

Local

5J: Board position vacant, Supreme Court comes to BHS

BY SAMANTHA O'CONNOR

Samantha@TheBakerCountyPress.com

Thursday, September 21st, the Baker School District 5J School Board held their monthly meetings at the City Council Chambers.

This meeting was the last for board member Melissa Irvine, whose family is relocating and she turned in her letter of resignation at the last meeting. The board thanked Irvine for her time and work she had put into being a part of the board and community.

"Obviously we're saddened on one end, to have you and your family leave our community, but I hope that you understand that you've left this a better place and I'm sure the community you're going to will be better because of your family and you being there," Superintendent Mark Witty said to Irvine.

"I guess I would just say, as much as I appreciate you all, I feel like for everything I have given, I have gotten back," said Irvine. "I've gotten back in friendships, I've gotten back in learning how a school system can work together to attack our goals, and I've seen so many great things happening in the school district because of the board, because of the superintendent, because of every person who works here. And I feel like Kevin and Andrew are the longest standing members of the board and that they have worked very hard to develop goals and to get the district heading in a great direction. And I know that there are going to be more opportunities for the goals and aim of the district to include input from different parts of the community

and different parts of the staff and I just know that there's great momentum here. And so, again, I just want to say for everything that maybe I've helped along I feel like I also was helped along and I feel stronger and better able to move to a new place because of my experiences here, so thank you Baker and the public of Baker for putting me in this position, it has been an honor."

Irvine was presented with a plaque, reading "Thank you for your outstanding and dedicated service as a member of our Board of Directors." She served from 2015 to 2017.

With her resignation, the board declared position #5 on the board vacant. With that, they are seeking letters of interest to fill the vacancy. The term expires June 30, 2019.

Letters of interest must be submitted to Cathy Martin, Board Executive Assistant, and received no later than Thursday, October 12th by 5 p.m. Board Chair Kevin Cassidy is also available by appointment for those who have questions or would like to discuss the work of the board.

At the meeting, the board presented Certificates of Outstanding Recognition to Dr. Thomas Joseph of the China Program and Eric Layton of the June Experience. They also had a certificate for David Laws, the China Program Summer Facilitator, but he was not present for the meeting.

Baker High School counselor Silas Turner and Principal Greg Mitchell gave a presentation on Career Guidance. In the slide show, they discussed their plans to help students make the transition from

high school to post-secondary, whether it be a career field, a technical institute for training, or a college setting. Mitchell explained the Oregon Diploma has three real domains to it and they focus on the 24 credits that everyone needs in the state of Oregon.

He explained that there is a large domain called Personalized Learning, a state requirement, that is made of three components; the 4 Year Plan & Profile, the Career Related Learning Experiences (CRLE) and Extended Application. "Education Plan & Profile, this is the interesting thing, the process should begin no later than 7th grade and continue through 12th grade with regular annual updates," explained Mitchell. "This is really what the state is asking us and we wholeheartedly agree with it, is that from 7th grade on, you should be having an annual persistent discussion with students exploring where are the career fields out there, where are my aptitudes, and how do they align with what possibilities there are."

For the CRLE, the slide stated "Students will demonstrate knowledge and skills in personal management, problem solving, communication, teamwork, employment foundations and career development". The third, Extended Application, is "the application of knowledge and skills in the context of the student's personal and career interests and post-high school goals".

Turner went on to explain the general scheme for the Personal Learning Plan (PLP). Students begin with awareness; who they are and what are their strengths.

They then move into



Samantha O'Connor / The Baker County Press

Former Board member Melissa Irvine receives a plaque for her three years of service.

exploration, finding what their goals are and what they are interested in. Students then look into scholarships and financial aid and that does not always include college. Students are able to go into working their trade and learning skills.

Turner explained that it is a process and subject to change as they go but they want students to start exploring.

Carson Lien, ASB President, presented to the board, explaining the high school has many events coming up including pep night and homecoming. For the pep night themes; freshman is Fresh Prince of Bel Air, sophomores is Shrek, juniors is Greek Mythology, and seniors is

Pirates of the Caribbean. Pep night is October 4th. Lien also explained that the Oregon Supreme Court will have cases at the Baker High School Auditorium on October 17th. The event is open to the public and they will have times for questions and answers between cases. Lien also explained a NASA Engineer will also visit the Baker School District on October 12th.

Jessica Dalton, the Food Services Director, sent written recommendations to the board. She explained; "For the first time in six years, both FSA and Sysco submitted bids for our food/non-food purchases, with Sysco's bid coming in at the lower price."

Dalton explained that, after reviewing their delivery schedules, she suggests they move their business to Sysco for the 2017-2018 school year. She also noted that Meadow Gold was the only submission for milk and they were her recommendation.

The board approved the Food/Non Food Bids, Milk Bids, and Produce Bids only if Sysco is doing the produce bids. They will clarify if Sysco is doing the produce bids.

Board member Katie Lamb is now one of the board members on the Long Range Facility Planning Committee.

The board voted unanimously having Andrew Bryan for the OSBA Legislative.

City passes ordinance vacating Allen Street

BY GINA K. SWARTZ

Gina@TheBakerCountyPress.com

City Council Convened Tuesday evening for their final September meeting. Mayor Downing called the meeting to order and Councilor Thomas lead the pledge of allegiance and gave the invocation. City Recorder/Human resource manager Julie Smith called role with all Councilors present.

Mayor Downing moved the meeting forward stating the next item on the agenda for the evening was the consent agenda that consisted of the minutes from the last Council meeting held on September 12, 2017.

Councilor Joseph moved to approve with a second by Councilor Thomas. The motion to approve passed with a unanimous vote. Mayor Downing next called for citizen participation for any matter that was not on the evenings agenda.

With none, he moved the meeting forward.

Third Reading of Ordinance #3358 Vacation of Allen Street

As required by law, Mayor Downing officially opened a public hearing regarding the issue. Lanae Bootsma-Jones stepped forward to address Council.

Bootsma-Jones advised Council that she has plans to build an office building on the parcel of land that Allen Street currently occupies. Those plans are for a portion of the building to occupy part of what is Allen Street.

Bootsma-Jones stated in a letter to Council that her Father had acquired the property in the 1990s with the understanding that the street had been vacated in 1982. That vacation was rescinded in 1997.

The road currently dead-ends into I-84 and is not a maintained street. Bootsma-Jones advised Council she has been working to locate utilities and has provided Council with an easement report and stated that utilities on the property appear to run along the edge of the property with the exception of Cascade Natural Gas whom she is still working with to locate their lines. With no other public comment Mayor Downing then closed the public hearing. Councilor Joseph moved to have the third reading of the ordinance by title only.

Councilor McQuisten made a second to that motion with each Councilor voting in favor. Planning Director Holly Kerns then read the ordinance by title

only.

She stated that no further comment had been received on the matter. Councilor Joseph moved to approve the ordinance with a second by Councilor Thomas.

Council unanimously voted to approve the ordinance.

City Manager/Director Comments

City Manager Fred Warner advised Council that he had been in contact with County Commissioner Bruce Nichols in regard to the SAFER grant that the City recently was awarded. That grant pays in part for additional firefighters but the City is required to pay a portion as well. In a discussion at a prior meeting Council talked about ways that money could be raised to pay their portion of the grant, one of which was to ask the County to help with funding since City ambulance service is provided to the entire County free of charge. Warner stated that he was working with Nichols to put together a meeting between City Council and the County Commissions to discuss the matter.

SEE CITY COUNCIL
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Legal Notice

2017 OTEC Unclaimed Capital Credits

Oregon Trail Electric Cooperative (OTEC) hereby gives notice of UNCLAIMED PAYMENTS OF CAPITAL CREDITS OWED TO THE NAMED PERSONS ON RECORD. Such unclaimed capital credits have been available to OTEC Members since December 31, 2013.

Pursuant to OTEC bylaws and policy, the names of OTEC Members entitled to capital credit refunds – who have not yet claimed their refunds – can be reviewed on the OTEC website at: www.otecc.com/members/unclaimed-capital-credit.

If you are an OTEC Member and current (or former) consumer of OTEC electric power, please check the OTEC website and list of Members who have failed to claim capital credits owed.

Application for re-issuing funds owed may be made at your local OTEC office or 4005 23rd Street, PO Box 226, Baker City, Oregon 97814. Unless those persons named or their heirs claim payment no later than January 31, 2018, the unclaimed funds will be forfeited to the Cooperative or, where required, forwarded to the Department of State Lands. Historically, the Board of Directors has contributed the amount of the forfeited funds to the Oregon Trail Electric Cooperative Scholarship Fund to benefit those served by the Cooperative.

As required by law, and pursuant to OTEC Bylaws, OTEC will "publish notice of the redemption" [i.e., forfeiture] of unclaimed capital credits in the leading Baker County newspaper of general circulation, for four consecutive months, simultaneously notifying the public to go to the OTEC website (www.otecc.com/members/unclaimed-capital-credit) to see if they, or someone they know, have unclaimed capital credits. If you know someone named on the list, please have them contact their local OTEC office to update their account and apply for their unclaimed capital credits.

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