



### **For Immediate Distribution**

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## **Press Release**

### **City of Oregon City and Oregon City School District Partner for a Win-Win**

The City of Oregon City and the Oregon City School District have reached a tentative agreement for the reuse of school district property that would eventually allow the City to construct a new police station and other administrative city facilities at the former Mt. Pleasant Elementary School property. Both the City Commission and the School Board must ratify the proposed deal. Specific terms for the transaction have not yet been released to the public.

Pursuant to the agreement, the City would purchase the former Mt. Pleasant Elementary School property from the District. The proposed purchase resolves challenges for both organizations. The City is in dire need of a new police station and the School District needs capital improvement funds and a clear title to another property—the former Barclay Elementary School. Barclay was closed in 1985 and subsequently used by Oregon City Community Education and partially leased to Marylhurst School.

In 1875, the City of Oregon City donated to the School District part of the land upon which Barclay Elementary School was constructed. Research recently revealed a reversionary clause in the deed to return the property to the City, should the District no longer operate a “free and public school” at that location. As part of the proposed transaction to purchase Mt. Pleasant from the School District, the City of Oregon City will release all claims to the Barclay property.

The Oregon City School District closed Mt. Pleasant Elementary School in 2012 as part of a greater restructuring that was in response to declining enrollment and budget shortfalls.

“This is really an elegant solution to what could have been a messy problem,” said Oregon City Schools’ Superintendent Larry Didway. “The proposed deal is an example of how organizations can collaborate and find solutions that are mutually beneficial for a shared community.”

The City plans to renovate the Mt. Pleasant site, but retain historic features of the building in its redesign. “The law requires that the Oregon City Police Department be relocated to a seismically approved public facility no later than 2022,” said Oregon City – City Manager David Frasher. “Thanks to the thoughtful collaboration between the City and the District, we have a common sense solution that benefits both organizations and the people they serve.”

Both the City and School District administrations intend to present the matter to their respective governing bodies for approval in a public meeting at the earliest opportunity.

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*Please see photo attached.*



Photo of Mt. Pleasant Elementary School, courtesy of the Oregon City School District