

School board approves six-classroom addition to Windy River Elementary

continued from page one

while it shows some growth, is not growing at Boardman's rate.

Also at the meeting, the board unanimously approved salary increases for confidential employees. District confidential employees will receive a three-percent increase for the first year, two percent for the second year and two percent for the third year. The board also implemented five steps in the confidential salary schedule. Their schedule had no steps previously. All confidential employees will be placed on step one. The district also shortened the confidential contract by 10 days to 250 days per year.

For the first year, 2006-07, with a three-percent increase, the district food service director will earn \$35,847 at step one, which will increase to \$38,802 by step five; an administrative assistant will start out at \$26,233 at step one, which will increase to \$28,395 at step five; a fiscal services specialist will start out at \$34,343 at step one to \$37,174 at step five; and a student services technician will start out at \$30,300 at step one to \$32,797 at step five.

The next year, 2007-08, with a two-percent increase, classified salaries will be increased to: food service director-\$36,564 step one to \$39,578 step five; administrative assistant-\$26,747 step one to \$28,963 step five; fiscal services specialist \$35,030 step one to \$37,917 step five; student services technician \$30,906 step one to \$33,453 step five.

In the 2008-09 schedule, with a two-percent increase, confidential salaries are as follows: food services director-\$37,295 step one to \$40,370 step five; administrative assistant-\$27,292 step one to \$29,542 step five; fiscal services specialist-\$35,730 step one to \$38,675; student services technician-\$31,524 step one to \$34,122 step five.

Some of the confidential staff work under two job classifications, so their increases will be based on the percentage of time they spend working in each.

The confidential staff currently has no cap on their insurance benefits. The district pays full medical, dental, vision, life and long-term disability insurance for confidential employees. The district also picks up the six percent PERS contribution for those employees.

Burrows recommended the increases and complemented the confidential staff, saying they were "loyal and hard working" and were generally under compensated in comparison to those in similar jobs in nearby districts.

In other business, the board:

- learned from Burrows that the district's English Language Learner program has been audited and has received commendations. "It was a really good report," said Burrows, who added that data was compiled from parent interviews. He credited ELL director Joel Chavez for his "hard work and dedication" in the success of the program. One suggested correction to the program was to develop a program for advanced ELL students as well as for those with more rudimentary skills

- heard from district principals as to how they deal with harassment complaints, bullying and retaliation at the schools. Heppner High/Junior High School Principal Daye Stone said that he may receive one complaint a month while Irrigon High/Junior High School Principal Ron Anthony said he may receive one a week and perhaps a serious one once a semester. The principals said that often a parent may complain of an incident, rather than the student. They said that sometimes students, especially younger ones, may not be always be aware that their behavior is offensive. They said that resolution of issues ranges from talking to the students, communicating with their parents, requiring an apology, suspension and, if the issue is not able to be resolved, expulsion.

- learned that the district's complaint procedure will be available in both English and Spanish at each school, a school employee will be trained in assisting people with complaints, information will be available via school and district newsletters and a link to the complaint policy will be placed on the district's web page.

- heard from Burrows that the district's complaint procedure will be available in both English and Spanish at each school, a school employee will be trained in assisting people with complaints, information will be available via school and district newsletters and a link to the complaint policy will be placed on the district's web page.

- approved a revision on the district's discipline, suspension and expulsion policy, "Grounds for Discipline/Suspension/Expulsion," which would expand the district's authority with regard to students' off-campus behavior. Student prohibitions will now include "Off campus misconduct that disrupts educational process or threatens the safety and welfare of the student body."

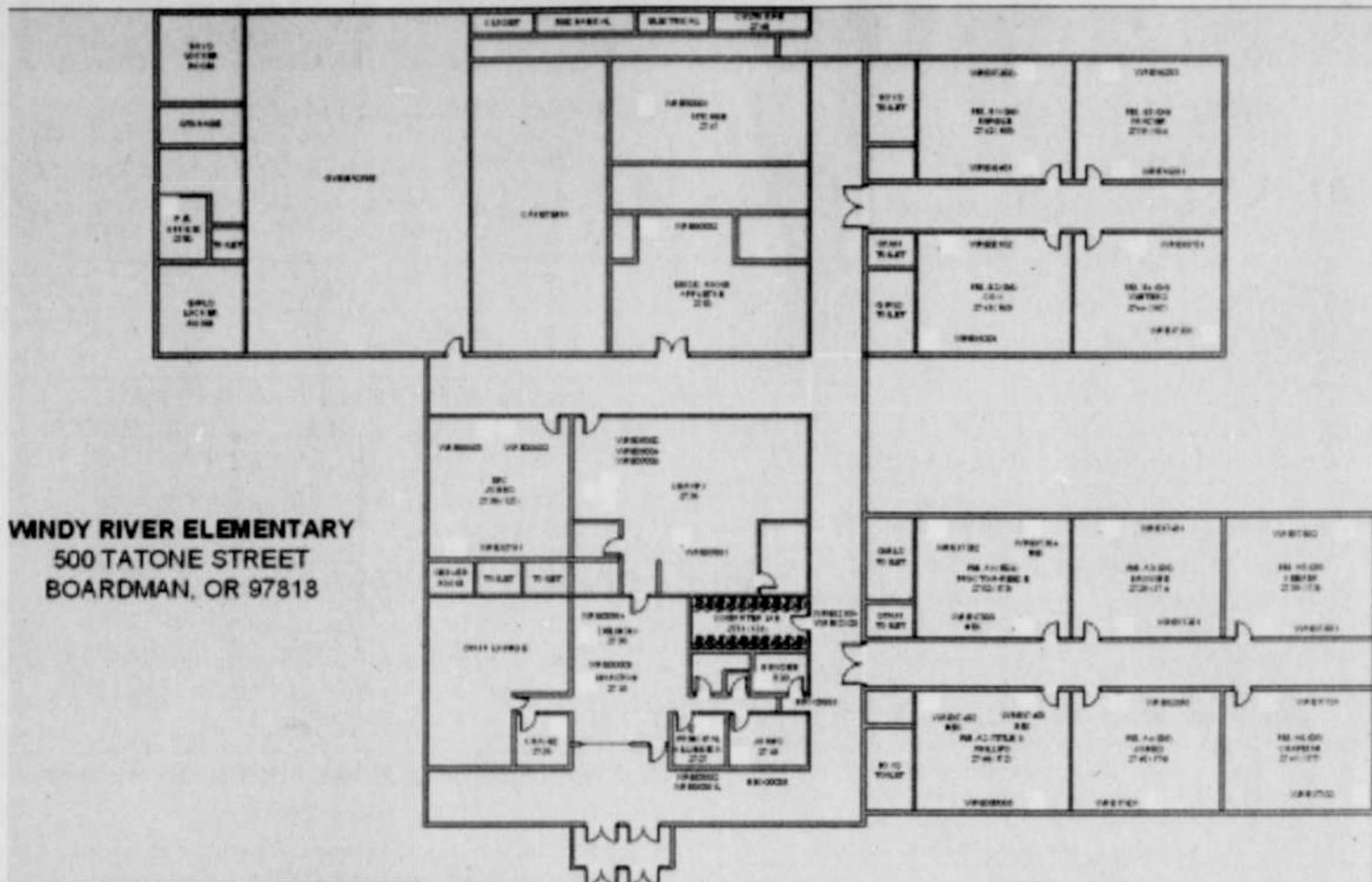
- heard a request from board member Ken Matlack, who is also the Morrow County Sheriff, to meet with the district attorney and juvenile department to request that juvenile information be allowed to be discussed with or forwarded to the principal of the affected school when a student has been arrested for a crime that may impact school safety.

- recognized Riverside High School language arts teacher Lea Mathieu on achieving national board certification, a very distinguished achievement. Mathieu will take a year's sabbatical to teach in Mexico but will then return to her teaching position at RHS.

- recognized the school board with gift certificates and cake for their work and dedication to a difficult job without compensation.

- expressed appreciation to the Morrow County Health District for paying for defibrillators for each of the district's high schools.

- heard from Burrows about an Oregon School Boards Association project, which would entail a series of public meetings planned in all communities throughout the district in late



Current floor plan at Windy River Elementary, which would be expanded to include six more classrooms.

February or early March. Burrows asked the board to develop questions for the meetings.

- learned that the Irrigon Booster Club and community raised over \$800 for the Umatilla coach who had a heart attack at an Irrigon basketball game. The coach had grown up in Irrigon and graduated from Riverside High School.

- approved resignations for: Hollie McGill, RHS Title 3 educational assistant; Kresimir Waite, HHS math teacher, effective the end of the school year.

- approved a transfer

- for Lisa Konecny from special ed assistant to ESL assistant, replacing Noe Melendez.

- approved employment for Darron Trowbridge, Boardman schools facilities coordinator, replacing Jack Donovan; Joel Chavez, Jr., special ed assistant, replacing Lisa Konecny.

- heard from Burrows that the district is compliant with the standard of assurance.

- approved extra duty contracts for: Ron Prindle, Riverside Junior High School assistant girls' basketball coach; Erich

- Harjo, Irrigon High School head baseball coach; Robert Marshall, IHS assistant track coach; and Heather Miller, drama advisor.

- approved appointing board members to attend Community Education Committee meetings. Board member Barney Lindsay cast the lone dissenting vote. He maintained that board members should attend the various CEC meetings on a rotating, rather than permanent basis.

- accepted Beth Wheeler's resignation from the Irrigon CEC.

- approved an

attendance variance for two students in a family from Umatilla School District to attend Irrigon Elementary School and A.C. Houghton Elementary School.

- heard the following announcements: the Heppner and Boardman CEC meetings were both scheduled for Jan. 17; the Irrigon CEC meeting was scheduled for Jan. 18; a board work session was set for Jan. 16 at 7 p.m. via Polycom; the next board meeting will be Feb. 13 at 7 p.m. at Sam Boardman Elementary.

Community members and business honored at Town and Country

continued from page one

and a strong work ethic.

In school, she is ranked #6 in her class and holds and overall GPA of 3.6. She has been a member of the National Honor Society for the past three years and currently serves as president. She is also active in sports as a member of the HHS varsity volleyball team. She has also been active in 4-H since fourth grade. She has also been a 4-H Junior Leader and currently serves as the president of her 4-H club.

To help better the community, she has been active in volunteering, helping to serve lunches at St. Patrick's Senior Center and Willow Creek Terrace Assisted Living Center. She is also a member of the Wellness Committee Task Force.

To round out her time, she shows a strong work ethic in working as a teacher's aide at Heppner Elementary, working for the Youth Conservation Corp, as well as working at the Shell Station in Heppner. In school she also works as publicity director for the student council and as an aide in the office.

After high school, Rill plans on attending dental hygienist school at Oregon Institute of Technology in Klamath Falls.

Two Lifetime Achievement awards were presented, one going to Gwen Healy and the other to Don McElligott.

Healy, who was born in Minnesota and headed west with her family during the Great Depression, landed in Morrow County in the early 1940s, graduating from Ione High and serving as Morrow County Fair Princess in 1946. After meeting the man of her

dreams, Healy moved away from the area for a year, but returned to Heppner and has been a dedicated community member ever since.

She is active in helping the schools by donating time and items to events such as the Booster Club Auction and the SMART program. She also makes alterations to the school sports uniforms. After her husband passed away, she also made a donation to the purchase of chairs for senior citizens' use during ball games.

In the community, she has been active with 4-H, the Morrow County Election Board and the St. Patrick's Day Celebration. She is also an active member of St. Patrick's Catholic Church. She devotes much of her time to helping senior citizens in everything from meal delivery to helping fill out any paperwork someone needs help with. She also has made hundreds of quilts for Children's Services and disabled veterans. She is also active in helping raise awareness and funds for juvenile diabetes research.

McElligott's life has encompassed many areas. He was born in the Eight-mile area and after graduating from the University of Portland in 1941, he returned to the area, married in 1948, raised 11 children and dedicated numerous hours to many community projects.

He has been an active member of St. William's Catholic Church and the Holy Name Society. He was also an active high school catechism teacher for 10-plus years.

Being an active farmer, he was involved with many farming boards and committees, including the

Oregon Wheat Growers and Oregon Farm Bureau. He also served as the Eastern Oregon grain representative to the National Farmers' Organization.

During World War II he served in the US Army Air Force and developed a loyalty to the military and the US. He is a member of the Ione American Legion and Veterans of Foreign Wars.

Mostly likely due to his many children, he also became active in the school systems serving on the Ione School Board, Ione Advisory Board, Morrow County School Board and the Ione Education Foundation.

He has also be active with many other organizations including the Heppner Elks, Willows Grange, Ione Fire District, Morrow County Commissioners and he was a Morrow County Judge for seven years.

Preparing to celebrate its 76th year in business, Morrow County Grain Growers was honored as this year's Business of the Year.

MCGG began in March 1930 with 100 farmers pledging 183,000 bushels of wheat to cooperative selling. The company now operates eight grain elevators, one of which is leased, and has a total license capacity of 3,934,000 bushels.

Over its many years of operation, MCGG has expanded its business to cover many aspects including oil sales, fertilizer and chemical sales, farm equipment sales and purchased the Lexington Convenience Store. MCGG also had a market in tires, but in 2002 exited that business. MCGG has also expanded to reach way beyond Morrow

County, servicing seven counties in north central Oregon, as well as Klickitat County in Washington.

Just recently, MCGG also purchased Green Feed and Seed and Heppner Auto Parts. With these purchases, MCGG will move part of its business to Heppner and will bring the auto parts business to Lexington.

Throughout the years, MCGG shown that it is a business able to consolidate many businesses into one, giving it the ability to expand and diversify.

OWC to hold annual research review

The Oregon Wheat Commission will hold its Annual Research Review on Tuesday, Jan. 24 at 10 a.m. at the Columbia Gorge Discovery Center in The Dalles.

A regular meeting will be held the following day, Jan. 25, at 8:30 a.m., to discuss commission business. This meeting will be held at Cousin's Restaurant in The Dalles.

The meeting location is accessible to persons with disabilities. The ADA prohibits discrimination against persons with disabilities. A request for an interpreter for the hearing impaired or for other accommodations for person with disabilities, please contact the OWC office 48 hours in advance at (503) 229-6665 or TTY (503) 986-4762.

Commission meetings are open to the public and anyone wishing to attend is encouraged and welcome to do so. Dress is business casual.