

Neighbors Southwest/Sexton Mountain

Neighborhood Meeting Minutes

4/21/10

Present: Rhonda Coakley, Chair Sexton Mtn NAC

Alton Harvey Sr, Chair Neighbors SW

Present: Officer Michael Smith, Beaverton Police Dept.

Tualatin Valley Fire & Rescue team, not available

Others Present:

Kathy Craft, Judy Wilson, Phil Klein, Tillie Rea, Bryce Adkins, Susan & Al Browler, Candace Lowe, Greg Giersch, Lisa Montesana, Mark & Karli Sachter, Yuqing Lelowe, Bruce Miller

Meeting called to order at 7:02pm by Alton Harvey.

Introductions were made amongst group.

Beaverton Police Dept. provided their neighborhood update :

- Volume of incident calls are currently low, although more missing persons activities, all with success stories of finding the children or persons.
- Tagging that was taking place on 7th and Stoch has been cleaned up and not a problem since original incident. Several teens were involved.
- Theft of Catalic Converters has been a problem in Beaverton for Toyota pickups in late 80's/90s. The vehicle allows easy access to the converter that are being stolen then sold for \$100 – 150 ea to support drug habits.
- Two individuals arrested which also connected the person buying the parts as scrap metal. 14 total incidences where the two individuals confessed to 12.
- Speeding is becoming a bigger problem with the sun being out and people not paying attention allowing enough distance between vehicles and with sun disrupting clear views, accidents occurring due to rear ending vehicles . Be cautious while driving always, but especially while sun is an impact to visibility.

- Incident where multiple calls of “shots fired” near Haggen’s turned out to be an individual launching illegal fireworks. Person arrested.
- *Still no updates from ODOT on Washington Sq/Scholl’s Ferry traffic accidents. Officer Smith has left several messages with ODOT, yet NO return calls. **Officer Smith will continue to follow up.***
- Candace Lowe asked about loud music laws – She has a neighbor with exceptionally loud music from approx 3pm – until after 10pm. Candace also concerned that if calls in and reports, will the offenders know who made the complaint and cause problems for her. Officer Smith stated it is Public Record, but rarely does this become a problem. He recommend she call in the reports as it could be \$150 – 250 fine for each offense. Over time the offenders typically stop as they can’t afford to keep paying the fines.

Tualatin Valley Fire & Rescue (TVFR) – not in attendance

Beaverton School District Homeless Student Update – Lisa Montesana provided update to the over 1353 Beaverton Homeless Students, 3rd highest in Oregon. She provided many facts regarding the homeless students of where they live, why they are homeless, solutions in place, fundraising efforts, etc. of how we can provide support. *A more detailed fact sheet is attached.*

Solar Presentation – No Show by Inland Electric

Energy Trust Presentation – No Show by Donald Shaw

Facebook update – 52 friends confirmed. Will work on creating business cards with Facebook contact information.

Summer Events – Rhonda updated group of summer events in our Neighborhood:

- 5/19 Sexton Mtn/Neighbors SW State of the City with the Mayor presenting 10 Pt Plan for the City
- 6/5 Beaverton Recycle Day – WE NEED VOLUNTEERS and GET PAID for their help with this event!
- 6/29 Beaverton Last Tuesday at the Round
- July/Aug Picnics in the Park, Flicks and Mid-week Movies (new) throughout NAC’s – see www.BeavertonOregon.gov for dates & locations

Meeting adjourned 8:45pm

Beaverton School District Homeless Students Fact Sheet

The McKinney-Vento Homeless Education program is not a charity. We are a Federally mandated educational support program funded through Title X. Every public school district in our country has a homeless program. We can only serve the academic needs of our students. We are dependent on the community to help support the non-academic needs of our students. The Beaverton School District does have a Tax Exempt Status, but we are not a 501c3 nonprofit.

Why are the students homeless?

Students are homeless for many different reasons. Currently, most families are considered homeless due to the economy and lack of employment.

Where are they living?

Homelessness includes children and youth living in:

- Shared housing with friends or families (doubled up) due to economic hardship*
- An "unaccompanied youth" situation (living without a parent/guardian)*
- Temporary foster care placement*
- Emergency, domestic violence, youth and transitional housing shelters*
- Motels or hotels*
- Campgrounds and inadequate trailer homes, or substandard housing*
- Cars, abandoned buildings, parks, the streets or other public spaces*

How are they being fed and clothed?

As one of 3 Homeless staff members for the Beaverton School District, our positions have evolved into taking on the role of professional resource brokers. This is mostly due to the increasing depth of need within our community. We work with many different social service agencies, churches, nonprofits and community organizations in order to meet our student's food, shelter and clothing needs. We can do this only because the lack of any one of these necessities directly impacts the academic success of our students.

Where are their families and why aren't their families taking care of them?

Our current number of homeless students in the district is 1331 (April 14, 2010).

Of that number 171 students are living independently on their own, as homeless unaccompanied high school age youth.

Another 150 are homeless unaccompanied high school age youth living independent of a parent, but with an extended family member i.e.: living with a grandparent, sibling, aunt or uncle

1,009 of our homeless students are living with their parent(s). This means that the entire family is living in a homeless situation together as a family unit. Most of these families are desperately trying to stay together as they meet the daily challenges of taking care of their basic needs i.e.: shelter, food and clothing.

Are government funds available for the homeless students?

Yes. It's the McKinney Vento-Homeless Education Act, which is part of The McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act of 1986 (Pub. L. 100-77, July 22, 1987, 101 Stat. 482, 42 U.S.C. § 11301 et seq.) is a United States federal law that provides federal money for homeless shelter programs. [1][2] It was the first significant federal legislative response to homelessness, and was passed and signed into law by President Ronald Reagan on July 22, 1987. This legislation is considered landmark legislation for the homeless.

Homeless children are also entitled to the protections of the McKinney-Vento Act. The Act defines homeless children as individuals who lack a fixed, regular, and adequate nighttime residence. The act goes on to give examples of children who would fall under this definition. These definitions were identified in the answer to your second questions.

What happens with the donations the NAC makes?

Money that is donated to the district can be ear marked for specific spending under the following areas:

- 1) Scholarship Fund- For homeless unaccompanied youth who wish to continue with their education after high school.*
- 2) Caring Community Fund- This is a flexible fund used for non academic expenses, but valuable to a student. For example a homeless student wants to attend Prom, but doesn't have the financial ability to do so. The Caring Community Fund would help to provide everything needed to be appropriately dressed for the occasion. We would ask the school to comp the tickets and try to find a restaurant gift certificate for the couple to go out to dinner. We would also pay for pictures.*

Other potential expenses taken out this fund might be Senior pictures and a year book. Shoes are a necessity and can also be provided for students in grades k-12.

One time we paid for a student to attend the Model UN conference, as he was being honored. Another time a student won a scholarship through Microsoft and needed to go to Seattle, we paid for his train ticket.

- 3) Gift Cards- We ask for gift cards from the community to help meet the needs of our students. We receive cards for Old Navy, Payless Shoes, and Target for school clothes and shoes. We receive cards for WinCo to be used for food. Winco does not allow the purchase of alcohol or cigarettes with gift cards. It clearly states that on all of their gift cards. We also receive gift cards for Fred Meyer for food, clothing and gasoline.*

What will be done with the money?

I think I've addressed this question in my answer to the previous question, but I would also like to add that we are open to community suggestions. We also encourage the community to

support the organizations that support our students and are happy to counsel groups in this area. We want the community to support our students and families in the way that is most comfortable for them.

Who makes the decision as to how charitable money will be used?

The person, organization, or group that gives the money makes the decision as to how they want their donation to be used. Then the district places it into the appropriate fund. Our homeless staff members, administrator and/or the board of directors for the Beaverton Family Resource Center make the decision on how the donation will be distributed.

A recent example would be that a church gave us \$1,500. Last October, 2009, and said that they wanted it to go toward a homeless cause at Aloha High School and to be used at our discretion. This money wasn't spent until March 2010, right before Spring Break. At which time we purchased \$50 gift cards from WinCo for each homeless family at Aloha High School to purchase food during the break from school, as the students would not be receiving school meals during this week. The decision to use this money in this way was made in collaboration with the Aloha High School counselors and our homeless staff.

Who decides which students will benefit from the money? How are those students chosen?

*I would like to share that the general community does not have an opportunity to know who the homeless students are, as we are not allowed to release that information due to confidentiality laws. Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA)
<http://www2.ed.gov/policy/gen/guid/fpco/ferpa/index.html>*

Is there some sort of website that has detailed information and statistics?

I update community members who are interested in this information through a biweekly email. Individuals need to email me directly and ask to be on the list. My contact information is listed at the end of this email.

In September of each year ODE releases the annual homeless student numbers for the State of Oregon. It's segregated by district and county. I've attached the spread sheets from ODE's 2008-2009 school year. The press release is below:

If you would be interested in having one of our staff members attend your meeting, we would be more than happy to do so. Please don't hesitate to contact us if you should have any questions or concerns.

Sincerely,

The Beaverton Family Resource Center Staff:

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News Release OREGON DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
Embargoed until 10:00 A.M. September 18, 2009

Contact: Jake Weigler, (503) 947-5650

State Releases Homeless Student Count: Numbers Jump with Recession

SALEM – State Schools Superintendent Susan Castillo announced today that Oregon’s homeless student population for the 2008-09 school year was 18,059, an increase of nearly 14 percent from last school year.

The recent one-year jump, predictable in the wake of the state’s major economic recession, shows a spike in the upward trend that Oregon has experienced since this count began six years ago. Since the first count in the 2003-2004 school year, the number of homeless students in Oregon has risen 122 percent.

Number of Homeless Students in Oregon By School Year

8,143 (2003-04)
11,294 (2004-05)
13,159 (2005-06)
15,517 (2006-07)
15,859 (2007-08)
18,051 (2008-09)

Under the federal McKinney-Vento Act Program for Education of Homeless Students, homeless students are defined as those students who lack fixed, regular and adequate nighttime residence. A homeless family could live in an emergency shelter or share housing with others due to loss of housing or economic hardship, stay at motels, or live in cars, parks, public places, tents, trailers, or other similar settings.

“Oregon schools are getting these students into class, despite their dire and often chaotic living situations,” Castillo said. “Thanks to the infusion of federal stimulus dollars for the Homeless Student Education program, over half of Oregon school districts will have additional funds to help serve students and families faced with homeless living situations this year. District staff, public and nonprofit agencies and advocates need to work together cooperatively at this time, since the number of people affected by the economy is far too large for any single public entity to handle alone.”

Additional Findings From the 2008-09 Homeless Student Count

18,051 of Oregon’s 564,094 students (3.2 percent) were homeless for some period of time during 2008-09.

8,268 homeless students were in elementary schools (enrolled in grades K-5).

3,568 homeless students were in middle schools (enrolled in grades 6-8).

6,215 homeless students were in high schools (enrolled in grades 9-12).

Just as in past years, the largest numbers of homeless students (2,134) were in 12th grade.

3,041 students within the total count were unaccompanied homeless minors who had been abandoned by parents, or had run away from home or foster care placement.

13,312 homeless students shared housing with relatives or friends due to economic hardship, such as foreclosure, homes destroyed by floods or fires, job losses, etc.

754 students in Oregon lived in a motel as their primary residence during the 2008-2009 school year.

1,712 homeless students lived in a shelter or transitional housing as their primary residence.

2,264 students were “unsheltered,” meaning they lived in cars, sheds, tents, on the streets, and/or in structures not meant for human habitation.

50 of Oregon’s 197 school districts reported zero homeless students enrolled during 2008-2009.

“Unfortunately, families living in poverty struggling to get by is not a new concept in Oregon; it’s a reality we’ve been dealing with for years,” said Castillo. “District staff work diligently to ensure these students can participate in public school along with their peers, and receive the additional help they need to attend school without stigmatization. This year, due to increased foreclosures and high unemployment, we are also faced with a group of students new to poverty that we are helping during this difficult time. As we do so, we are always mindful of the need to avoid labeling the very students we are assisting.”

Federal funds for educationally-disadvantaged students are used in most Oregon districts in combination with funds targeted specifically for assisting homeless students. Oregon also received slightly over \$1 million in additional federal McKinney-Vento funding under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act.

“Oregon leads the nation in combining federal funds to support homeless students,” said Barbara Duffield, Policy Director for the National Association for the Education of Homeless Children and Youth. “By ensuring that federal programs are working in tandem to meet homeless students’ needs, Oregon has developed a model that should be replicated in other states.”

DISTRICTS WITH HIGHEST COUNTS OF HOMELESS STUDENTS 08-09

SCHOOL DISTRICT	HOMELESS STUDENTS	TOTAL ENROLLMENT	% OF HOMELESS TO TOTAL ENROLLMENT
Portland	1,706	45,024	3.8
Medford	1,126	12,252	9.2
Beaverton	1,114	37,656	3.0
Salem-Keizer	815	40,200	2.0
Eugene	743	17,786	4.2
Bend-LaPine	709	15,957	4.4
Woodburn	564	5,226	10.8
Reynolds	499	11,436	4.4
Lincoln County	484	5,373	9.0
David Douglas	479	10,580	4.5
Springfield	464	11,127	4.2
Hillsboro	403	20,543	2.0

Each school district in the U.S. is required to have a homeless liaison to coordinate outreach efforts and services for homeless students in their area, as well as conduct the annual counts. Liaisons make sure students are enrolled in school, have the supplies they need and provide referrals to the community services for services such as shelter, health care and counseling. In

addition, districts can pay for the transportation of homeless children who have moved during the school year to help them complete that year at the school they started at in the fall.

School districts are also called on to collaborate with other county and community efforts, such as ten-year plans to end homelessness, county homeless councils, runaway and homeless youth initiatives through the Oregon Commission on Children and Families, and other local public, non-profit, community and faith-based organizations.

To reach a school district's homeless liaison, call the local school district administrative office.