

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 immediately turned the table over to Superintendent Randy Waite for the Student of the Month presentations. The students were recognized for the patient demeanor they exhibit in the classroom and the example they set for their classmates to follow. The students recognized were; Avery Howard, Emma Norton, Carter Story and Julian Twilegar.

Following the Student of the Month presentations, Chair Glenn asked the remaining guests to introduce themselves. Those present were; Jenny Zacharias-Phelps, Tim Phelps, Kristen Kruse, Ian Gordon and Drew Williams.

Agenda Items

It was reported that an action item would need to be added for approval of the HVAC bids for the high school office.

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 noticed, appreciated and valued and presented them with a token of appreciation.

Public Input

There was no public input.

Consent Agenda

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

Reports

InterMountain ESD Report

Superintendent Waite provided the IMESD Talking Points. It was reported that the IMESD Board is expected to approve the 2023-24 Local Service Plan (LSP) this month. Once they approve the plan, it is then presented to the districts for their approval in February. The highlights of the 2023-24 LSP include; increased special education coaching, increased technology funds, adjust Virtual Learning Academy to support lower enrollment, and maintain existing programs within the general fund.

Maintenance/Transportation Report

Drew Williams reported that he has been working on obtaining bids for either a larger capacity bus or possibly a smaller bus. The large capacity bus would be helpful with the La Grande route and activity trips. However, it would require additional training for drivers. The smaller bus would be useful on some of the outlying routes. It was reported that the State Fire Marshall conducted an inspection in December. Mr. Williams noted that there were a few small things need to be corrected but overall the inspection went well.

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J.D. Cant arrived at 7:12 p.m.

Mr. Williams informed the Board that he has obtained three bids for the replacement of the high school office HVAC unit. This will be added to action items.

It was reported that the La Grande bus route has been monitored daily. It was pushing maximum capacity quite often and an additional bus was utilized on two different occasions. Superintendent Waite reported that numbers have been down since the return from break and the driver continues to monitor the numbers daily.

Principal/Activity Report

Mr. Mills reported that the end of the first semester was January 12th and grades should be going out on Thursday, January 19th. It was reported that the Freshmen on Track program has ten students eligible. Of those ten, eight have brought their grades up to passing.

The basketball teams have had some good competition with the girl's team beating Powder Valley and Wallowa in two close games this past week. They are currently 3-0 in league and 12-2 overall. The boy's varsity lost in overtime to Powder Valley but beat Wallowa the next night easily. They are 8-6 overall and 2-1 in league. Junior High wrestling hosted a meet here last weekend that was well attended. The Junior High girl's basketball team has been very successful and they are having fun.

Superintendent Report

Superintendent Waite reported that grades are completed for the first semester. MAPS testing has been completed which will show growth and plan for the next semester. The third grade book kickoff party was well attended by parents and the kids were excited to show off the books that they had created. Students who met their goals for the quarter and earned points completed their AR shopping.

Superintendent Waite informed the Board that he and staff are working on the integrated guidance application that is due March 31st. It will be presented at the March meeting for approval. It was reported that there are a number of education bills currently in committee. He will continue to follow them to see how many advance for a vote. Superintendent Waite will be attending a New Superintendent Academy this month and one more in April. It was reported that 12 of the 18 school districts in the IMESD region are in negotiating years. We will be negotiating with both Classified and Certified staff.

New Business

SEI Reporting Requirement

It was reported that House Bill 4114, which passed in 2021, requires school district board members to file a "verified statement of economic interest" by April 15th of each year. The purpose of this requirement is to determine if there are any conflicts of interest among board members serving districts. Teresa Dewey informed the Board that the filing period opens March 15th.

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Policies Presented for First Reading

Superintendent Waite presented the following policies for review; IGAI, IK, IKF and JGAB. He noted that most changes were minor changes and that the updates were required by OSBA. The policies will be ready for discussion and approval at the February meeting.

Old Business

Locker Room Project Update

Superintendent Waite reviewed the updated plans presented by Wellens GC. Ryan Collins of Wellens informed Scott Rogers of Wenaha Group that he felt with the updated plans they could get the project below or very close to the \$750,000 budget. Superintendent Waite noted that he would like to extend the locker rooms by approximately two feet which will put the project near 2,900 sq feet. At an estimated \$250 per sq foot cost, this would put the project below the \$750,000 budget. It was determined that action would need to be taken in order to move the project forward.

Kaiger Braseth asked about the reduction of insurance coverage due to the settling of the slab in the locker rooms. Teresa Dewey stated she will reach out to Wheatland Insurance to see what needs to be done to return the high school building coverage to replacement cost rather than actual cash value coverage.

School Week Discussion

Superintendent Waite asked the Board if they wanted to discuss the subject of the school week prior to the vote in February. Kaiger Braseth stated he had been reviewing the different schedules and asked how the schedule would be determined if the Board voted to go with a four day week. Superintendent Waite stated there would be a calendar committee to discuss calendar options. Things to be considered would be whether there would be enrichment days on Fridays. Mr. Braseth noted that, after reviewing the staff comments, most staff want something offered on Fridays. He then asked how the District could ask teachers to work longer days and also on Fridays. Superintendent Waite noted that it will not be an easy decision and if a change is made, there would need to be conditional clauses that would need to be negotiated during the negotiations process.

Jason Beck stated that he feels the decision is easy, but the process that follows will not be easy. Mr. Beck stated that the Board needs to look at what the school week committee found and asked how the Board can ignore the overwhelming support for a four day week. Ken Patterson stated that he feels that the committee was an advisory committee and that the Board needs to take the information into consideration, but that the committee was not intended to make the decision. Pam Glenn expressed her concern regarding the fact that studies show that math and language arts show a decline in transitions to four day weeks. She stated that the reason she became involved on the school board was to ensure that students receive the best education possible.

Kaiger Braseth noted that, with a school district boundary population of approximately 2,700, less than 10% of residents are represented by the survey. Joe Fisher expressed concern that if La Grande goes to a four day week, we may potentially lose students. It was noted that the opposite may happen as well as there are parents in La Grande that have concerns with a four day week. Pam Glenn stated that she feels that families bring their children to Imbler for the learning environment and programs, not the 4½ day week.

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Mr. Mills stated that he saw renewed enthusiasm from students and staff with the hybrid model. He noted that students who were failing were required to attend on Fridays. There was an incentive for them to improve their work. He also noted that many activity meetings were held on Fridays. Discussion turned to instructional hours.

Action Items

Approve Policies Presented in December

Superintendent Waite recommended the approval of the policies presented in December. Kaiger Braseth moved to approve the policies as presented. Jason Beck seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Approve Bid for School District Reader Board

Superintendent Waite reviewed three bids that were presented for consideration. Ken Patterson reported that the Imbler Rural Fire Department was interested in partnering with the school on the reader board project. Discussion turned to the sign dimensions. A concern was expressed about the size of the sign and whether it would be big enough. Kaiger Braseth moved to approve the bid from Pioneer West in the amount of \$13,375.81. Ken Patterson seconded the motion, which was unanimously passed. Ken Patterson stated that if improvements needed to be made to the sign to meet the needs, the fire department could help.

Approve HVAC Bid for High School Office

Following review of the bids submitted from All Air, Air Fuzion and Scott's Heating and Air Conditioning, Jason Beck moved to approve the bid from All Air in the amount of \$7,702. Kaiger Braseth seconded the motion which passed. Joe Fisher abstained from voting due to a conflict with his employment.

Approve Wellens GC as Design Builder for Locker Room Project

With the submission of revised plans, Ken Patterson moved to approve Wellens GC as Contractors for the Locker Room Project with a NTE (not to exceed) amount of \$750,000 for the project. Jason Beck seconded the motion. Joe Fisher abstained, motion carried.

Adjournment

With no further business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned at 8:35 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 Teresa Dewey, Deputy Clerk.

Chairman

Deputy Clerk