

## The Portland board votes for an array of other savings and for a revamped school day

By **BETSY HAMMOND**  
THE OREGONIAN

After hearing considerable criticism of its plans to cut high school teachers and shorten sixth-graders' Outdoor School experience, the Portland School Board late Monday evening approved a \$440 million spending plan for the coming school

year that makes those cuts.

The board followed without exception the recommendations of Superintendent Carole Smith, who consulted in a new, deeper way this year with principals and her staff on how best to spend district money.

The vote was 5-1 with board co-chairwoman Trudy Sargent voting no. She said the board should have frozen teacher pay and benefits when negotiating the contract for next year in order to make fewer cuts to programs including high school staffing.

Because of flat funding from the state, Oregon's largest school district

must operate next year at the same \$440 million level as this year.

Smith recommended spending on early childhood education, new math and science books and teacher training and intensive help for struggling readers at high-poverty schools.

To pay to preserve or expand those programs, some of which lost grant funding, she recommended cutting about 70 teaching jobs, 45 of them from the district's nine high schools. The board also cut back central administrative jobs by 5 percent to 10 percent.

School board budget chairman

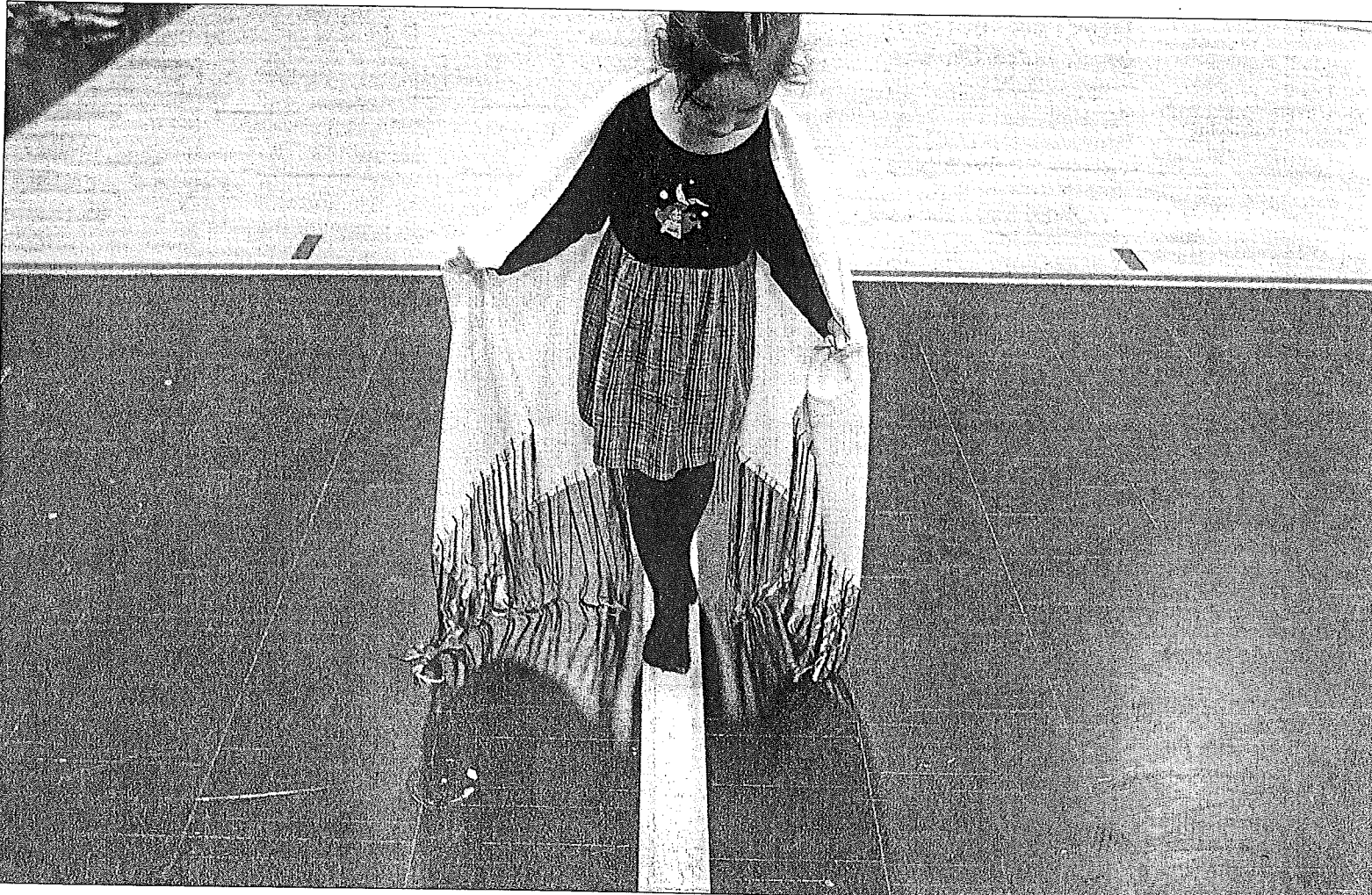
David Wynde said cutting tea jobs and trimming Outdoor S are terrible choices but there are better alternatives.

"There are an awful lot of things that we know are important, things that we know are needed, but we don't have the money to do them. Everything we are doing in the way of budget cuts is bad for kids," he said. "I hate that."

Monday's vote will not be the final say. The board must take a second vote next month, after a review commission checks it over before the budget is officially adopted.

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## Dancing as cultural baseline



TYLER TJOMSLAND/THE OREGONIAN

Autumn Star, 4, takes a moment between dance lessons to walk along a baseline painted on the floor of the gym during Culture Night recently at the Native American Youth & Family Center in Northeast Portland. "I feel like the purpose of Culture Night is to help Natives in the Portland metro area who are from different tribes to connect to different cultural practices, learn different cultural arts, practice their powwow dancing, and to find an opportunity to meet other Natives in the community to make friendships and connections," says Theresa Smith, cultural arts coordinator at the center. Culture Night happens 5:30-8 p.m. every Monday during the school year. The center provides dinner, dance instruction, arts classes, drumming and singing, and Lakota language instruction. People of all ages are welcome to attend. To see a video and more photos from Culture Night, go to [oregonlive.com/portland](http://oregonlive.com/portland).

## Fire victim's Samaritan is right man in right place

An airline pilot knew drop to the ground. Someone was the bag away from the man's torso linowicz said. "I told him that I