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2005 Legislative Assembly

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Guns in school hearing Jan. 28

The question of whether school boards should be allowed to prohibit persons from carrying their concealed weapons into school buildings and onto school property will be discussed at a Jan. 28 public hearing before the Senate Judiciary Committee.

SB 335, introduced by the committee, grants school boards the authority to prohibit persons with concealed handgun licenses from carrying their firearms onto school property.

The public hearing will be held at the Multnomah County Courthouse, 1021 SW Fourth Ave., Portland, beginning at 9:30 a.m.

OSBA members adopted a resolution at the association's 2003 Annual Business Meeting that strongly encourages the Oregon Legislature to enact legislation similar to the provisions in **SB 335**. In light of the adop-

tion of that resolution, OSBA Senior Legislative Advocate Jim Green will present **testimony** to support the bill.

SB 335 does not mandate that school boards adopt a policy banning concealed weapons on school property, but allows boards in every Oregon community to debate, discuss and decide this important issue at the local level, which is what was envisioned in the membership-adopted resolution, Green said.

Sen. Ginny Burdick (D-Portland), chair of the Senate Judiciary Committee, has invited school board members and other school officials to testify at the hearing and is offering a time certain for that **testimony**. Interested individuals should contact Jennifer Dorning, in Sen. Burdick's office, by e-mail sen.ginnyburdick@state.or.us or by phone (503-986-1718).

K-12 funding talks set soon

The budget-writing Joint Ways and Means Committee's Education Subcommittee has tentatively set a time line to discuss the 2005-07 recommended budgets for the State School Fund and the Oregon Department of Education's (ODE) operations and grant-in-aid programs.

According to subcommittee staff, these discussions will be limited to staff and department presentations. The public hearing schedule will be announced later.

ODE's operating and grant-in-aid budgets will be discussed from Monday, Jan. 31, through Thursday, Feb. 3. The State School Fund will be reviewed from Monday, Feb. 7, through Thursday, Feb. 10, on Monday, Feb. 14, and Tuesday, Feb. 15. The subcommittee meets at 1 p.m. in Hearing Room E of the State Capitol Building.

Members of the subcommittee: Senators Richard Devlin (D-Tualatin), chair, Avel Gordly (D-Portland), David Nelson (R-Pendleton), Vicki Walker (D-Eugene), and Doug Whitsett (R-Klamath Falls); and Representatives Susan Morgan (R-Myrtle Creek) and Gene Whisnant (R-Sunriver).

OSBA to Education Committee:

“You are not a school board”

Don't try to be a 90-member school board, was the advice given this week to the House Education Committee by OSBA Director of Legislative Services John Marshall.

Marshall and representatives from other education agencies and interest groups were invited to address the committee during an orientation session.

to local school boards who are in the best position to understand local circumstances, set local priorities and meet local needs, Marshall said.

On the topic of K-12 funding, Marshall urged the committee to recognize that current discussions relating to creating greater efficiencies in the K-12 system by consolidating sup-

Marshall began his remarks by sharing the commonality between legislators and local school board members.

“Our members, like you, are elected officials. And, like you, they are charged with balancing their budgets which means, in these difficult financial times, allocating limited resources among competing and equally valuable programs and services,” Marshall said.

Even though the state provides over 70 percent of school district resources, the committee should resist trying to tell local boards how to run their schools, he added.

“The legislature, in fulfilling its constitutional duty to provide for a uniform and general system of common schools certainly has a legitimate right to determine the *what* in terms of K-12 standards and expectations, but we encourage you to leave the *how*

port service functions and merging ESDs was no substitute for adequate and stable long-term funding.

“We stand ready to work with you to identify ways to focus a larger portion of our limited resources toward direct classroom instruction,” Marshall said. “But first let’s agree on the definitions of what are and are not instructional expenditures, rationalize why that non-instructional spending occurs, and then look for real savings and ways to channel more resources into the classroom.”

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Johnson replaces Dukes as senator

Rep. Betsy Johnson (D-Scappoose) was sworn in as the newest member of the State Senate on Jan. 20. She suc-

2005 Oregon House of Representatives

Following is the 2005 Oregon State Representatives roster. Letters to senators should be addressed, for example: Rep. Robert Ackerman, 900 Court St. NE, H-389, Salem, OR 97301. For e-mail addresses, see OSBA’s Web site: www.osba.org.

Last Name	First Name	Party/Hometown	Office	Phone
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ceeds Sen. Joan Dukes (D-Astoria) who resigned to accept a position on the Northwest Power Planning Council.

Sen. Johnson will chair the Joint Ways and Means Committee's General Government Subcommittee and serve on the Transportation and Economic Development Subcommittee.

Her office address and phone number are: 900 Court St. NE, S-314; 503-986-1716.

Sen. Johnson's replacement in the House will be named soon.

House committees

Following are the 2005 House of Representatives legislative committees that deal with major education issues:

House Education Committee: Linda

Flores (R-Clackamas), chair; John Dallum (R-The Dalles), vice-chair; Steve March (D-Portland), vice-chair; Debi Farr (R-Eugene); John Lim (R-Fairview); Chip Shields (D-Portland); Carolyn Tomei (D-Milwaukie).

House Revenue Committee: Tom Butler (R-Ontario), chair; Vicki Berger (R-Salem), vice-chair; Mark Hass (D-Portland), vice-chair; Brian Boquist (R-Dallas); Sal Esquivel (R-Medford); Larry Galizio (D-Tigard); Betty Komp (D-Woodburn); Andy Olson (R-Albany); Chuck Riley (D-Hillsboro).

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Legislative Highlights is a publication produced by the Oregon School Boards Association as a service to its members.

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Hansen	Gary	D-Portland	H-392	503-986-1444
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March	Steve	D-Portland	H-385	503-986-1446
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Rosenbaum	Diane	D-Portland	H-380	503-986-1442
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Thatcher	Kim	R-Salem	H-490	503-986-1425
Tomei	Carolyn	D-Milwaukie	H-388	503-986-1441
Whisnant	Gene	R-Sunriver	H-277	503-986-1453
Wirth	Kelley	D-Corvallis	H-479	503-986-1416