

A \$4.8 million HVAC upgrade project was complete this past year, which we funded with remaining bond funds, high cost capital project resources, and a \$3.3 million commercial loan from Banner Bank. Due to positive bond conversion rates we were able to expend the final \$0.9 million for bond add-back projects during this past year. We have been able to set aside additional funds for high-cost capital projects such as remodeling our LHS Track, building new tennis courts, resurfacing asphalt parking areas, adding modular classrooms to the Middle school, renovating the culinary arts classroom, and LHS concessions stand, etc. We now have two seismic upgrade projects underway at the High School and Greenwood, as well as significant fencing, sidewalk, gym floor, carpet replacement, and window replacement work taking place in our school district.

Our school district has also been able to return to setting aside adequate funds for curriculum adoption cycles as we are now purchasing Social Studies curriculum for next school year. We have expanded our support of curriculum and professional developments by partnering with Eastern Oregon University to have STEM and Technology based educational experience through an instructional coach. We are ensuring our students receive a high quality 21st century learning experience. We are also a leading organization in much of the work we are focused on as it relates to social emotional learning and trauma informed practices as well as wellness and mindfulness programming for staff and students. This school year we were able to better address caseload ratios for special education teachers in our elementary schools and high school as well as adding Physical education instruction for our 3 elementary schools. This creates better learning environments for students and working conditions for staff members.

We have also focus on future investments into nursing, middle school CTE, additional counseling services, behavior support specialists, early learning and increased instructional time are investments into our education programs that I look forward to improving. We also need to take a careful look at our strategic plan and ensure we make investments to support and improve the priorities we listed. Things are looking up with state funding and our ability to improve on our programs and services. I look forward to a better future for all of our students, staff, and community.

Sincerely,

George Mendoza
La Grande SD Superintendent