

Preliminary Business

Call To Order

Board Chair Pam Glenn called the Regular February Meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

Introduction of Guests

Chairman Glenn welcomed guests and asked them to introduce themselves. Those present were; Melissa Bonanno, JD Cant, Chelsea and Tanner Cassens, Kathy and Garret Christensen, Wendy Crow, Anita and Mauri de Lint, Jillian Gray, Jamie Jo Haddock, Austin Horn, Kathy and Jesse McDonald, Sarah and Parker Lucas, Jenny Phelps, Brenle Ritter, Darci Sweet, Jerry and Lori Walker, Chrissy Wilhelm, Jennifer and Andy Yancey, Drew Williams and Dick Mason of The Observer.

Student of the Month Presentation

Board Chair Glenn turned the table over to Superintendent Randy Waite for the Student of the Month presentations. The students were recognized for the selfless attitude they exhibit toward their peers. They often put other's needs before their own. The students recognized were; Harper McDonald, Lane Cassens, Addison Horn and Brooklyn Bonanno.

Consent Agenda

Following a couple of brief questions regarding bills paid, Kaiger Braseth moved to approve the minutes and bills paid. Joe Fisher seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Reports

InterMountain ESD Report

Superintendent Waite provided the IMESD Report. It was reported that Oregon graduation rates were recently released and the IMESD component districts in Eastern Oregon led the way with 83%. The state four-year graduation rate was 81%. Imbler School District had 100% graduation rate. It was noted that increased SSA and ESSER funding allowed districts to hire additional staff to address needs of students through the pandemic which allowed districts to attain the graduation rates.

Transportation/Maintenance Report

Drew Williams reported that he had received two bids on a new bus ranging from \$162,000 and \$206,000. However, he noted that they are not comparable quotes and he is waiting for updated quotes. He also noted that he has been helping with the completion of the new greenhouse. The heat has been installed but they are waiting for the electricians to wire the small greenhouse.

Principal Report

Mr. Mills reported that the FFA District Competition was held in Imbler last week. He commended Mr. Cant for organizing the event and thanked the judges for helping make the event a success. FBLA Regional competition was held two weeks ago at EOU. Over 30 students

Union County School District #11

February 15, 2023

Board Minutes - Page 2

qualified for the state competition scheduled for April 5th - 8th in Portland. The FFA Community Appreciation Breakfast is scheduled for February 24th.

District basketball begins Thursday in Baker City. Both the boy's and girl's teams finished 2nd on our half of the league. The girls will be facing Union and the boys will play Echo. There will be a rooter bus going to support the teams. Gabe Harder placed 3rd at the District wrestling tournament and has qualified for the State Tournament next week in Portland.

Superintendent Report

Superintendent Waite commended the students that participated in the FFA events held here last week. He noted that watching the student speeches, gives him hope for the future. He also reported that he and other staff members have spent a considerable amount of time working on the Integrated Guidance Application. This process will consolidate most of the grant funds that the district receives from the State, approximately \$402,000. A Charter Council/Community Meeting will be held March 7th in order to obtain additional feedback regarding the plan outlined in the application. The application will then be presented at the March meeting for Board approval.

Superintendent Waite thanked those that took the time to provide feedback on his performance through the Superintendent Evaluation process. He noted that he is always looking for feedback and ways to improve.

It was reported that the textbook adoption process has begun in the area of mathematics. Several staff members went to the ESD to preview state-approved materials and determine which one best fits our needs.

Both Classified and Certified bargaining units have indicated their intent to bargain. Two school board members will need to volunteer to serve on the negotiations committee. He noted that he would like to get the bargaining process started with an initial meeting in March.

Superintendent Waite reported that there are several bills in the State Legislature. Many won't make it out of committee but he will continue to monitor. Most center around special education and could cause some issues for districts with high need students. Fortunately, at this time, we would not be affected.

The PreACT will be offered to Sophomores this year, if they choose to take it. The PreACT earned the contract with the State and will take the place of the PreSAT that has been offered in past years.

Union County School District #11

February 15, 2023

Board Minutes - Page 3

New Business

Budget Committee Vacancy

Teressa Dewey reported that a committee member had recently moved out of the area. Therefore, there is a vacancy on the budget committee. She noted that she will advertise the vacancy and applications will be accepted through March 10th with the appointment taking place at the March meeting.

Negotiations

Superintendent Waite asked for volunteers to serve on the negotiations committee. Kaiger Braseth and Ken Patterson volunteered.

Policies Presented for First Reading

Superintendent Waite reported that the policies presented are required by OSBA and are mostly minor language updates.

Old Business

Locker Room Project Update

Superintendent Waite provided updated plans for the Board's review. The plans change the breeze way on the south side to an enclosed hallway, enlarged locker rooms and a shower in the restroom for coach and official use. He reported that the contractor is working with insurance companies to secure quotes for coverage for the project. Once that is completed, we should receive a "not to exceed" figure with the opportunity to back out of the project if deemed necessary.

Action Items

Approve 2023-24 School Week Format

Superintendent Waite noted that a motion would be necessary if the Board wanted to pursue the four-day week format. If they wanted to remain on a 4½ day week, no action would be necessary.

Jason Beck began the conversation stating that he feels that it is a clear cut decision based on the survey results and feedback received. Ken Patterson stated that this has been a tough conversation. It's not always clear what is best for the school and community and there are strong opinions on both sides of the issue. At the end of the day, the Board needs to make sure that academic programs move forward.

Union County School District #11

February 15, 2023

Board Minutes - Page 4

Kaiger Braseth stated that he felt that the format used during COVID started this conversation and that a lot of positive things happened on Fridays. He stated that he could get behind a four day week schedule with enrichment opportunities. He wanted to make sure that there were opportunities to help students that need help. He is not sure how that will look but is willing to make some compromises to make it work.

Superintendent Waite indicated that the expectation from staff is that they would provide some opportunities on Fridays.

Joe Fisher stated that this is one of the hardest decisions he has had to make. He noted that there are a lot of people that want a four day week, but questioned whether it is what is best for kids. Ken Patterson asked how many Fridays would be necessary to keep kids caught up and noted that more than eight Fridays would be necessary; possibly twice per month. He stated that he would like to see the four day week as a pilot project and go back if academics are slipping. Pam Glenn asked about a two year trial and Jason Beck questioned whether two years was enough. Discussion turned to the form of measurement to be used. It was determined that district assessment tools would be utilized to measure academic progress.

Joe Fisher stated he would like a bare minimum of one enrichment Friday per month. Superintendent Waite stated that there is going to be a lot of variables in putting a schedule together and a calendar committee could be utilized to create a calendar for the Board's approval.

Ken Patterson made a motion to move forward with a four-day week format as a two year pilot with stipulations that there will be 8 to 12 enrichment days, school will be held on Fridays of the weeks with holidays and there will be no loss of academic progress. Joe Fisher seconded the motion. The motion passed with a 4-1 vote. Pam Glenn was the lone vote in opposition of the motion.

Approve 2023-24 Budget Calendar

Teressa Dewey informed the Board that the calendar presented followed the same time line that the last several budget calendars have followed. Ken Patterson moved to approve the 2023-24 Budget Calendar as proposed. Kaiger Braseth seconded the motion which was unanimously passed.

Union County School District #11

February 15, 2023

Board Minutes - Page 4

Approve IMESD Local Service Plan

Superintendent Waite presented the IMESD Local Service Plan for the Board's consideration. It was noted that, for districts our size, the services provided by the IMESD are very valuable. Kaiger Braseth moved to approve the IMESD Local Service Plan as presented. Ken Patterson seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Approve Policies - IGAI, IK, IKF JGAB

Jason Beck moved to approve the policies as presented in January. Joe Fisher seconded the motion, which was unanimously passed.

Executive Session 192.660(2)(i)

Superintendent Evaluation

The Board entered into executive session at 7:46 p.m. to discuss the superintendent evaluation.

Adjournment

With no further business to discuss, the entered back into regular session at 8:30 pm and the meeting was adjourned.

Members Present

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

Others Present

Randy Waite, Superintendent; Michael Mills, Principal/A.D.; and Teresa Dewey, Deputy Clerk.

Chairman

Deputy Clerk