

**Union County School District #11
Imbler Public Schools
Imbler, Oregon**

**November 21, 2023
High School Room #1
7:00 P.M**

Preliminary Business

Call To Order

Board Chair Pam Glenn called the regular November meeting to order at 6:59 P.M. and welcomed guests. Guests present were: Madeline Koenig, Kristen Kruse, Tim Phelps, Ian and Anna Gordon, Peter and Candi Benjamin, Tina and Tadd McCrae, Russ and Mary West, Rick Denis, Liz Sullivan, Jeff Whitaker, and Drew Williams.

Visiting Delegations

A few of the guests were present for the Student of the Month recognition. This month's theme was "Patience" and their teachers nominated them for their outstanding patience to their peers and education. Mr. Waite introduced each recipient, presented them with a certificate and read what their teacher wrote about the qualities that earned them the award. The students recognized were; Knightly Benjamin (1st), Rhett McCrae (3rd), and Emma Norton (5th) - not present.

Representatives of the Imbler Education Foundation, Liz Sullivan and Jeff Whitaker, were present to remind the Board of the purpose of the foundation. The Foundation was started in 2008 to support school district programs and it played an instrumental role in the passage of the elementary bond. The Foundation has been raising funds for 15 years for a music room/stage, which they would like to see the District continue to work towards. They have handled grant funds for various groups and most recently the Imbler Track Project.

Ian Gordon updated the Board on the track project. He noted that fundraisers are going well as they have approximately \$79,000 in cash donations and \$20,000 of in-kind donations. This is very positive as they put together grant applications as it shows the strong community support for the project. Russ West has been instrumental in the grant applications and he highlighted the grants that he has and will be applying for. The committee is working with Steve West of West Outdoor Adventures to put together a video to target potential donors. They hope to have the video completed and be able to distribute it in late December or early January. The committee feels they have great momentum with the project and will continue to move forward.

Consent Agenda

Following two brief questions, Ken Patterson moved to approve the minutes and bills paid as presented. Jason Beck seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Reports

IMESD Talking Points

Superintendent Waite provided the IMESD Talking Points. It was reported that Early Literacy Grant application will open in December. IMESD is working to support districts with the application process. It was reported that Imbler School District will receive approximately \$41,690 per year to improve early literacy.

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Cybersecurity continues to be an area of focus for the IMESD that they will continue to work on to improve student safety.

Transportation/Maintenance Report

Drew Williams reported that all buses are ready for winter. Bus #30 had some alignment work completed. He noted that the Thomas bus should be here by the end of December or the beginning of January. Mr. Williams reported that the irrigation lines were recently winterized and the bleacher and hoop inspection has been completed. There will be some repairs necessary on the football bleachers, but everything else checked out fine. It was reported that they are waiting on parts for repair of the gym and front entrance doors.

Principal/Activity Report

Mr. Mills reported that the FBLA recently hosted a Veterans Appreciation breakfast and assembly. It was well attended and appreciated by those in attendance. FFA recently held their annual tri-tip dinner drive through. It was, once again, a huge success serving approximately 280 meals.

Junior High Basketball is halfway through their season. High school winter sports practice has begun. There are currently 24 boys and 21 girls out for high school basketball. There are five boys and one girl out for wrestling. The first basketball game will be at home against Notus on November 30th and wrestling will begin their season on December 1st at Enterprise. The K-12 Winter Program is set for Monday, December 18th and Graduation is set for May 23rd.

Superintendent Report

Superintendent Waite reviewed attendance comparisons from last year to the current year. Last year's first quarter attendance rate was 94.3% with 295 and this year's rate was 93.5% with 321 students. Since that time, a few of our problem students have left the district. 82% of our students are considered regular attenders while last year only 76% were considered regular attenders. The 5th grade had the highest first quarter attendance rate with nearly 97%. Attendance will continue to be an area of focus for the rest of the year.

Superintendent Waite informed those present that the November 17th Enrichment Day focused on Native American Heritage at the elementary. Solo Greene from the Nez Perce tribe provided presentations and there were several other activities. The high school enrichment day consisted mostly of leaf raking as many junior high students were gone for basketball.

Oregon At-A-Glance School Profile

Superintendent Waite presented the 2022-23 At-A-Glance School Profile. He reported that this was based on 293 students including a variety of demographics. The students performed higher than the state average in nearly all areas including; 100% graduation rate, 86% of freshmen were on track to graduate and 73% of our students were considered regular attenders (student that attend more than 90% of their enrolled school days). While some of these areas were down from the previous year, they are higher than the state average. He noted that this report is also available on the district website.

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2022-23 SIA Annual Report

Superintendent Waite provided the 2022-23 SIA Annual Report. It was reported that there has been a decrease in discipline incidents on recess with the addition of a paraprofessional to monitor activities closer. Mr. Waite also noted that the school counselor is very busy providing services to students and families. This has resulted in improved mental health and less incidents with students. With the SIA funds, the District has been able to offer more well-rounded learning opportunities as well as decrease class sizes. We will soon be able to improve communication with our community with the upgrade of our reader board. There are some technicalities yet to be worked out.

Superintendent Waite noted that one of the challenges with SIA implementation is that some of the changes have moved slowly but the District continues to look for ways to give students improved opportunities. Engagement with the community continues to be ongoing with opportunities for public input at meetings and continued efforts to work with community groups. With the continuation of SIA implementation, Superintendent Waite reported that the District will continue to pursue providing opportunities for students. Focus will also be placed on the counseling department to continue to make our campus a better place for students.

Superintendent Waite asked for any public comments or questions regarding the SIA Annual Report. There were none.

New Business

Track Project Filming Discussion

Superintendent Waite informed the Board that the film crew working on the track project video is only filming individuals that have signed permission forms to be filmed. The crew is making a short promotional video but they are also considering making a feature documentary that would generate a profit. Superintendent Waite stated that he wanted the Board to be aware of that possibility.

New Business

Track Project Update

Ian Gordon presented the idea of naming parts of the track project (events) after donors who make significant donations. He also proposed the possibility of reserving 10 parking spots on the back side of the football field (Crescent Road) for donors. Ken Patterson noted that the school does not own that property which may cause some problems. Discussion turned to reserving some parking spaces in the parking lot. The Board expressed concern about the limited spaces available and wondered who would monitor/enforce the spaces.

Mr. Gordon asked the Board if they would approve sponsorship naming rights for events. Ken expressed his concerns about providing a blanket approval for naming of events. Jason Beck suggested, rather than naming events, to consider sponsor boards instead of naming individual events. Mr. Gordon asked for flexibility to discuss the option of naming the complex with significant donors. Superintendent Waite suggested giving the committee the flexibility to discuss the possibility with potential donors but the Board would have the final approval.

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Russ West reported that an organization has donated their grant writing services and the committee may not need the \$15,000 the District had offered for such services.

Policies Presented for First Reading

Superintendent Waite reviewed the policies presented for first reading. He noted that the policy updates were recommended/required by OSBA. The policies will be ready for approval at the December meeting.

Assistant Athletic Director Position Discussion

Superintendent Waite asked the Board if they were interested in adding an assistant AD position to help with the athletic director duties. He noted that teachers are already helping with these duties but on a volunteer basis. It was discussed that the assistant would be a liaison between the games and the athletic department. The assistant would attend league meetings, AD conference and assist with supervising at games. The proposed extra duty salary was 6% of the base pay but would be pro-rated for the remainder of the 2023-24 school year. Pam Glenn asked whether this could be shared among those staff members that are working on their administrative license. She noted that would give all of them an opportunity to obtain administrative experience.

Superintendent Waite stated that they could be creative and allow multiple administrative opportunities. He also informed the Board that this would be part of the licensed agreement and would need an M.O.U.

2023-2024 Integrated Plan Presentation- SIA Grant Agreement

Superintendent Waite presented the Integrated Plan Update. He reported that the plan is complete and the focus is now shifting to implementation of strategies and activities. It was noted that the final total allocation increased by \$72,803 for a total of \$475,154 which will allow for implementation of some "wish list" activities. SIA and EHS funds are up but the HSS funds were down. Superintendent Waite reviewed the baseline and targets for the five common measures; Four-Year Graduation, Five-Year Completion, Ninth Grade On-Track, Third Grade Reading and Regular Attenders. He then reviewed the intended outcomes and strategies. It was noted that the key investments for the upcoming biennium include: staffing and program costs to reduce class sizes; monitor student progress and provide instructional resources to reinforce learning; increase electives and out-of-school programming; support student health and wellness; and improve our communication and stakeholder engagement. Superintendent Waite stated that the plan will be posted on the district website. He then asked for public comment and questions. There were no questions or comments.

Old Business

Locker Room Project Update

Superintendent Waite reported that new lockers were ordered for the locker rooms and were on their way and should be installed by December. He was concerned that removing and repurposing the old lockers would not work well. It was also decided that a discussion will take place at the December meeting to determine the use of the old locker rooms.

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Action Items

Approve OSBA Election

Teressa Dewey informed the Board that OSBA is asking districts to approve two resolutions and a Legislative Policy Committee person; Bruce Kevan. Ken Patterson moved to approve Bruce Kevan as the LCP but no action on the resolutions. Jason Beck seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Approve Staff Resignations

Letters of resignation were presented from Bonnie Lewis, Elementary Custodian and Randy Waite, Head Jr. High Football Coach. It was noted that Mrs. Lewis would be retiring with PERS on December 31, 2023 but she was willing to continue working until a suitable replacement was found. Jason Beck moved to approve the resignations. Ken Patterson seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Approve Items for Surplus Property

A list of items were presented for surplus property. Ken Patterson moved to approve the list of items for surplus property. Joe Fisher seconded the motion, which was unanimously passed.

Approve 2023-2024 SIA Grant Agreement

Ken Patterson moved to approve the 2023-2024 SIA Grant Agreement as presented. Jason Beck seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Approve Assistant AD Position

Ken Patterson moved to approve the addition of an Assistant AD Position with a extra duty salary of 6% of the base pay, pro-rated for the 2023-24 school year. Jason Beck seconded the motion, which was unanimously passed.

Good of the Order

Board Chair Glenn asked if there were any other comments. Kristen Kruse asked what has been or will be done to reduce class sizes at the elementary. Superintendent Waite noted that the desired class sizes at the elementary were: K >20; 1st-3rd - 22; and 4th - 6th - 24. He acknowledged that some of the classes were larger than desired due to students moving into the district; which has not been normal in recent years. It was noted that the SIA/HSS funds have been utilized for class-size reduction at the high school level and that there is no room for a split class at the elementary building. He reported that when a family is in a temporary housing situation, they are required to sign an agreement that if they acquire housing outside of our district boundaries, they will be required to attend their new resident district. He hopes that this will alleviate some issues that we had early this year.

Adjournment

With no further business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned at 8:29 p.m.

Members Present

Jason Beck, Joe Fisher, Pam Glenn and Ken Patterson.

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Others Present

Randy Waite, Superintendent; Mike Mills, Principal/AD; and Teresa Dewey, Deputy Clerk.

Chairman

Deputy Clerk