

2017-2018

State of The District Report

PINEHURST SCHOOL DISTRICT 94
HOLLY AMANN, DISTRICT ADMINISTRATOR



Introduction

Two thousand seventeen marks the 109th anniversary of Pinehurst School District #94. We are pleased to say that after a few enrollment and fiscally challenging years, our district has stabilized. Of course, the ups and downs of enrollment and funding for public schools are always a moving target and we will continue to monitor all funding initiatives and be flexible about finding ways to keep our doors open to serve the children of the Greensprings community. This comprehensive State of the District Report has been created to serve as an update to our vested community on what is going on within the walls of Pinehurst School.

Academic Program

Like all public schools in Oregon, Pinehurst School follows the academic initiatives set forth by the K-12 Common Core State Standards. Each morning Pinehurst students focus on English language arts and mathematics. Our mixed-age classrooms provide small group learning opportunities. Children are placed at the level they work best, not necessarily at their enrolled grade. Each group has time with their teacher and time to work together with a classroom assistant. This model has proven to be the most efficient way to handle multiple levels in one classroom.

After an academically packed morning, our students break for lunch at 11:25 A.M. Lunchtime is fun and dynamic. The children are issued their own set of silverware that they are responsible for cleaning and maintaining. We are thrilled to have cut down on the amount of paper and plastic waste at the school because of this program. Modeled after the San Francisco *Alt School* model, lunchtime is followed by recess and then physical education. This long break from sitting in the classroom allows kids to release energy and recharge for a variety of afternoon lessons including: theater/music/movement class, social studies, science, art, library and STEAM lab. Within each of these programs, English language arts and mathematics are reinforced whenever possible.

Enrollment

We were pleased to welcome 16 students in grades kindergarten through fifth grade at the start of our 2017-18 school year. Half of those students were new. Our district greatly benefited by new families moving in at the Oregon Extension and Lincoln Guard Station. As of this writing four students have moved out of the district and we have welcomed one new student bring our enrollment to 13. Both through our web presence and word of mouth, we attract visiting families looking for housing on the Greensprings. We attempt to provide accurate information about housing opportunities.

Enrollment is always the most important piece to our funding puzzle. Our school continues to accept students year-round. We have no waiting list. Students from other school districts are welcome to transfer in to Pinehurst School District. However, due to monetary constraints and liability issues, we cannot provide transportation. Creating new pathways to increase enrollment is always on our minds. We continue to ask our community to reach out to

prospective families. Invite them to visit our school. If you are selling your home, we'd love for it to go to a young family that might be part of the next generation of Pinehurst students.

Board of Directors

PINEHURST BOARD OF DIRECTORS' MISSION STATEMENT

OUR MISSION IS TO COMBINE ENERGY AND TIME COOPERATING WITH OUR STAFF, VOLUNTEERS, PARENTS, PINEHURST SCHOOL FOUNDATION MEMBERS AND THE GREATER GREENSPRINGS RESIDENTS AND BUSINESSES TO SUPPORT OUR KINDERGARTEN THROUGH 12TH GRADE STUDENTS BY DEPLOYING STRATEGIES TO VIGOROUSLY MAINTAIN AND IMPROVE THE ACADEMIC QUALITY AND FINANCIAL STABILITY OF THE PINEHURST SCHOOL DISTRICT AND TO INSURE ITS CONTINUED VITALITY AS THE EDUCATIONAL AND CIVIC HEART OF THE ONLY PUBLIC SCHOOL DISTRICT IN THE CASCADE-SISKIYOU NATIONAL MONUMENT.

Locally elected school board members are part of a team that develops policies for our school district that focus on student achievement and comply with state and federal laws. All school board members in Oregon follow the same system set forth by the Oregon School Boards Association (OSBA). This approach creates consistency so that all school boards in Oregon focus their efforts on student achievement, continuous improvement and community engagement.

The district's voters elect board members to a four-year term in this volunteer position. Pinehurst School Board has five seats. Current board members are: Sam Alvord, Board Chair; Dianna Crary, Vice-chair; Alison Kling, Secretary; Heidi Gehman, Director; and joining the board in March, Mary Anne Crandall. If a seat becomes available, mid-term, a new person is appointed. Members must run in the biennial special election if their term has expired or they have been appointed mid-term.

The Pinehurst School Board meets on the second Monday of each month at 7:00 P.M. in the school annex. School Board meetings are open to the public. Minutes are taken at every meeting and a financial report is presented. These are available for review at any time in the school office.

Each spring, the School Board evaluates itself through a formalized self-evaluation process. Results of the 2016-17 evaluation revealed that the School Board's biggest challenge is to better represent the district in the community. This report is one attempt to meet that goal.

The board received high scores on the positive internal environment of the school. Our board excels at supporting relational aspects of our organization creating a positive working environment. In the early months of the new year, the board is due to review and update its goals.

Staffing

We currently have one full-time highly qualified teacher (Kerry Fuller) and one part-time co-teacher (Ann Oliva). Each teacher is supported by one of our four part-time instructional assistants. We are fortunate to have a team of competent mothers as our squad of part-time assistants. They consist of: Amy Schumacher, Pearl Briggs, Sarah Fowler and Star Tarrant.

The district's administration consists of one full-time District Administrator (Holly Amann) and one independently-contracted, part-time Business Manager (Rogue Valley Accounting: Tracy Gault). Kerry Fuller has two additional administrative extra-duty contracts: *Head Teacher*, equivalent to school principal and *District Curriculum Director and Testing Coordinator*.

It's important to understand that although we have a small enrollment at Pinehurst School, we run an entire public-school district, which requires a lot of administrative decision making, tracking and reporting. Our small team works collaboratively to handle all the state and federal mandates. We must complete the same level of reporting as Ashland, Medford and Portland districts.

The district employs one part-time custodian to keep the facilities clean and safe. This past summer, we welcomed, long-time Greensprings resident, Pattie Walters as our school custodian.

We continue to contract our grounds-keeping and facility maintenance to the "Lawn Ranger", Sam Alvord, who has tended the Pinehurst School lawns for many years while also serving on the board and as district administrator. We take great pride in the aesthetics of our majestic location and appreciate the work that Sam, the staff, children and volunteers do to keep the Pinehurst School campus looking attractive.

Finances

District 94 gains its income from:

- District property owner taxes
- A portion of the state income tax (State School Fund)
- Restricted federal government grants
- Private donations which come mainly through the Pinehurst School Foundation
- Private grants such as the Elizabeth Maughan Charitable Foundation, Yvonne Lenart Art Education Fund, Farnley Tyas Foundation and Clif Bar Family Foundation

The following displays the 2017-18 budget appropriations for Pinehurst School District 94.

General Fund		Special District Programs Fund	
Instruction.....	217,873	Instruction.....	16,000
Support Services.....	195,718	Support Services.....	2,000
Enterprise & Community Services	200	Total.....	\$18,000
Transfers.....	20,000		
Contingency.....	152,757	SB 1149 Energy Fund	
Total.....	\$586,548	Transfers	800
		Total.....	\$800
Federal Programs Fund		Technology Fund	
Instruction	13,298	Support Services	2,000
Support Services	17,289	Total.....	\$2,000
Total.....	\$30,587		
Enterprise Fund		High School Tuition/Transportation Fund	
Instruction	29,949	Instruction	50,000
Support Services	6,000	Total.....	\$50,000
Total.....	\$35,949		
Student Body Fund		Capital Projects Fund	
Instruction	4,200	Support Services	10,500
Total.....	\$4,200	Capital Projects	50,000
		Total.....	\$60,500
		Total APPROPRIATIONS, All Funds . . .	\$788,584
		Total Unappropriated and Reserve Amounts, All Funds . . .	0
		TOTAL ADOPTED BUDGET . . .	\$788,584

State law requires an annual, independent audit. We hire accounting firm Isler Medford, LLC., to assure the public that all our finances are accurate, truthful and complete. The district’s annual audit may be reviewed by members of the public in the school office.

Tuition and Transportation

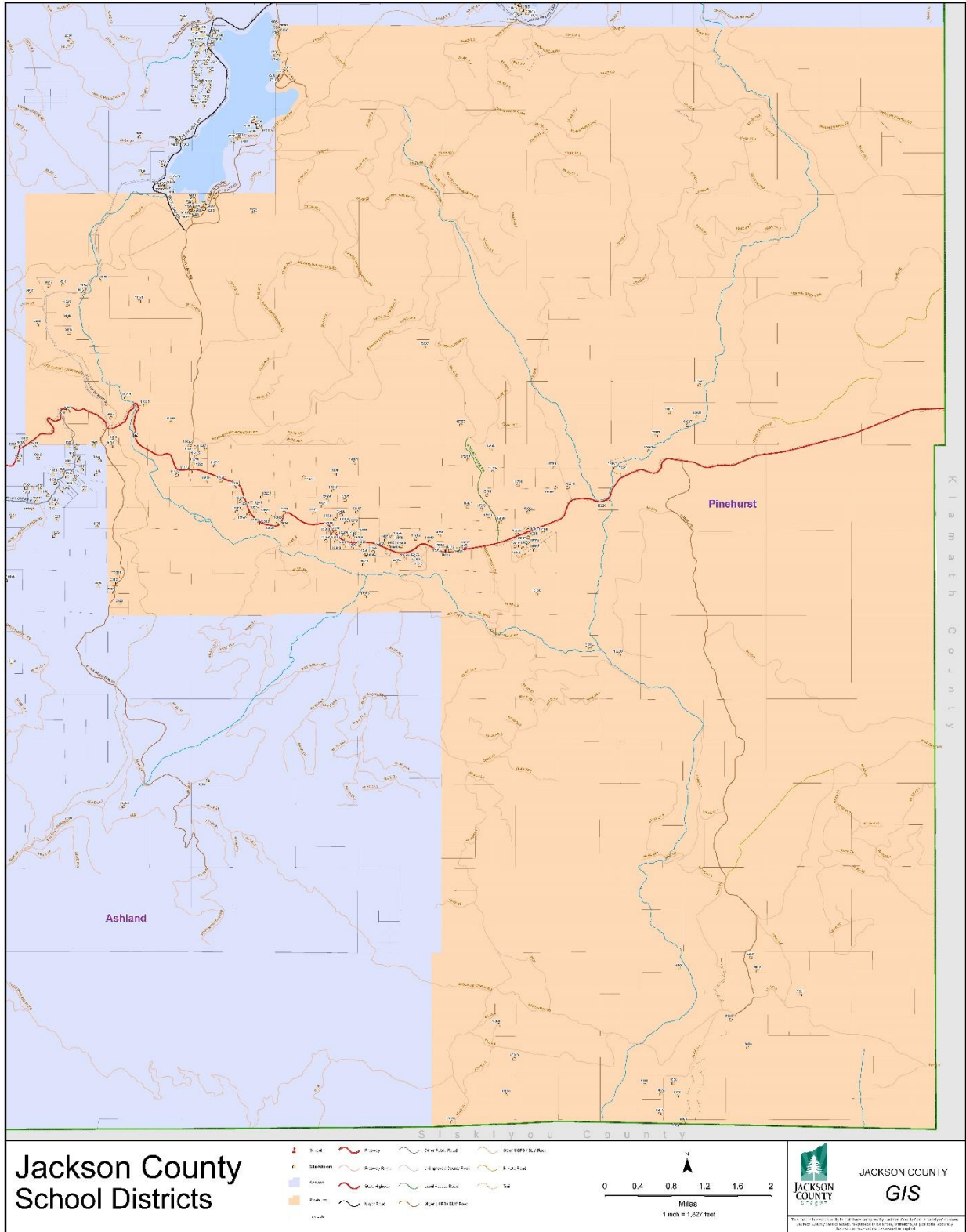
Pinehurst School District is a K-12 district. Historically, Pinehurst offered grades K-8 in-house and students in grades 9-12 attended Ashland High School. In 2015, 6-8 enrollment took a steep plunge. For the district to remain solvent, Pinehurst School had to downsize.

Currently the district meets its state mandate to serve all the resident students in K-12, with an in-house program for K-5. The few middle-school children who currently live within the Pinehurst School District boundary attend school in Ashland, under a program called *Open Enrollment*. These students are claimed by Ashland School District (ASD) and ASD receives state funding directly for those students. Thus, PSD does not pay tuition for them. However, Pinehurst School District does claim high school students, living within the PSD boundary and receives the state’s funding for them which is passed through to ASD as tuition.

For more than 30 years, PSD has contracted with ASD to transport and educate our resident students enrolled in ASD. PSD pays ASD, as outlined in the annual *Tuition and Transportation Contract*, for these services. Tuition costs are based primarily upon enrollment and the General Purpose Grant amount allocated by the State School Fund Grant. For the 2017-18 fiscal year, the budget is for PSD to pay ASD about \$82,000 for high school tuition and \$16,500 for annual transportation costs.

Pinehurst School District Boundary

The current Pinehurst School District boundary map is below. If you own property within the peach colored section, you are considered a Pinehurst District property owner and a portion of your tax dollars go to the Pinehurst School District.



Community Relations

The Pinehurst School Foundation (PSF) serves as the main fundraising arm for the district. Foundation members are: Alison Kling, Chair; Heidi Gehman, Vice-chair; Amy Schumacher, Treasurer; Holly Amann, Secretary; Dan Speasl, Member and Pat Alvord, Member. The PSF meets every other month and forms subcommittees to carry out the duties for specific fundraisers.

Each year the Foundation agrees to assist the district in funding a portion of the programs offered at Pinehurst School. In 2017-18, it committed to fund \$18,000 toward district programs. These funds help pay for: field trips, outdoor education, technology, theater/music/ movement class, art, OSF plays, library books and supplies for Family Literacy Nights and other activities.

The Foundation earns its money through fundraisers and donations. Key fundraisers are: Winterfest, Community Yard Sale, Pancake Breakfast, End of Year BBQ and donation request letters. The best way for the community to support Pinehurst School is to show up at these fundraisers and spend a little money.

Communication

Keeping our constituents informed, in the format they prefer, has become more and more challenging. For that reason, we do our best to keep our school's website up to date. We invite you to visit the website when you are wondering what is going on at the school. Here is the link: www.pinehurst.k12.or.us.

On the website you will find:

- Upcoming Events
- Announcements
- Job Openings and Applications
- The Pinehurst Pipeline Newsletter
- The Monthly Calendar
- The Full-year District Calendar
- The Pinehurst Pen (a periodic blog)
- School Board Agendas
- Pinehurst School Promotional Video
- The state issued District Report Card

Over the past two years, the district has put together a comprehensive community email list. Throughout the school year, we use this email list to send timely announcements to our community. If you would like to be included in or removed from the community email list, simply send an email to pinehurstschool@pinehurst.k12.or.us expressing your desire.

To comply with budgeting law, we must "hand deliver" budget documentation to our district constituents two-times per year. If you have an accessible mailbox along Highway 66,

you will receive Pinehurst School budget notices in the spring. The district has permission from the local postal carrier to tuck school-related notices into your mailbox without penalty.

The district has an open-door policy. Feel free to stop by and visit anytime. We love our community and invite you to visit the classrooms, sit in on a lesson, talk with the administration or join us for a school board meeting. If you do plan to visit during a school day, we ask that you sign-in first in the school office.

Professional Cooperation

Pinehurst School District supplements the work of its salaried staff by maintaining close relations with many organizations. They include:

- Southern Oregon Educational Services District (SOESD): provides us with support in special education, classroom management, technology, curriculum development, professional development, regional grants and supply discounts.
- Ashland District 5: Tuition and transportation for our resident high school students and our closest ally for collaborative district support.
- Bureau of Land Management: We lease our campus from the BLM and they provide Monument education for our students.
- Friends of the Siskiyou National Monument: BioBlitz partners and Monument community education.
- Southern Oregon University: SOU Educational Youth Programs and partnerships with the environment education program.
- Klamath Outdoor School: Outdoor education on and off campus.
- Oregon Extension at Lincoln: Close ties with OE faculty, opportunities for OE students to do community service and use Pinehurst facilities as an extension of their campus and the use of the OE property as an extension of our campus.
- Greensprings Fire and Rescue: Fire-Wise clean-up and fire safety and education.
- Oregon Department of Transportation: Road safety and snow plowing.
- Green Springs Inn: Generous long-time supporters for school-related activities and fundraisers.

Anticipated Challenges to the District

1. Increasing Average Daily Membership:

This has been a very active cause, pursued by the administration since 2012, when the enrollment decrease became more of a concern as families began to move away.

Several different approaches have been attempted; including helping potential new residents to obtain affordable housing, contacting Greensprings residents outside the district boundaries about sending their children to our school, contacting local realtors and distributing brochures, web site rebuilding and the creation of a promotional video. Our administrators have engaged in scores of online, phone and personal dialogues with prospective new residents and

host tours regularly. Several ideas have been explored relating to restructuring the program and providing transportation for Ashland and Klamath students to come to Pinehurst. The net result is that it is ultimately a very complicated issue and the administration has no control over where people decide to live and if they want their children schooled here.

The staff, board and administration have settled on always maintaining attention to recruitment ideas and actions, but to put most energy into maintaining a sound educational program for each child who enrolls and to create a collaborative environment that engages each student's family members and neighbors who are willing to pursue the district goals. In essence- we must pursue our mission; we cannot control the ebb and flow of the Greensprings population.

2. Maintaining Qualified and Available Staff

We are very successful in this area. Our administrative team, teachers, instructional assistants, custodial staff and two independent contractors provide all services to the program and physical plant effectively and economically.

3. Sustaining and Strengthening Community Collaboration

The Pinehurst School Foundation board consists of six soundly committed community members who are meeting their mission of substantial support to the successful functioning of the district. They benefit by dozens of volunteers for specific fundraising activities and the support of hundreds of people who attend events and contribute money. Their fundraising has provided a much broader and deeper curriculum and special activities program than most K-5 elementary schools offer in this country.

One pressing need is for more participation on the Foundation and School Board from younger and newer members of the community.

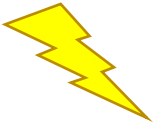
4. Facilities Deferred Maintenance

The district's campus and buildings have the following upkeep needs:

- 1) The water pipes of the main building are nearly ninety years old. Seventy years is about the life span of 1930's era steel pipe. Rust residue is clogging the risers which service sinks, toilets and the drinking fountain. The administration was directed by the board to get bids to replace most of the original steel water supply plumbing in the main building with a PEX system.
- 2) Both the main building and Rowlett Annex have composition roofs that are over thirty-five years old and need replacement.
- 3) The main building exterior trim and some of the siding is almost ninety years old and badly deteriorated. Remodeling would include replacing siding, fascia boards, door and window trim across the front of the building and repairing some fascia and trim on the back and sides of the main building as well.
- 4) While the district funded the replacement of the concrete walk way into the breeze way, and with the financial support of the Foundation, built the teaching garden and welcome

arch in 2013, the concrete slab and stairs into the front doors of the main building and the handicapped access ramp on the west side of the annex are highly degraded and should be replaced.

- 5) When you walk into the building, you will quickly notice the deterioration of the red fir wood floor. Last refinished in the early 1980s, it will not sustain another sanding. A bid has been received to replace the flooring with oak, Douglas fir or some manufactured floor covering.
- 6) Our district has been the grateful recipient of numerous years of community service woodlot management. Teams of workers from State Forestry, Greensprings Fire and Rescue and many community members have joined each spring to thin and burn slash on our campus. That crew will now be focusing on other locations. That means that woodlot maintenance, on the Pinehurst School campus, will have to be continued by volunteers or a professional tree service. The immediate need is to have sagging branches trimmed from several large conifers around the buildings. This work is not going to be done without commercial equipment including a cherry picker lift, professional sawyers and a chipper.



The bottom line is that our facilities are deteriorating. Consequently, the board's task in the next five years is to plan and budget for these improvements.

Strategies for meeting District Challenges

- ❖ School Board meets in special meeting to consider funding options for deferred maintenance expenses.
- ❖ School Board and Pinehurst School Foundation collaborate on ways to find funds for capital projects, including grant writing.
- ❖ School Board reviews and renews Mission and Vision Statement (Mission: explains the reason for an organization's existence. Vision: describes the organization as it would appear in a future successful state).
- ❖ Administration shares the State of the District Report with the community.
- ❖ Board holds a public hearing (Public hearing gathers community comments and positions from all interested parties for public record and input into board decisions).
- ❖ Board incorporates new ideas and votes on a final plan.
- ❖ District publishes Mission, Vision and Plan and gets on with it.