

Preliminary Business

Call to Order

Board Chair Pam Glenn called the Regular January Meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. She welcomed the guests and asked them to introduce themselves. Those present were; Ian Gordon, Jenny Phelps, Jennie Yancey, Kristen Kruse and Drew Williams.

Board Chair Glenn turned the table over to Superintendent Randy Waite for the Student of the Month presentations. The character trait that the students were recognized for was selflessness. They were commended for their considerate nature and putting the needs and well-being of others before their own. The students recognized were; Dawson Bryson, Cai Averett and Claire Sheahan.

School Board Appreciation

Superintendent Waite reported that January was School Board Appreciation Month. Superintendent Waite expressed his appreciation for their self-less service to the students of the Imbler School District. He wanted the Board to know that they were appreciated and valued and presented them with a token of appreciation.

Public Input

Board Chair Glenn asked for any public input. Jenny Phelps asked that the quarter and semester honor roll be more publicly recognized. It was suggested that the honor roll be posted on Facebook and in the newspaper.

Consent Agenda

Following a few brief questions regarding bills paid, Ken Patterson moved approval of the minutes and bills paid. Jason Beck seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Reports

InterMountain ESD Report

Superintendent Waite provided the IMESD Talking Points. It was reported that Governor Kotek released a statement to begin the formation of a state education action plan. One of the focus areas of the plan is to develop a statewide plan to support the social-emotional health needs of students in school settings. Another component of the plan is to look into establishing minimum teacher salaries and review funding for schools. Superintendent Waite reported that, with the varying cost of living across the state, this would be difficult to implement. However, some superintendents are in favor of this idea. The thought is that this would make salary negotiations easier for districts. Another part of the plan is to create the Office of Transparency within ODE to make budget information more accessible and easier to understand.

J.D. Cant arrived at 7:10 p.m.

Maintenance/Transportation Report

Drew Williams reported that Bonnie Lewis has been training the new Elementary Custodian, Lisa Risseeuw and also helping with snow removal. Mr. Williams reported that there were some issues that morning with the cold weather and the buses gelling up. The hope is that the buses will be up and running for the routes the next day.

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Mr. Williams informed the Board that the new bus is expected to be on site by the end of February. Discussion turned to the quality of fuel and treatment procedures. Mr. Williams reported that Gasco provides the fuel and they stated that they had treated the fuel twice. Kaiger Braseth asked that Gasco be contacted to see if they would be willing to help with the cost incurred due to the gelling issues.

Principal/Activity Report

Mr. Mills reported that the end of the first semester will be January 18th and grades should be going out on Thursday, January 25th. It was reported that the Freshmen on Track program has two students participating with one opting out.

The basketball teams have been doing well with both of the varsity teams posting a 3-0 record in league and ranked #2 in the state. Both junior high and high school wrestlers will be in John Day on Friday and the high school will be at Elgin on Saturday.

Superintendent Report

Superintendent Waite reported that, due to the recent school closures, the semester end date was moved back. He stated that worked well to allow students time to complete tests and projects. He also reported that, with the loss of the two school days, we are currently at 1,001 hours. The state requirement is 990 hours so we could cancel one more day of school and not have to make up the time.

Superintendent Waite then provided an update on attendance. It was reported that the overall attendance is 93.6%. The 5th grade class has the best attendance (97%) while the senior class has the lowest attendance rate of 90%. He noted that attendance has improved since the letters were sent out to parents raising awareness. He stated that attendance will continue to be monitored closely and communicated with parents.

It was reported that a grant was received to automate the mandatory testing such as; asbestos, water, etc. Superintendent Waite noted that he and Mr. Williams met with Verdant to get this process started. The information will be compiled into one system that can be shared on the website and will also send out reminders when mandatory tests are due. This will help us manage these requirements.

Superintendent Waite reported that three community members/parents have expressed interest in serving on the facility committee along with Kaiger Braseth (board member) and staff members; Drew Williams Mike Mills and himself. The first meeting will be held in February.

New Business

OASTL Request

Superintendent Waite presented correspondence from Oregon Advocates for School Trust Lands (OASTL) asking districts to join their legal action to improve school funding. He noted that this topic had been discussed previously but there was no action taken. Discussion turned to the history of the Common School Fund and the management of the Elliott State Forest. The intent of the Elliott State Forest was to manage and harvest the forest to provide school funding. Over the years, harvesting of the forest has dwindled and therefore funding for schools has decreased accordingly.

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The request from OASTL is for districts to support their effort to file a lawsuit in order to return the Elliot State Forest to its intended use. Superintendent Waite noted that the cost to join the effort is minimal; \$10 per year. This was added as an action item.

Old Business

Locker Room Project Update

Superintendent Waite reported that the locks and push bars will be installed the next day. The last set of lockers were damaged and returned. The replacement lockers have been shipped out and should be here soon.

Ian Gordon expressed concern about the shower design in the new locker rooms and noted that it limits the ability for all kids to shower. The stalls are small and only have one shower head. He noted that there is not enough time for all of the students to take individual showers between classes. Discussion ensued and it was suggested to make some adjustments to the stalls so that more shower heads are available for student use.

Track Project Update

Mr. Gordon was excited to inform those present that the committee had received \$50,000 from the Ford Foundation. This was twice as much as the \$25,000 requested. The project has \$401,200 of both cash and in-kind donations. This amount represents 41% of the cost of a six lane track. He reported that the cost of football lights has increased and the committee has received a written commitment from OTEC to hang the lights (\$5,000). However, the total projected cost of the football lights is close to \$250,000. Kaiger Braseth reported that Dustan Adams is working on some other options for poles and lights which could result in some cost savings. If they are unable to get the cost of the lights down, it was suggested that the committee may need to seek a larger monetary contribution from the District in order to help with the cost of the lights.

Action Items

Approve Support of OASTL

Joe Fisher moved to support the efforts of Oregon Advocates for School Trust Lands (OASTL). Ken Patterson seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Adjournment

With no further business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned at 7:45 p.m.

Members Present

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

Others Present

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

Chairman

Deputy Clerk