

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

**November 15, 2022
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: Dustan, Megan and Kinley Adams; Blake, Misty and Reid Bars; Tyler and Vanessa Crook and Alessandra Lesko; Dillon, Shai and Makaio Joseph; Hannah and Ella Lehner; Brad, Darci, Owen and Braxton Sweet; Sam and Wendy Onjukka; Parker and Sara Lucas; Madeline and Sawyer Koenig; Kristen Kruse, Jenny Phelps, Ross Bingaman, Jennie Yancy, Raffaella Betza and Drew Williams.

Visiting Delegations

Most guests were present for the Student of the Month recognition. This month's theme was "Commitment" and their teachers nominated them for their outstanding commitment to their education, school and peers. 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; Kinley Adams, Reid Bars, Makaio Joseph, Ella Lehner, Alessandra Lesko, Braxton Sweet and Parker Grove.

Consent Agenda

Following two brief questions, Kaiger Braseth 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 the 2022 elections will result in a significant change in state leadership. The hope is that adequate funding will be secured for schools for the upcoming biennium. The main challenge will be the loss of 20,000 students in the public education system. With the changes in the government leadership, it is anticipated that the state budget may be later than usual.

Transportation/Maintenance Report

Drew Williams reported that, with the high fuel prices, all routes and trips will be evaluated to insure efficiency. He noted that he is keeping track of the number of students on the La Grande bus route. If there are over 70 students in the afternoon, a small bus will be sent to help reduce the number of students on the regular route bus. Baker School District is going assist with training for staff to obtain their Type 20 bus license.

Mr. Williams reported that he and his crew conducted a large cleanup around the grounds and buildings to get rid of some items that have been stored and not used for a significant amount of time. He stated he will get another dumpster and do another round of clean-up at a later date. Mr. Williams informed the board that, due to new EPA requirements, the A/C unit that had been ordered for the high school office was cancelled from the factory. He is in the process of obtaining bids again for replacement of the unit.

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Joe Fisher asked Mr. Williams if he had checked into the septic system training. Mr. Williams reported that he had talked with an individual from the City of Elgin and DEQ about the type of certification he would need to monitor our wastewater pond. He is waiting for a call back from DEQ. Mr. Fisher asked Mr. Williams to continue to pursue this certification.

Principal/Activity Report

Mr. Mills reported that parent/teacher conferences went well. 18 out of 33 invitations attended the conferences. The majority of the juniors and their parents met with their senior project advisors. The FBLA recently hosted a Veterans Appreciation breakfast and assembly. It was well attended and appreciated by those in attendance. FFA held their annual tri-tip dinner drive through the past Friday. It was once again a huge success serving approximately 260 meals. They also had 52 students participate in their annual community leaf raking project which covered eight houses.

Winter sports practice has begun. There are currently 18 boys and 19 girls out for high school basketball. There are four boys and one girl out for wrestling. The first basketball game will be at home against Notus on December 2nd and wrestling will begin their season the same day at Enterprise.

Superintendent Report

Superintendent Waite reported that parent/teacher conferences were well attended at the elementary with 96% participation from parents. Family Game Night went well with about 150 people in attendance. He noted that it was exciting to have families in the building participating in many fun activities. It was reported that the Boosters will be hosting their annual Vendor Fair on November 19th with National Honor Society and FBLA providing lunch. Mr. Waite thanked the school week committee for their hard work gathering and compiling information.

Superintendent Waite presented the 2021-22 At-A-Glance School Profile. He reported that this was based on 289 students including a variety of demographics. The students performed higher than the state average in nearly all areas including; 100% graduation rate, 95% of freshmen on track to graduate and 78% regular attenders (student that attend more than 90% of their enrolled school days). He noted that this report is also available on the district website.

Old Business

Locker Room Project Update

Superintendent Waite reported that a revised Request for Proposal was sent out to the contractors that attended the mandatory pre-proposal meeting. This revised RFP gave contractors more time to put the proposal together and also eliminated the language regarding revamping of the existing locker room. The proposals are due to Wenaha Group by December 13, 2022

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School Week Committee Update

Superintendent Waite introduced Madeline Koenig who was present to provide a presentation put together by the School Week Committee. Ms. Koenig reported that the committee was made up of a diverse group of individuals and had great conversations pertaining to the different school week options. She noted that the committee took many things into consideration including; attendance of staff and students, teacher retention and recruitment, student achievement, survey results, school day length and calendar, cost factors, impact of community and class time missed due to school sponsored activities.

Ms. Koenig pointed out that, after reviewing student attendance records as far back as 2017-18, it appears there is not a lot of attendance issues at Imbler and not excessive absences on Fridays. However, staff attendance showed more absences on Fridays than other days. As far as teacher retention and recruitment, with most other area schools on a four day week, there is not as much concern. It was determined that Imbler has been able to recruit and retain teachers because of the positive community reputation and the students. In the area of student achievement, Ms. Koenig reported that many studies showed a slight decrease in scores in reading and math after the reduction in school week. However, she noted that there was less of an impact on student achievement in rural schools.

Ms. Koenig reviewed the staff and community survey results. 20 staff members responded to the survey. 70% of those staff members preferred a four day week schedule with 30% preferring the 4.5 day schedule. With 199 community members responding to the survey, 79.4% responded in favor of a four day week schedule and 16.6% preferred a 4.5 day schedule. The remaining 4% were in favor of a 5 day week. Four different calendars were presented to show what a four day week might look like in order to meet instructional time requirements. The calendars presented reflected a 4.5 day week and three different 4 day week options. In order to obtain the required instructional hours, the school day would potentially run from 8:00 to 3:30 M-Th in the elementary and 8:00 to 3:40 in the junior high/high school. The current M - Th school day is 8:00 - 3:10 in the elementary and 8:15 - 3:20 in the junior high/high school.

The cost savings was also considered by the committee. Ms. Koenig reported that there is roughly only a 1-3% savings within district the size of Imbler. The cost reduction would be reflected in fewer hours for classified staff whose hours would be effected by the schedule change. In reviewing the potential impact on community, the committee recognizes that 56% of the elementary students and 40% district wide are out-of-district. This will need to be considered when evaluating the impact on families for enrichment days and participation in extracurricular activities.

In closing, Ms. Koenig reported that the majority of the school week committee and surveyed staff, parents and community recommends a four day week schedule. The committee asked that the Board explore the possibility of a four day week with enrichment/intervention learning opportunities on Fridays. They also recommended evaluating this schedule with a two year trial period.

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Superintendent Waite noted that there would be a lot of contractual issues to consider if the Board elected to go with a four day week schedule. He also reported that the calendars presented by the committee were only sample schedules.

Ross Bingaman expressed his concern surrounding the national trend in declining academic achievement and noted that there are no studies that show a gain in academic achievement with a four day week. He asked the Board to consider this when making their decision.

Committee member Raffaella Betza stated that, although the majority of the committee recommends a four day week, all share concerns about loss of academic achievement. For her it was a difficult decision and, although she is in favor of a four day week, she is a bit nervous about it but excited about the idea of enrichment programs that may be possible on Fridays.

Kaiger Braseth thanked the committee for their participation in the process of reviewing a four day week. He noted that he felt this was the most thorough and inclusive review of school week options based on survey results and participation of the committee members.

Jenny Phelps asked that the Board be provided the opportunity to read the 92 comments from the survey. It was noted that those comments would be made available to the Board.

Parker Lucas pointed out that, while state achievement is declining, Imbler has maintained their achievement levels. He asked why the district would change something that is working and would hate to see them take a step backwards.

Jennie Yancey asked whether a longer day would provide more instructional opportunities in certain subjects. Committee member, Raffaella Betza, reported that one of the teachers on the committee stated that a longer day could provide more learning opportunities with longer blocks of time.

Board Chair Pam Glenn thanked the committee for their time and the informative presentation. She then read a letter that expressed her thoughts of a four day week. She noted that, based on responses to the surveys, most reasons given in support of a four day week were for more family time. She expressed her concerns about the effect the longer days may have on elementary students and that there will be less time in the evenings for families. She stated that she feels that families are bringing their students to Imbler for the quality of education, not the length of school week. She noted that there is no real data as to whether a 4 or 4 ½ day week is better academically. However, there is data showing that reading scores are negatively affected by a shorter week. She reported that the reason the district went to a 4 ½ day week was because most activities were held on Friday and Saturday and students were missing school on Friday afternoons. She noted that now there are activities throughout the week and students are missing school during the week. She expressed concern for students that may fall through the cracks and stated she does not want the district to take a step back academically.

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Superintendent Waite recommended the Board take public comment at the December meeting and be ready to make a decision at the February meeting. Ms. Koenig suggested having calendars prepared for public comment.

Action Items

Approve OSBA Election

The Board took no action on the OSBA election items.

Approve Revised Appropriations

Teressa Dewey reported that the Student Investment Account (251) and High School Success Fund (252) needed to be revised in order to appropriate additional grant funds and carry-over funds. Fund 251 was increased by \$20,000 and fund 252 was increased by \$35,000. Kaiger Braseth moved to approve the revised appropriations as presented. Jason Beck seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Approve Policies - JHCD/JHCDA and DJC-AR

Superintendent Waite stated that these policies had been presented for the first reading at previous meetings. JHCD/JHCDA was revised to allow for the safe administration of Naloxone or similar medication in the event of an opioid overdose. DJC-AR revised the competitive bidding requirements to allow for approval of purchases under \$10,000 without board approval. However, if the purchase is over \$5,000 but under \$10,000 the Board would need to be notified of the purchase. Jason Beck moved to approve the policies as presented. Kaiger Braseth seconded the motion, which was unanimously passed.

Good of the Order

Board Chair Glenn asked if there were any other comments. Kristen Kruse asked if the Board had seen the emails from the public regarding the four day week. Superintendent Waite stated that the emails would be made available to the Board along with the survey results and comments.

Adjournment

With no further business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned at 8:15 p.m.

Members Present

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

Others Present

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

Chairman

Deputy Clerk