

The Linking Loop

Introduction

This past Monday night, **August 7, 2017**, the Central District 13J School Board met with its new chair Steve Moser (at the helm) and new superintendent Jennifer Kubista (seated beside him). Reports were given on topics ranging from a heat-induced evacuation for summer students to new programming that promotes inclusiveness.

I was there for the first of many meetings in which news coverage of the school board will be provided by means of a newsletter, *The Linking Loop*, similar to another one I've been writing for two years about the Independence City Council, *The Linking Letter*. (*The Linking Letter* can be accessed at the website trammartnews.com)

You've been placed on this list to receive *The Linking Loop*, which will make its formal debut in September. You can opt out by hitting reply and putting "no thanks" in the message line. Meanwhile, congratulations to Dorie Vickery and "Summer Science" staffers, who successfully transported 65 children from Independence Elementary School to Henry Hill when temperatures soared so high students needed cooler classroom space to continue their studies of – *what else?* – the solar eclipse ... having learned first-hand the power of the sun can make even very-fun learning feel too hot to handle without air conditioning.

And when it comes to a discussion of inclusiveness, which was in evidence Monday night, I'd like to provide an editorial written for the city-oriented *Linking Letter* after the City Council voted to make Independence an "inclusive city." It was written by a school district employee, Jennifer Flores, and it seems to me it says quite a lot (see under the line below). Thank you and good luck to all of us as our nearby star turns our hometown into the center of the universe. *Anne Scheck*

INCLUSIVITY. It's a huge word, with a powerful meaning. Webster defines it as: 1) comprehending stated limits or extremes and 2) broad in orientation or scope and covering or intended to cover all items, costs or services.

So what does it mean to be an inclusive town? It means that we are willing to look beyond stated limits. That we think in broad terms of

humanity and compassion. And that we do so for all our neighbors -- be they white, black, brown, or any "color" in between. It means we do so for neighbors of all sexual persuasions and mental capacities. It means that we, as people of Independence Oregon, see our neighbors as human beings. Nothing more, and certainly nothing less.

It should also be a word that we don't need. Because in a perfect world, we wouldn't even think about the fact that some folks have a different color skin, speak a different language, don't speak at all, prefer same sex partners. Why do any of those things matter if the person is a good person? Why should we need a proclamation to say we are "inclusive"? We should simply just be inclusive, without even thinking about it -- and I believe, for the most part, the people of the city of Independence do just that.