding programs that interface with the local high schools. Because of the coronavirus, the planned Career Exploration program will be delayed until next summer. There is however an opportunity for students to take tuition free courses in general education and CTE for 6 credits. In April there are Career Days every Friday for high school students offered with Lane ESD and Connected Lane County. Although virtual, they are planning some hands on activities, such as welding with frosting. Grant also shared that they will be hiring a new director for High School Connections. That director will join our Lane ESD CTE Director Shareen Vogel on a Regional Advisory Committee that will have members from the healthcare and construction community and focus on both college and K-12 CTE concerns.

Finally, I attended a newly formed Safe Shelter for Siuslaw Students Local Leadership Council meeting. The organization has connected with Safe Families in order to focus on keeping our local students housed, safe and well cared for. I have been asked to join the Council in an educator capacity.