



HILLSBORO SCHOOL DISTRICT

## W. L. HENRY ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

February 6, 2017

W.L. Henry Elementary School  
1060 SE 24<sup>th</sup> Avenue  
Hillsboro, OR 97123-7210

Dear Chair Doherty and Members of the Committee:

As the new principal of W.L. Henry Elementary School, one of the first concerns brought to me by our parent community was the lack of transportation for our students. Our parents' concerns remain today. Parents share that the safety and health of their children, as well as their need to consistently attend school, are constantly at the forefront of their minds. Lack of transportation is a barrier to their students' academic success. Parents are presenting their concerns to you today with the hope of receiving funding for transportation.

As principal, I too am concerned about the health, safety and attendance of our students. Parents have shared with me that it is very difficult for them to walk their children to school due to various reasons: having younger siblings to care for, the inclement weather, the lack of sidewalks on 24<sup>th</sup> Avenue, walking in the dark, walking with students when the parents or siblings are sick, walking to school when the students have chronic health concerns such as asthma, or, when parents are working, sending students to walk on their own without the assurance that students will arrive safely to school.

I have observed parents' concerns; babies all bundled up while parents push strollers, try to carry an umbrella and keep their students close by, parents who are ill walking their students to school in very cold temperatures, and students walking at dawn on 24<sup>th</sup> which does not have sidewalks. As well, attendance is lower when there are freezing temperatures. From September to late November on most school days 95% or more of our students were in attendance. On December 7<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup>, when temperatures were in the 20s, attendance decreased to 89%. On January 18<sup>th</sup>, the day back to school after many snow days, attendance was down to 83%.

Providing transportation for our students would improve their health, safety and attendance. It would also allow for more participation in our after school activities since older siblings would be able to stay at school while their younger siblings were transported safely home. Transportation provided for students would directly benefit those whose parents use their already scarce financial resources to pay for their students to be transported to school. Our wonderful families work hard and value education. Providing transportation for students would be extremely beneficial for our school community as a whole.

Respectfully,

Lisa Aguilar  
  
Principal, W.L. Henry

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***Engage and challenge all learners to ensure academic excellence***

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