

Preliminary Business

Call To Order

Board Vice Chair Braseth called the Regular December Meeting to order at 7:00 p.m., welcomed guests and asked them to introduce themselves. Those present were, Alix and Dane Dinsmore, Angie Weissenfluh, Melissa Bonanno, Austin Horn, Ian Gordon, Russ West, John Shorts, Sarah Lucas, Kiera and Meghan Counsell, Tony Haddock and Drew Williams

Visiting Delegations

A few of the guests were present for the Student of the Month recognition. This month's theme was "Humility" and their teachers nominated them for their growth mindset and hard working attitude. 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; Blythe Twilegar (K), Perry Dinsmore (2nd), Brooklyn Bonanno (4th) and Addison Horn (6th).

Consent Agenda

Following a few brief questions, Ken Patterson moved to approve the minutes and bills paid as presented. Joe Fisher seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Reports

IMESD Talking Points

Superintendent Waite provided the IMESD Talking Points which discussed the recent COSA regional fall visits. The feedback received from local schools was that there is a sense of optimism with the pandemic restrictions no longer in place. Districts are reconnecting with students and focusing on teaching and learning. However, district administrators expressed concern regarding the required state reporting and data collection mandates. Concerns were also expressed about the challenges of meeting the mental health needs of students and the workforce shortages districts are facing.

Maintenance/Transportation Report

Drew Williams reported that transportation is going well and he expects the additional bus to be delivered in February. It was reported that the security cameras will be installed in the new locker rooms and playground area in January. The dryer is scheduled for repair on Friday. A new commercial washer and dryer would cost approximately \$23,000.

Principal/Activity Report

In the absence of Mr. Mills, Tony Haddock presented the Principal/Activity Report. It was reported that Ms. Bonanno was selected as the Oregon Representative for the Auschwitz Legacy Fellowship program. Beginning in January, she will meet monthly to gain Holocaust learning materials and information. At the end of summer, she will travel to Poland with other representatives to visit Auschwitz and concentration camps.

Mr. Haddock also reported that Heidi Bowers was named the NFSHSA Oregon Girl's Track Coach of the Year. She was nominated by OSAA. Honorees were selected on their coaching performance during the 2022-23 school year, community involvement, school involvement and philosophy of coaching.

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Senior Project presentations were completed last Wednesday with all seniors passing. Mr. Mills expressed his appreciation to Mr. Evers who prepared them for their presentations. Mr. Haddock informed the Board that the girl's basketball team is currently ranked #3 in the state and the boys are ranked #4. The wrestlers are off to a good start with all wrestlers medaling at the recent meet in Echo. Isaih Trujillo won his weight class. All wrestlers also wrestled well at the Elgin tournament. The Jr. High basketball season concluded this past weekend with both the A and B girls and A boys finishing undefeated and boy's B team showing much improvement.

Mr. Haddock reported that Mr. Mills commended Erin Wunz for a successful choir/band/music program the previous night. It was well attended and the students performed well and looked like they enjoyed themselves.

Superintendent Report

Superintendent Waite reported that the initial Title I review was held last week and it went well. The state outlined the items that need to be submitted to satisfy the requirements. He thanked Becki McIntosh and Teresa Dewey for participating in the meeting with him.

It was reported that letters have been sent to parents of chronically absent students. A process is in place for better communication and implementation of attendance expectations. We will also be making sure that out-of-district students are following our agreement in order to remain at Imbler. Consideration will be given for certain situations and family obligations.

Enrichment Day was held December 15th. The focus was on Christmas crafts at the elementary level. Superintendent Waite reported that there were over 100 students in attendance at the elementary and he highlighted the activities students participated in. It was reported that many JH/HS students were traveling for basketball so attendance at the JH/HS level was not as good. He also informed those present of the upcoming Enrichment Day activities which will include skiing, Bump-up Day, a field trip day and a sports extravaganza. Kaiger Braseth thanked the staff for their efforts in putting the activities together for the Enrichment Days.

New Business

Proposed Trap Shooting Team

John Shorts was present to answer questions regarding the proposed Trap Shooting Team. He informed the Board that it is up to the District whether the team would be school-sponsored or a club. He noted Baker's team is school-sponsored and La Grande's team is a club sport. He reported that the \$35 entry fee through the trap shooting organization covers the coach and students with liability insurance. The costs of targets and shells could either be covered by the district or through fundraising. It was reported that there are currently four students that currently shoot with the La Grande team but they would like the opportunity to shoot for Imbler and earn a letter. The students passed around a sign up sheet to determine the level of interest and it was reported that 21 additional students had expressed interest in participating if an Imbler team was formed.

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Sarah Lucas indicated that there may be some community members interested in serving as a coach and Superintendent Waite stated that there may also be a staff member willing to coach. He also stated that he felt it would be best to start as a club. Joe Fisher asked when the Spring season begins. Mr. Shorts stated that the team would need to be approved prior to March 1st. Kaiger Braseth asked for proof of insurance to make sure that the district would not be liable. The Board expressed their approval for pursuing the formation of an Imbler Trap Shooting Club.

Early Literacy Grant Application

Superintendent Waite reported that he and Becki McIntosh attended a meeting to put together the Early Literacy Grant Application. This grant is a non-competitive grant through the state that will provide funds to districts to enhance their early literacy programs. Districts will be required to provide a 25% match of the award. He reported that we will receive \$41,690 for 2023-24 and \$43,391 for 2024-25. The allowable expenses are; professional development and coaching, extended learning opportunities, curriculum and hiring of staff. He noted that a majority of Becki McIntosh's salary costs (.7 fte) are paid with Title funds. She sees all K-2 students daily for 15 minutes of instruction.

Superintendent Waite informed the Board that the plan for the 2023-24 funds would be to purchase materials for classrooms, phonics computer license and summer school. The hope for next year is to hire a .75 literacy specialist. Title funds can be utilized for supplemental math instruction so between the two part-time positions, some assistance can be provided for both math and reading. This would also allow for more 1:1 instruction for lower level students. Superintendent Waite reported that the grant application needs to be approved and turned in by January 8th. He then asked for any input and/or questions from the Board and community. There was no community input but the Board expressed their support of the grant application and planned expenses.

February Meeting Date Change

Due to a conflict the February meeting date need to be changed. Based on feedback from the Board, the February meeting was changed to Tuesday, February 13, 2023.

Facility Committee Discussion

Superintendent Waite stated that there are several proposed upcoming projects that need to be addressed and felt that it would be beneficial to re-establish the Facility Committee to help keep the proposed projects moving forward. He noted that input is needed to determine the best use of the old locker room space and to continue to move forward with the track project and continue planning for a music room. The Board agreed that it would be a good time to re-establish the committee.

Old Business

Locker Room Project Update

Superintendent Waite informed those present that locks still need to be installed in the locker room and keyed to match the master key. The lockers are in the girl's locker room and the boy's equipment lockers will be moved in over break. The HVAC is backed up until February.

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Track Project Update

Ian Gordon reported that they have been actively working on grant applications and will begin soliciting individuals and businesses soon. He reported that an eight lane track with lights is their ultimate goal. The updated projected cost of that will be approximately \$1.28 million which includes a 10% overage. They are also working to get written commitment for in-kind donations. Russ West reported that they have been giving the option of pledge cards and once the project begins, those funds will need to be collected. Mr. West reviewed the grant opportunities that he is preparing to submit. They include; Ford Family Foundation, Woodgrain, Wildhorse, T-Mobile, Trailblazers and Columbia Sportswear. It was reported that they plan to travel to make direct requests to Nike and Adidas. They indicated that they may be coming to the Board in the Spring to ask for approval to move forward with the project. The hope of the committee is to have the project completed and ready to use for the Spring of 2025.

While an eight lane track is the committee's preference, they also acknowledge that a six lane track would meet many of the needs although it would not provide the opportunity to host meets. The projected cost of a six lane track is approximately \$998,000 without lights. The cost of light is roughly \$150,000 with an additional \$40,000 for installation. Kaiger Braseth thanked both Ian and Russ for their report and all of their work and the rest of the committee's efforts on the project. The Board was very pleased with the amount of progress that has been made in such short amount of time.

Action Items

Approve Policies Presented in November

Superintendent Waite reviewed the policies presented in November and reminded them that they were recommended by OSBA. Ken Patterson moved to approve the policies as presented. Joe Fisher seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Approve Early Literacy Grant Application

Joe Fisher moved approval of the Early Literacy Grant Application as presented by Superintendent Waite. Ken Patterson seconded the motion, which was unanimously passed.

Approve Hiring of Assistant A.D.

Superintendent Waite reported that both Dustan Adams and Tony Haddock were interviewed for the position. Due to both of their coaching schedules, it was determined that it might be best to split the position so that each of them can serve in the role of Assistant A.D. during the time they are not coaching. Both of them agreed to this arrangement and will split the extra duty salary amount. Ken Patterson stated that he liked the arrangement and was pleased that it would provide both staff members opportunity to gain administrative experience. Mr. Patterson moved to approve the hiring of Dustan Adams and Tony Haddock as Assistant A.D. Joe Fisher seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

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Approve the Hiring of Elementary Custodian

Superintendent Waite reported that 19 applications were received for the elementary custodial position. Seven of those applicants were interviewed and Mr. Waite stated that any of them would have been able to do the job. However, the committee felt that Lisa Risseuw would be the best fit for the position. Joe Fisher moved to approve the hiring of Lisa Risseuw and Ken Patterson seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Adjournment

With no further business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned at 8:00 pm.

Members Present

Kaiger Braseth, Joe Fisher and Ken Patterson.

Others Present

Randy Waite, Superintendent and Teresa Dewey, Deputy Clerk.

Chairman

Deputy Clerk