



CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT 13J

Jennifer Kubista, Ed.D., Superintendent
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Dear Chair Dembrow, Vice Chair Weber, and Members of the Senate Education Committee,

My name is Dr. Jennifer Kubista, and I am the Superintendent of Central School District 13J located in Independence and Monmouth, OR.

I write today in support of Senate Bill 421 which establishes a Youth Advisory Council. As a leader in a rural, and diverse community, I can't stress enough the importance of youth voice. Over the past five years, through youth chats and walking school buildings, I have had the opportunity to listen and learn from our students. I learn about what is going well, what areas of growth we need, what opportunities we need to think about and the question that is probably the most important question for me "what do I need to know, even though you don't want to tell me, but I really need to know." Youth have the opportunity to share their lived experiences of attending Central School District schools and being a part of our communities. This meaningful approach of listening and learning from student voice is shared with our staff, our Central Education Association and Oregon School Employees Association #124 leadership, Administration leadership, families, and community partners.

Why would a superintendent do this type of work? To help us develop changes in our school system so students have positive experiences and impact within our community. As we say, Whole Child, Whole Educator, Whole School, Whole Community.

Our students' voices over the past five years helped in developing the district strategic plan, and Central's Student Success and High School Success plans. They continue to influence the policies and practices as CSD13J is one of only a few school districts to adopt a Trauma Informed policy. At Central we support the academic, behavior, physical, social and emotional learning of our students. Their voices also guide our equity work. Their voices are also heard through the board-selected Student Representative to the Board of Directors who joins us during our monthly Board meetings and our Professional Learning time each month.

We know our students' voices are helping us build an environment where every student is engaged, supported, challenged, and prepared - as a whole child - with the skills and character to achieve and be successful in school, career, college and community. I believe Senate 421 would impact in the same way for our state agencies and governmental leaders across the state. This is a vulnerable step, and the right and just step as we continue to listen to diverse youth, adults and community voices. Together we can do better, be better, and live better here in Oregon.

Thank you,

Jennifer Kubista, Ed.D.

Superintendent

Central SD 13J

503.838.0030

Pronouns: She, Her, Hers