



A³ Update

Mike Fisher, head teacher at the Academy of Arts and Academics (A³), informed the Board regarding the school's progress, emphasizing 2007–08 goals, educational strategies, and results. Guest artists were introduced, and a parent spoke about the success of her daughter, whose performance had improved since attending A³.

Summary of Goals & Results

Goal 1) Lower the percentage of A³ ninth-graders in pre-algebra. After implementing additional opportunities for students to progress from lower math, less than 10% of A³ ninth-graders remain in pre-algebra.

Goal 2) Increase Oregon Statewide Assessment Test (OSAT) scores to 80% in reading and literacy. Eighty-seven percent of A³ students achieved passing OSAT scores in reading.

Goal 3) Improve school climate and culture. A³ leadership arranged for students, parents, and teachers to develop a school constitution and initiated regular school community meetings. The school saw improvement in overall student behavior, and lowered the referrals to only 16 for the year.

Goal 4) All students will develop and maintain a four-year graduation plan. With counselor and instructor assistance, each student established a four-year "Credit Map" to help track credits earned and needed for graduation. Three times annually at student-led conferences, students reviewed their Credit Map with parents and teachers, and discussed their plans to earn needed credits. Parent participation in these conferences has been 98%.

Goal 5) All students will pass all their classes. A³ has established a "No Zero" Policy. Students have one year to make up incompletes. They may not choose to *not* do a project. Academy-wide, A³ students average a 2.77 GPA. Ninety percent of classes are college prep–certified by the state of Oregon.

In the upcoming school year, A³ will offer even more student interning opportunities, along with teaching students how to create job resumes, fill out job applications, and practice interviewing skills. [Complete Report Online](#)

Enrollment Update

As of September 16, 10,945 students were attending grades K–12 in Springfield. This includes all schools, including in-District alternative education programs. It does not include any out-of-District alternative students or those home-schooled. This figure is still subject to fluctuation, but is very close to the projected figure. The District declares the final enrollment figures for each school year on September 30.

Next Board Meeting:
October 13, 2008, at 7 p.m.

Student Achievement

Rob Hess presented a two-year comparison of Oregon Statewide Assessment Test (OSAT) results for Springfield Public Schools, comparing reading and mathematics for school years 2006–07 and 2007–08.

The District's vision is "Every student a graduate prepared for a bright and successful future." When students succeed in key areas, such as reading and math, studies indicate they are more likely to have a successful future.

Reading. In grades 3 through 5, all 2007–08 scores improved over the prior year. Grade 4 in particular demonstrated greatly increased reading scores. These improvements in elementary reading are believed to be the result of the District's focus on elementary reading through a variety of innovations, such as the Gift of Literacy program. Eighth-grade reading scores were also much improved.

Math. Grades 3 and 5 showed dramatic improvement in 2007–08, with grade 8 demonstrating some improvement as well.

Willamalane Levy

As elected officials, Board members may take a stand that is political in nature. The Board unanimously approved a resolution supporting Willamalane's After-School Activities Measure 20-138. The resolution urges District residents to vote in favor of the measure.

Key elements of the resolution included 1) grants that have funded After-School Activities programs in the past will no longer be available after the 2008–09 school year; 2) Measure 20-138 will make affordable and effective after-school activities widely available, and 3) future After-School programs will provide a mix of recreational and educational services, such as literacy support, homework club, games, arts, and technology, and the measure will also fund school swim lessons for all fourth-graders and other youth reaction programs. [Resolution](#)



**BOARD RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF WILLAMALANE PARK AND RECREATION DISTRICT
AFTER-SCHOOL ACTIVITIES MEASURE 20-138**

Whereas: Willamalane Park and Recreation District and Springfield Public Schools have worked successfully and cooperatively the past eight years to provide after-school activities for children, and;

Whereas: The funds for those programs were provided through a variety of grants including BEST, Schools Plus, and SAFE and will no longer be available after the 2008-2009 school year, and Willamalane is proposing a tax levy that would generate the funds necessary to continue and expand the after-school program for 5 years, and;

Whereas: The community has responded both in the Springfield Quality Education Model process and the Springfield 2015 survey that after-school activities for kids are a top priority, and;

Whereas: It is in the best interests of children to be in a safe and controlled environment after-school, where they are staying busy and focused on academic and recreational activities, thus working to help them achieve academically and participate in physical activities that improve wellness and fight childhood obesity, and;

Whereas: Ballot measure 20-138 would provide these activities to 12 elementary and 5 middle schools, thus providing the services to more than 2100 children in the shared service area of Willamalane and Springfield Public Schools regardless of the economic status of the children or their families, therefore;

Whereas: Passing the measure will preserve Willamalane's innovative after-school and summer programs that serve low-income students, and;

Whereas: The new after-school programs will provide a mix of recreational and educational services, such as literacy support, homework club, games, arts and technology, and the measure will also fund school swim lessons for all fourth graders and other youth recreation programs, and;

Whereas: Growing up to be a well-rounded adult takes good role models, positive friendships, academic achievement, physical activities and arts. After-school activities help build self-esteem in students. Willamalane's after-school programs focus on the whole child, and;

Whereas: Measure 20-138 will make affordable and effective after-school activities widely available. The annual cost to the average Springfield homeowner is less than a family would spend on one night out for dinner and a movie, therefore

Be It Resolved by the Springfield Public Schools Board of Directors: That the School Board publically and formally supports passage of the After-School Activities Measure 20-138.

Be It Further Resolved that the School Board urges all Springfield voters within the Willamalane Park and Recreation District to vote "YES" on Ballot Measure 20-138.

Dated this 22nd Day of September 2008.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Nancy Bigley".

Nancy Bigley, Chair

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Jonathan Light".

Jonathan Light, Vice Chair