

Preliminary Business

Call To Order

Board Chair Glenn called the Regular December Meeting to order at 7:00 p.m., welcomed guests and asked them to introduce themselves. There were 22 guests present as listed on the sign-in sheet. Most were in attendance for the School Week Public Comment portion of the meeting.

Visiting Delegations

Kale Bingaman was in attendance to present his senior project to the Board. The project he has chosen is to upgrade the district reader board along the highway. In order to do this, he will need to secure funding, obtain permission from the City of Imbler and work with ODOT to make sure it meets all of their requirements/specifications. He noted that the digital reader board will be easier to update with information, have an improved look and will improve communication within the community. He noted that the fire department may be interested in helping with the project in order to advertise on it as well. He stated that he would like to have the sign installed and working in time to announce graduation this spring. Superintendent Waite reported that SIA funds could be utilized for this project as it would improve communication. It was noted that three bids would need to be obtained in order to meet public competitive bidding requirements. The Board thanked Kale for his presentation and told him they would make a decision at the January meeting.

Public Comment

School Week Public Comment

Board Chair Pam Glenn opened the table for School Week Public Comment. Carrie Bingaman, was the first to speak. As a former teacher, she informed those present that she taught when Imbler was a 5 day week school and transitioned to the 4½ day week. She noted that students were tired by the end of the day and felt that the longer blocks do not work at the primary grades. She stated that students are more alert in the morning and that is when the best learning takes place. Moving to a 4 day week, she felt the students will lose 1/5th of the best learning opportunity. She also noted that test scores have declined in the last five years as a nation. She also noted that studies have shown that moving to a four day week has resulted in a decline in math scores. In closing, Mrs. Bingaman stated that Imbler has always held high standards and reminded the Board that it is their responsibility to see that each child receives the best education possible.

Jenny Phelps, who was part of the School Week Committee, stated that the committee invested a lot of time and effort into investigating the different school week options. She asked that the Board consider what is best for the school community and noted that there was overwhelming support for a four day week when the staff and community was surveyed. She asked that the Board look at all of the input received and take it into consideration.

Anita DeLint informed the Board that, while serving on the committee, she spoke with a lot of parents and was very impressed by the input and feedback that the committee received. She expressed her hope that the Board considers this input from the community when they make their decision. She noted that she has continued to do research on the issue and found that rural communities attract great teachers which is why students perform well; not because of the number of hours they are in school. She stated that rural schools have greater teacher satisfaction and are stronger regardless of whether they are on a 4 or a 4½ day week. She thanked the Board for their time and consideration.

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Sarah Lucas asked that the Board base their decision on facts, rather than emotions. She asked that they consider the research that shows a likely drop in test scores with the transition to a four day week. She noted that studies also show that the decline can be countered with Friday programs that focus on repetition, remedial and disciplinary actions. She stated that she felt that our current schedule accomplishes those things and that may be why we excel compared to other schools in our region. Mrs. Bingaman noted that she has heard several pro-4 day week parents say they aren't worried about their kids' achievement, but they worry about the impact it may have on our students in most need. She urged the Board to think about what is best for all K-12 students.

Mary West stated that she felt that the hybrid approach that the district took when opening back up after lockdown was a good option for students that need help or for enrichment activities

Jillian Gray informed those present that she was a parent and a teacher new to the district. She stated that, by going to a four day week, the district could have better luck attracting and retaining staff. She noted that addressing social and emotional needs of students is quite exhausting and that a better teaching/life balance would be helpful to staff. She reminded the Board that education is dealing with a teacher shortage and that, as staff retire down the road, a four day week could help with recruiting new teachers to the district. She also stated that she feels that longer blocks would be beneficial for students.

Darci Sweet informed the Board that the staff has an overwhelming concern as to whether the Board will listen to them. She noted that staff is willing to look at the best calendar option to suit everyone's needs.

The Board thanked everyone for their input and stated that a decision will be made at the February meeting.

Consent Agenda

Kaiger Braseth 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 burden of state reporting for districts. It was reported that IMESD has created a team of professionals to assist districts with these reporting requirements. Superintendent Waite thanked Teresa Dewey for her efforts on completing several reports for the district recently.

Maintenance/Transportation Report

Drew Williams reported that he is waiting on bids for the A/C unit in the high school office. He also reported that there were seven staff members that attended a type 20 training in Baker. It was noted that it will be helpful to have these additional staff members licensed to drive. He also reported that the CORE training had been completed for the regular drivers.

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Principal/Activity Report

In the absence of Mr. Mills, Tony Haddock presented the Principal/Activity Report. It was reported that the Freshmen On Track program is currently in progress with four students opting out with their parent's permission. Invitations were sent out but parents can elect to not have their students participate. The program will provide an opportunity for students who are performing below average to receive help on Tuesdays and Thursdays after school.

The OSAA Executive Board adopted the use of a 35 second shot clock for basketball that will be implemented during the 2023-24 season. There will be a significant expense of purchasing the clocks and installation. It will also require an additional person to run the clock. However, it was reported that the majority think it will be good for the game.

Junior high girl's basketball has begun with 18 participants. High school basketball is underway with two tournaments over the past weekend facing some good competition. Wrestling is also underway with four participants; three boys and one girl. They have participated in tournaments both locally and in Echo.

Superintendent Report

Superintendent Waite reported that the Elementary Music Concert the previous Monday was well attended and the students were very excited and did a good job. He commended Mr. Emerson for his efforts. He noted that it takes a lot of coordination to put the program together with only one hour of practice with all of the students together.

Superintendent Waite informed the Board that he recently attended the New Superintendent Academy and Law Conference. He noted that it was a great learning experience which covered parental rights, special education rights, contracts and other topics.

Superintendent Waite reported that the holiday break is coming at a good time when the students are working through illnesses. There were approximately 20% of students absent at the peak last week but attendance improved as the week went along. He thanked parents and staff for being vigilant on taking precautions to mitigate the spread.

New Business

Policies Presented for First Reading

Superintendent Waite presented five policies for review; IGDJ, GBEA, EFA, JHCCF and GCDA/GDDA/AR. He noted that the updated policies were recommended by OSBA and asked the Board to review them and be prepared to discuss and act on them at the January meeting.

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 February 15, 2023.

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Old Business

Locker Room Project Update

Superintendent Waite informed those present that one bid had been received for the Locker Room Project. A copy of the design and proposal was presented to the Board. He noted that, while the bid of \$977,000 from Wellens GC is over the district budget of \$750,000, it is a starting point and Wellens feels that they can meet the budget by making adjustments to the design presented. Scott Rogers of the Wenaha Group, indicated he felt there was a lot of room for negotiations and was confident that the project could be completed within budget. There would be a cost for the time that Wellens put into future project discussion but the district could walk away if an agreement cannot be reached. Discussion turned to the design presented. Superintendent Waite noted that the two full bathrooms and storage room were not necessary and could be easily eliminated from the design. Kaiger Braseth asked what the cost would be to move forward with discussions. It was noted that no cost had been given for the revision discussions. Mr. Braseth then stated that he would still like to look into fixing the existing locker rooms. Discussion ensued. Joe Fisher stated that the Board has discussed and voted on this project previously and he felt the district needs to move forward with the project so no more time is wasted. Ken Patterson stated that he does not see cost of construction coming down anytime soon and felt the project should move forward which will result in improvements for the district in the long run.

Action Items

Approve Wellens General Contractors as Design Builder for Locker Room Project

Jason Beck moved that if the design and engineering discussion can be completed under \$10,000, Wellens General Contractors be approved as Design Builder for the Locker Room Project. Joe Fisher seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Adjournment

With no further business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned at 8:10 pm.

Members Present

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

Others Present

Randy Waite, Superintendent and Teresa Dewey, Deputy Clerk.

Chairman

Deputy Clerk