



April 14, 2020

Budget Committee Members and Bend-La Pine Schools communities:

As I sit down to write this budget message, amid a global pandemic, I am struck that what's considered 'normal' is continuously changing for our families, staff, students and community. Yet, during all of this change and uncertainty, one thing remains the same: Our students and staff are exceptional. Our community is coming together to support one another and we continue to deliver meaningful education to our students. This experience is testing all of us, but it also serves as a strong reminder that we are a resilient community and there is no place I would rather call home.

It's been a month since our schools closed their doors and our once bustling hallways, playgrounds and classrooms have gone quiet. But the work of our education continues beyond those school walls. Our schools are continuing to engage, teach and connect with students every day. Today, we hear laughter and learning across phone lines and computer screens. We are resilient and will persevere through this crisis, as we support one another and grow stronger together.

The following budget is written and delivered in the midst of a public health crisis, which creates a level of uncertainty about what impact COVID-19 could have on Oregon's economy and funding for local schools.

The proposed budget meets the requirements of Bend-La Pine Schools Board Governance Policy BDGOV A.3 Financial Planning and Budgeting, reflects the efforts identified in our Strategic Plan, and maintains a 5% ending fund balance.

We thank you for your continued support of Bend-La Pine Schools' students and staff.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Shay Mikalson", is written over a thin horizontal line.

Shay Mikalson, Superintendent
Bend-La Pine Schools