

## Ione School Board approves capital improvement project expenditures

By April Sykes

The Ione School Board approved \$318,431 in capital improvement projects for Ione Community School at its January 19 board meeting following a presentation from project manager Randy Hinrichsen

with the Willamette Service District.

Projects include: \$56,730 for extended bleachers in the high school gym; \$165,777 for landscaping and sidewalks, \$2,183 for kitchen breaker panel replacement; \$16,500 for a lighting retrofit in the high school; \$11,815 for carpet in two rooms in the high school; \$12,000 for carpet in the library; \$266 for library blinds; and \$24,945 for a five-year roof on the wood shop building.

The board also approved an elementary school acoustics upgrade for sailcloth acoustic baffles for \$23,739 and approved an option for additional horizontal sailcloth baffles for \$4,476, both from Western Partitions, Inc. Lisa Rietmann was the sole nay voter on the two options, saying that there was no guarantee that the additional acoustics would produce the desired effect of cutting the reverberation in the gym.

In addition, the board approved \$25,000 for "out-of-scope" expenses and additional fees for services.

The board did not opt for a redo on the "kiddy pool" since costs for project manager's fees on the project would be more than the actual construction. Consensus of the board was to use volunteers for that project.

The board opted to wait until they receive a more complete accounting before they move on with additional capital improvement projects.

Also at the meeting the board viewed and participated in a presentation by teacher Jim Raible and students on the Promethean Board, which could be described as an interactive chalk board. The "smart boards" have been installed in all the classrooms, however several speakers were not shipped. Ostheller said that teachers were provided an initial overview of how the basic systems will work and will receive more intensive training throughout the year. Additional training sessions were planned for January 22 and February 5.

The board also heard a capital project construction update from Hinrichsen with the following projects completed, unless otherwise indicated:

\*classroom addition project has received a temporary occupation permit with exterior items remaining.

\*high school windows were installed September 18 and 25 with the stucco delayed because of weather;

\*high school lab tables;

\*high school entry doors;

\*pool and deck resurfacing;

\*electrical and mechanical refurbishment;

\*kiddy pool demolition;

\*pool covers were received September 17;

\*lighting upgrade (Phase II may wish to do further upgrades);

\*high school heat-



The Promethean Boards utilized at Ione Community School are interactive with the computer screen being projected onto the board. Using a stylus pen, eighth grader Nicole Lutz corrects a written essay on a Promethean Board. The school currently has 13 boards in various classrooms—Photo by Erin Heideman

ing, ventilating and air conditioning upgrade (completed except for closeout);

\*high school shop roof replacement-high school roof, gym barrel roof and trim completed September 18 (completing final punch list items and close-out; water damage claim refilled and high school gym ceiling repair done over Christmas break; shop roof possibly for Phase II);

\*asphalt repair and seal coat-2010 project;

\*high school gym modernization: new gym floor completed and project closed; scoreboards installed December 1; new bleachers extension rebid again and ready for review;

\*replacement of high school wood trim completed with roofing project using metal trim;

\*repair cafeteria tables: five units installed November 11 (two more on reorder with a February target date for installation);

\*replace high school boys' restroom sink done November 20, girls' restrooms done December 18;

\*interior and exterior paint-2010 project;

\*classroom automation installed over Martin Luther King holiday break, missing some room speakers and training;

\*elementary school acoustic upgrade rebid January 19;

\*replacement of elementary school carpet;

\*repairs to principal's house-2010 project.

In other business, the board:

-received a letter of congratulations from the state indicating that Ione was one of the state's "outstanding" schools. Ione has been deemed outstanding, the state's highest ranking, for three years in a row. "We are at the top," said Superintendent Karl Ostheller.

-learned that a part is on order to fix the school's reader board.

-approved a request for an honorary diploma for deceased student Stormy Kendricks, who would have graduated with this year's senior class.

-briefly reviewed the 2009-10 goals.

-learned that the next board meeting will be

held on Tuesday, February 16 because of the President's Day holiday.

-received the following financial update from Chief Fiscal Officer Beth O'Hanlon: the district received \$121,609 in basic school support and collected \$3,761 in property taxes; received the \$40,000 Renewable Energy grant; the bond debt service fund received \$38,818; the primary, intermediate and Talented and Gifted programs remained over budget due to the reallocation of salary and benefits note in September; individual special revenue funds continue to carry deficit fund balances with \$5,021 transferred to the Pool Fund and \$10,000 to the Food Service Fund. The district should anticipate receiving the grant money in January.

-received the following report from Ostheller:

\*January's student enrollment dropped to 177 with 82 students in grades kindergarten-five, 32 in grades six-eight and 63 in grades nine-12. This is a decrease of one student in grades K-five from the previous month.

\*Ione Community School is in compliance with the Oregon Administrative Rules.

\*middle and high school teachers are working with the Umatilla-Morrow ESD on a Positive Behavior System which will be put in place this year. Three Ione teachers traveled to the Pilot Rock school, which is in its fourth year of using PBS, to see how the system works.

\*ICS received \$500 from Inland Chemicals in Condon to show support for local schools. The funds were used as a grant for the science department

\*the elementary school continues to refine the Response to Intervention program, which was designed to catch struggling readers and provide intervention to help them succeed.

\*the site council is working its way through the student handbook.

\*cold weather caused cracked and broken pipes in the pool pit and the chlorinator room; they can be repaired, which won't be needed until spring.

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## Health district CEO earns good marks from board

By April Sykes

The Morrow County Health District Board gave new administrator Mike Blauer a very positive review at their regular meeting held in Ione Monday night. Following an executive session to review Blauer's performance, board Chair Larry Mills told the Gazette Tuesday, "The board unanimously agreed that Mike is doing a great job. We're extremely pleased with his progress and the way that he and his wife are fitting into the community." Blauer was hired by the district last summer.



Mike Blauer

In other business at the meeting, Blauer told the board that he had met with one vendor concerning electronic records systems and plans to speak with another vendor this week. The district plans to eventually move toward an electronic record systems for the hospital, the clinics, Home Health and Hospice, but is proceeding cautiously to have time to select the right one for the district's needs.

Also at the meeting, the board awarded the bid for the Pioneer Memorial Clinic's restroom remodeling project to low bidder, Power Pro, Inc., of Hermiston for \$10,934. Power Pro, Inc., which is primarily an electrical contractor, has previously done satisfactory work on the Pioneer Memorial Hospital long-term care remodeling project. The restrooms will be remodeled to conform to Americans with Disabilities Act regulations.

Local contractors, Allstott Construction, LLC, bid \$18,638 on the project and David Piper Contracting bid \$31,389.

In other business, the board:

-learned from Chief Financial Officer Nicole Mahoney that the district's current CT scanner, which is ailing and will have to be replaced, has no liens against it and may be disposed of when a new scanner can be purchased.

-opted to stay with current auditor Michael R. Bell & Company, PLLC, Spokane, WA, because of the confidence the district has in the company, although Bell did not present the low bid. The board said that Bell & Company's

specialty in health district auditing was big factor in awarding the bid and they were satisfied with the firm's performance. Bell & Company bid \$17,250 for the first year. Low bid was Oster Professional Group, CPA, PC, of John Day with \$11,590. LeMaster Daniels bid \$21,000. The board directed Blauer to ask Bell & Company if the auditing firm would stick with the \$17,250 figure for three years, rather than raise the fee incrementally for each of the subsequent years.

-approved a resolution updating employee investment plans to meet current regulations.

-discussed scheduling a long-term goal planning session in the near future.

-learned that the district is seeking an additional provider following the departure of a nurse practitioner who served the Irrigon Clinic.

-learned from Mahoney that the district ended December with a \$73,413 gain for the month. The district had \$569,041 in total operating revenue for the month, \$580,100 in total operating expenses, and an \$84,472 non-operating

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## Secure Residential Treatment Facility to hold open house

Lakeview Heights Secure Residential Treatment Facility will hold an open house on Tuesday, February 16, from 3-8 p.m. and on Wednesday, February 17, from 5-8 p.m.

Hors d'oeuvres and beverages will be served.

The facility is located at 68982 Willow Creek Road. For more information call 541-676-9161.

## Annual St. Patrick's Celebration to be held March 12-14

Heppner will celebrate their 28th annual Wee Bit O' Ireland - St. Patrick's Celebration March 12-14.

The Amateur Boxing Smoker, sponsored by the Heppner Chamber of Commerce will start off the official weekend on Friday, March 12th at 7:30 p.m. at Heppner High School. Saturday will be full of events, including the motorcross, cruz-in and great green parade, sponsored runs, walks, KUMA Coffee Hour and Ceili, Sheep Dog Trials, live entertainment from Tiller's Folly and Old Time Fiddlers, Vendor's Square, children's activities, lots of

food and Friends of the Library will be selling books to benefit the Heppner Library. New this year will be St. Patrick's O' Flock and Fiber Show.

To volunteer in some capacity at this year's events, contact the chamber office at 541-676-5536.

Morrow County election results will be published in the next edition of the Heppner Gazette-Times.

★ Customer Appreciation Day! ★  
Friday, January 29th • Factory Reps • Door Prizes Lunch  
Seeding & Tillage Clinic 10 am - 12 noon @ 12:00  
Morrow County Grain Growers  
Lexington 989-8221 • 1-800-452-7396 For farm equipment, visit our web site at www.mcg.net