

**STATE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
FEBRUARY 26-27, 2009**

TAB	DESCRIPTION	ACTION
1	SUPERINTENDENT'S UPDATE	Information Item
2	WEISER SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 431 TUITION WAIVER	Motion to Approve

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**STATE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
FEBRUARY 26-27, 2009**

SUBJECT

Superintendent of Public Instruction Update to the State Board of Education

BACKGROUND/DISCUSSION

Superintendent of Public Instruction, Tom Luna, will provide an update on the State Department of Education.

BOARD ACTION

This item is for informational purposes only. Any action will be at the Board's discretion.

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**STATE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
FEBRUARY 26-27, 2009**

SUBJECT

Weiser School District No. 431 Tuition Waiver

REFERENCE

February 26-27, 2008 Request for Approval of Partial Waiver by Weiser School District

APPLICABLE STATUTE, RULE, OR POLICY

Section 33-1405, Idaho Code

BACKGROUND/DISCUSSION

Several students residing in the small Annex School District in Malheur County, Oregon, across the Snake River from Weiser, Idaho, have been attending school in Weiser School District No. 431. The tuition charged by the Weiser School District for each of the students from Oregon is set by Idaho Code §33-1405. The tuition charged is more than the per pupil amount the Oregon state funding formula allocates to the Annex School District and continues to create a hardship to the Annex School District.

The current number of individual high school students enrolled from the Annex School District is two freshmen, six sophomores, three juniors, and ten seniors. A list of students has been submitted to the Department office and is on file.

The request for approval is coming before the State Board of Education again this year, because waiver request must be made annually for each new student. Weiser School District has new students this year which require approval.

IMPACT

The Weiser School District is requesting the State Board of Education waive a portion (\$51.57 per month per student) of the tuition rate charge for each individual student attending Weiser High School from the Annex School District in Oregon for four years: 2008-09; 2009-10; 2010-11 and 2011-12, subject to annual review by the Weiser School District Board of Trustees.

The addition of 25 to 35 students from the Annex, Oregon area (representing about 5% of the Weiser High School student body) increases the costs of supplies, texts, and limited equipment (labs), but has little effect on the other budget lines and expenditures. The Annex District provides the bus transportation to Weiser High School.

ATTACHMENTS

Attachment 1 – Request for Waiver – Weiser School District	Page 3
Attachment 2 – Request for Waiver – Annex School District	Page 4
Attachment 3 – Rationale for Waiver – Annex School	Page 5
Attachment 4 – Projected Annex Enrollment at Weiser High School	Page 6

**STATE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
FEBRUARY 26-27, 2009**

BOARD ACTION

A motion to approve the request by Weiser School District No. 431 to waive a portion of the tuition rate charge for each individual student attending Weiser High School from Annex School District in Oregon for the 2008-09, 2009-10, 2010-11, and 2011-12 school years. Subject to annual review by the Weiser School District Board of Trustees.

Moved by _____ Seconded by _____ Carried Yes _____ No _____

STATE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
FEBRUARY 26-27, 2009

WEISER SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 431

925 PIONEER ROAD
WEISER, IDAHO 83672
PHONE (208) 414-0616 * FAX (208) 414-1265

JAMES A. REED
Superintendent of Schools

WIL OVERGAARD
*Academic Achievement Director
and Special Services Director*

KYLA DICKERSON
District Clerk

CHRISTY STENDER
Deputy Clerk

January 14, 2009

Idaho State Board of Education
P. O. Box 83720
Boise, ID 83720-0037

RE: Out of State Tuition Waiver (I.C. #33-1405)
Annex, Oregon students attending Weiser High School

The Weiser School District Board of Trustees requests that the State Board of Education waive a portion (\$51.57 per month per student) of the tuition rate charged for each individual student attending Weiser High School from Annex School District in Oregon for the 2008-09 school year.


The Weiser School District is requesting the waiver for four years: 2008-09; 2009-10; 2010-11; and 2011-2012 subject to annual review by the Weiser School District Board of Trustees.

The waiver will reduce the amount received by the Weiser School District by approximately \$51.57 per month per student this year. In subsequent years, the reduction will be an amount equal to the State Department of Education approved tuition rate minus the amount Annex School District receives for secondary students multiplied by the ADA of Annex students attending Weiser High School.

The addition of 25 to 35 students from the Annex, Oregon area (representing about 5% of the Weiser High School student body) increases the costs of supplies, texts, and limited equipment (labs) but has little effect on other budget lines and expenditures. The Annex District provides the bus transportation to Weiser High School.

Attached, please find a letter of support for the waiver by the Weiser School District Board of Trustees.

Sincerely,


JAMES A. REED
Superintendent

Encl.

HIGH ACHIEVEMENT

WEISER SCHOOLS

www.weiserschools.org

RESPONSIBLE CITIZENSHIP

STATE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
FEBRUARY 26-27, 2009

WEISER SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 431

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Superintendent of Schools

KYLA DICKERSON
District Clerk

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*Academic Achievement Director
and Special Services Director*

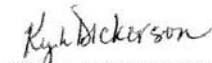
CHRISTY STENDER
Deputy Clerk

January 14, 2009

Idaho State Board of Education
P. O. Box 83720
Boise, ID 83720-0037

RE: Annex School District Tuition Waiver Request

The Weiser School District #431 Board of Trustees at a regularly scheduled meeting of the Board on Monday, January 12, 2009 approved the tuition waiver request from the Annex Oregon School District for Oregon High School students attending Weiser High School.


KYLA DICKERSON
Clerk of the Board
Weiser School District #431
Board of Trustees

HIGH ACHIEVEMENT

WEISER SCHOOLS

www.weiserschools.org

RESPONSIBLE CITIZENSHIP

**STATE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
FEBRUARY 26-27, 2009**

WEISER SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 431

925 PIONEER ROAD
WEISER, IDAHO 83672
PHONE (208) 414-0616 * FAX (208) 414-1265

JAMES A. REED
Superintendent of Schools

KYLA DICKERSON
District Clerk

WIL OVERGAARD
*Academic Achievement Director
and Special Services Director*

CHRISTY STENDER
Deputy Clerk

January 13, 2009

RATIONALE FOR WAIVER – ANNEX SCHOOL

Annex families consider themselves a part of the Weiser community and they are active participants in many ways. They work, own businesses and property, shop, attend church, and participate in clubs and recreation activities in Weiser. It is also important to know that half of the Annex School District staff resides in Weiser.

Historically speaking, the Weiser and Annex districts have maintained a very positive and collaborative partnership. For approximately 50 years, if not longer, Annex students have been attending Weiser High School.

When considering the possible options for educating Annex high school students, having them attend Weiser High School is truly the most logical and safe arrangement. Annex simply does not have the resources to build a high school or to provide the same high caliber of education our students currently receive in Weiser. While Annex students may attend school in Ontario, Oregon or Huntington, Oregon the distance either way would create a long and sometimes treacherous commute.

Currently, the tuition Weiser is required to charge Annex exceeds the amount per student of funding they receive from the Oregon State School Fund and local revenue. Over the past decade the difference has continued to widen which has resulted in programs being cut at their elementary school in order to accommodate their high school population attending Weiser High School.

Recently, Annex looked into using a local option tax to raise additional funds for high school tuition. However, due to Oregon's Measure 5 and Measure 50 limitations, they were not able to do so. According to Malheur County officials, Annex could raise a total of \$3.00.

In summary, Annex School District would like to continue sending high school students into Weiser because it is simply the most logical and appropriate placement for them given the cohesiveness of our communities. Unfortunately, it has become increasingly difficult for Annex to afford the cost. For many years our districts worked together to determine an appropriate rate of tuition: a rate that ensured Annex paid their fair share and that Weiser was adequately compensated. Annex and Weiser would like to be able to do that again.

WEISER SCHOOL DISTRICT #431 - BOARD OF TRUSTEES

HIGH ACHIEVEMENT

RESPONSIBLE CITIZENSHIP

WEISER SCHOOLS

www.weiserschools.org

STATE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
FEBRUARY 26-27, 2009

December 17, 2008

Dear Mr. Reed,

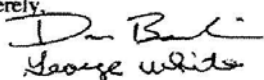
According to our most recent estimate, as of November 19, 2008 we are anticipating a per pupil allocation for the 2009-2010 school year of \$6,528 from local and state revenue sources.

Projected Annex enrollment for the 2009-2010 school year at Weiser High School is 21 students. Using the tuition rate of \$776.90 per month per student determined by the State of Idaho we would be expected to pay approximately \$146,834. Based on the Oregon estimate given above, we will receive approximately \$137,088 from local and state sources. This results in a difference of \$9,746. When looked at on a per month basis, Annex School District's revenue estimate is \$725.33 per student. The difference then equals \$51.57 per student per month.

As mentioned in former correspondence, over the past decade the difference between what Annex receives for educating our high school students and the tuition rate set by the state of Idaho has continued to create a hardship for our district. This has contributed in programs being cut at our elementary school in order to accommodate our high school population. The district can no longer afford the financial hardship or its effect on our elementary students, their families and the staff.

Thank you for continuing to pursue a waiver from the State of Idaho for the portion of our 2009-2010 tuition bill, and of the subsequent three years, that exceeds the amount we receive from local and state revenue sources. We truly appreciate your effort to ensure that our high school students may continue to attend Weiser High School and contribute to the Weiser community that most Annex families consider their own.

Sincerely,



George White

Dan Beaubien
George White
Head Teachers
Annex School