**State School Fund Task Force**

**Written Testimony – State School Fund Formula Recommendations**

**Maureen Wolf, Board Member**

**Tigard-Tualatin School District**

**6960 SW Sandburg Street, Tigard, OR 97223**

**503.431.4002**

**March 11, 2014**

2009 marked the beginning of the most recent K-12 budget reductions. At that time, Tigard-Tualatin School District began evaluating transportation costs in hopes of reducing expenditures that redirect funds outside the classroom; this included an RFP process for transportation services. In 2011, TTSD leadership continued to explore cost-saving measures by working with our bus drivers and transportation director to identify opportunities to redesign busing routes. Due to this effort the District was able to reduce total bus routes from 78 to 68. Reductions were made by eliminating kindergarten pick-up inside the walking area and, where feasible, bus stops were moved to the end of the streets.

Over a five year period, Tigard-Tualatin School District has reduced its SSFG Transportation Claim from $5,593,157 to $5,045,277 in 2012-13 generating state savings of $383,655, representing the 70% reimbursement under the State School Fund, and netdistrict savings of $164,424.

Recognizing that reducing bus routes will not be feasible for rural districts, I encourage the SSF Task Force to review the criteria for district reimbursements to ensure that districts have put into place efficient and effective transportation routes. This recommendation saves dollars for all districts therefore improving the educational opportunities for Oregon students.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

CC: Ernie Brown, Superintendent; Tigard-Tualatin School District

David Moore, CFO; Tigard-Tualatin School District