



COQUILLE SCHOOL DISTRICT #8

1366 N. GOULD STREET, COQUILLE, OR 97423

PHONE: 541-396-2181

FAX: 541-396-5015

Testimony on SB 739 from Coquille High School

Hearing Scheduled for March 20, 2019

Senate Education Committee

Chairman Wagner, Vice Chairman Thomsen and Members of the Committee:

Coquille School District and Coquille High School began working with the University of Oregon and the Oregon Research Schools Network in 2018, and we have already seen strong promise from the partnership. The network-district collaboration and improvement model framework and structures have helped provide guidance and clarity in our on-going efforts to increase student engagement and decrease our high absenteeism rate. We feel that improving these two metrics will help to improve our overall graduation rate.

Through the ORSN Improvement Model system and support structure, we have jointly collected and analyzed our school data examining our culture, systems and structures that impact our students. We have collaborated with UO College of Education faculty to develop and employ teacher and student surveys to take an accurate temperature of our school climate to help determine how we can ensure our students feel safe, supported, and engaged at Coquille High School. Through a teacher-leader driven plan, we have created an action plan with clear and achievable goals and strategies and are committed to the on-going implementation of them.

Because of our collaborative process of data collection and analysis with ORSN faculty, we determined that some of our students were not feeling truly engaged in their own learning at Coquille High School, and that many felt the need to be more closely connected to our teaching staff. Again through network support and resource allocation, we were able to create new structures and systems to address these issues, including a much more robust and thorough year-long professional development structure based on teacher-led professional learning communities. These communities are accessing evidence-based practices to help increase student engagement and improve teacher student relationships, which we all know are critically important to student success. Historically, our professional development has lacked cohesiveness from one day to the next and from one topic to the next. As a result, our overall professional develop has had little impact, as our teacher survey data clearly indicated.

"With our community partners, providing an educational environment that promotes and builds individual success for all children."

We have also started to work more closely with UO College of Education faculty in a grant-funded partnership focusing on cooperative learning in order to increase instructional effectiveness and classroom engagement for our students. This work, through the research and development of Dr. Mark Van Ryzin and his team, will help our classroom practitioners learn advanced and effective technology-driven methods to directly engage their students in new and meaningful ways.

As a part of the Oregon Research Schools Network, this 2018-2019 school year has been one of learning and development for our teaching staff. Again, while we have seen some early promising indicators from teacher survey data, we are truly looking forward to full-implementation of all of our efforts next year as we will see full employment of our newfound improvement strategies, and expect to see early data indicators of our student's re-engagement in their own learning and behavioral processes and outcomes. Without ORSN's partnership, Coquille High School would not have been able to implement this professional development process this school year and likely not to this extent within the next several years. ORSN's commitment to students and the schools that support them is improving the teaching and learning in Coquille.



Jennifer Sweeney
Courtesy Appointment Clinical Professor
Oregon Research Schools Network (ORSN)
Professional Development Coordinator
Coquille High School
Attendance Programs Coordinator
Coquille School District



Jeff Philley
Principal
Coquille High School