

## OC NR 012319

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### **Oregon City Schools convenes bond oversight committee**

When Oregon City voters approved a \$158 million bond measure for schools, the school district promised to appoint a bond oversight committee of citizens to track bond projects and spending over the next five years. In January, the district fulfilled that promise by launching the group, which includes 13 community members who volunteered to serve.

The committee includes construction and finance professionals, parents and grandparents, a labor advocate, an ethicist, school advocates, and professed skeptics. They will meet with district leaders at least four times each year and advise the superintendent as needed.

“We are excited to have such a broad range of perspectives on the committee,” said Superintendent Larry Didway. “We appreciate these folks stepping up to hold us accountable for wise use of public resources and completing the projects voters approved.”

**PHOTO: Oregon City Schools’ Bond Oversight Committee held their first meeting in January to begin tracking bond projects and spending. Pictured are Dick Dato, Don Wheeler, Echo Seaman, Earl Curtis, Kim Egan, Robert Camarillo, Eileen Creelman [back], Caitlin Woelfel [front], Liz Keeler, Katrina Gustafson, Frank King Sr., and Ben Schneider.**

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### **Metro teaches Gaffney Lane students about composting**

Third graders at Gaffney Lane had the opportunity to learn about using worm bins to reduce the amount of food waste that goes into the landfill. Metro’s school outreach specialist Dr. Jamie Rapasky explained that the technique could be used in homes and apartments.

“This was a very hands-on activity, and the kids were interested to get a close-up look at the worms,” said Principal Cyndi Borgmeier.

**PHOTO: Third graders Jayden Schmidt and William Smith learned about the benefits of worm bins in composting food waste.**



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### **Oregon City opens industrial science charter school to middle schoolers**

Thanks to a Federal charter school expansion grant, Clackamas Academy of Industrial Sciences [CAIS] will expand from serving grades 8 to 12, adding grades six and seven next fall. The grant will also expand offerings for high school students.

The school received over \$405,000, which will be used for professional development. Increasing the number of classroom computers, adding equipment, and creating a makerspace.

“Our vision for the new middle school is learning through design, exploration, and inquiry,” said Principal Scott Curtis. “This project-based learning approach will build passion for learning as students experience a completely different approach to traditional school.”

Students will have access to new technology and equipment including 3D modeling & printing, basic machining & welding, plus fabrication and design.

The grant will also expand various programs at CAIS. Beginning this fall, all CAIS high school students will be provided with a laptop for digital learning. Students will experience more hands-on learning focused on manufacturing careers through industry exposure, internships, and certifications and degrees through Clackamas Community College.

Parents with students now in grades 5 to 11 are invited to attend a CAIS information night to learn more. Students from any school district are eligible to apply. Information nights are scheduled for 6:30 to 8 p.m. on February 7, March 12, April 11, May 2, and May 21 at the CAIS cafeteria, located on the Jackson campus at 1306 12th Street in Oregon City. For more information, call Principal Scott Curtis at 503-785-7860 or visit the website at [www.caisoc.org](http://www.caisoc.org).

**PHOTO: A CAIS student drives a robot in a regional competition.**



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**OC School Board resolution asks legislators to fully fund schools**

At their January meeting, the Oregon City School Board unanimously approved a resolution in support of the Oregonians for School Success campaign, which seeks to prioritize investments

and improve educational outcomes.

The resolution highlights that Oregon has consistently underfunded public education since the 1990 passage of Measure 5, which limited property taxes. The prolonged period of unstable and inadequate funding has led to a shortened school year, larger class sizes, teacher layoffs and program cuts.

The Legislature's Joint Interim Committee on Student Success toured the state in 2018 to explore Oregon's education system, and it has galvanized support for state revenue reform and increased education funding.

Governor Kate Brown's 2019-21 budget proposed \$9 billion for the State School Fund, with a possible additional \$1.3 billion for early learning and K-12 education. The Quality Education Model, a nonpartisan assessment of the costs of a high-quality Oregon education system, recommends \$10.7 billion for the biennium.

To contact local legislators about school funding, visit [OregonLegislature.org](https://www.oregonlegislature.org).

**PHOTO: Oregon City School Board members pose with leaders of the Oregon City Educators Association to celebrate the approval of a Board resolution to fully fund schools.**

