

LEXINGTON SCHOOL

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use,” said Morrow County School District Superintendent Dirk Dirksen after turning over keys to the property last week.

Sykes Real Estate of Heppner handled writing of the zone change application and sale of the property for the district.

As far as future commercial uses, the new owner says the first thing he is going to do is set up his pump shop there.

“I plan on taking out

the floor in the old gymnasium, pouring concrete in there and using that for my shop,” says Bellamy, who is the long-time owner of Lexington Pump. He says he has added new employees to his business and wants to see the business thrive and grow in the future. The main school building is a possible location for offices.

Meanwhile, he’s considering putting a new shine on the second-floor auditorium and renting it out for

weddings or other events; he wants to find someone who might develop those ideas. The auditorium currently has 370 wood seats and a stage with curtains. Mary Kay Bellamy says she can remember putting on school programs on that stage, and even pointed out the spot in another room where her fourth-grade desk was located.

She estimated that the school closed around 1964, and said she attended grades one through four there. Her mother graduated from high school there when the graduating class had three students. She said at one time the grade school was downstairs and the high school upstairs.

“I have good memories of school here,” says Mary Kay Bellamy, and recalls when Mrs. Jones was her teacher in the fourth grade and she sat at her desk reading her favorite book, “Strawberry Girl.”

Sam says other plans for the building and property include somehow “honoring my Creator. I want to



Mary Kay Bellamy’s first-grade class at the Lexington school. Left to right front row: Unidentified, Pat Kilkenny, Linda Cooper, Mark Pointer, Karen Edwards. Second Row: Ronnie MaCorkel, Kiana Cutsforth, Ricky Jeannine Hunt, Penny Papineau. Back row: Mrs. Pratt, Debbie Majeske, Vicki Irvin, Michelle Miller, Mary Kay Hughes, Vicki Steagall, Connie Papineau, Glenda Kay Van Winkle. The photo was taken in front of the Lexington Schoolhouse now owned by Mary Kay Bellamy and her husband Sam. -Contributed photo

honor Him somehow with a billboard or a display of some kind.” He also said he would like to do something on the property to teach creation science, in which he believes strongly.

On the one hand, it may seem a strange time

to take on the investment, with Sam Bellamy thinking of retiring from the pump business. His wife, who at one time worked in the building when the district offices were located there, also is nearing retiring from the school district.

However, the couple says it is important to keep active and not completely retire.

“This property (which both say is in pretty good condition) will be a work in progress, that’s for sure” says Mary Kay.



May Kay Bellamy stands in the former classroom right where her desk was located; she attended school in the building first through fourth grade. Mary Kay and husband Sam Bellamy recently purchased the school building. -Photo by David Sykes

MCS D MEETING

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Sweeney; Heppner Jr./Sr. High: library tech-Ginger Bowman, department secretary-Tracie Bunch, head custodian-Michael Doherty, head secretary-Darcy Hostetler-Robinson, ed assistants-Jessica Lentz, Jessica Stelk, Robert Wilson, Amy Wolters, assistant custodian-Teresa Parret, head cook-Lori McCabe.

-approved the following 2015-16 extra duty coaching contracts recommended for 2016-17: Heppner High School: Greg Grant-athletic director, head football, head golf, Virginia Grant-half-time cheerleading, Les Payne-assistant football, Kevin Payne-assistant football, Petra Payne-head softball, Jeremy Rosenbalm-half-time assistant football, head boys’ basketball, Dieter Waite-head volleyball, Mindy Wilson-assistant volleyball, Antonia Nichols-half-time head cross country, Russ Nichols, half-time head cross country, head/assistant track, Ken Grieb-assistant boys’ basketball, Mike Ehram-C-team boys’ basketball, Robert Wilson-head girls’ basketball, Mark Lemmon-head wrestling, Jim Kindle-head baseball, Todd Lindsay-assistant baseball, Laura Winters-head/assistant track, Matt

Scrivner-assistant golf, Janelle Ellis-half-time assistant softball, Shelley McCabe-half-time assistant girls’ basketball; Heppner Junior High School: Chad Doherty-head football, Joe Armato-assistant football, Terri Gentry-head volleyball, Darcee Mitchell-assistant volleyball, assistant girls’ basketball, Rocky Turner-head boys’ basketball, Jeremy Arbogast-assistant boys’ basketball, Adam Doherty-head girls’ basketball, Dieter Waite-head wrestling, Antonia Nichols-head track, Brandi Sweeney- assistant track.

-approved the following 2015-16 extra-duty non-coaching positions recommended for rehire for 2016-17: Heppner Elementary: Madison Rosenbalm-Talented and Gifted coordinator, Sarah Matheny-half-time DART, Melissa Coiner-half-time DART, RTI coordinator, Mary Ann Elguezabal-English Language Learner coordinator; HJSHS: Rick Drake-band, Alaina Lemmon-drama advisor, John Flaherty-half-time TAG coordinator, DART, Petra Payne-half-time TAG coordinator, annual advisor- to be determined.

-approved the following employment action:

resignations/non-renewals: Anna Browne, WRE fifth/sixth grade to end of 2015-16 school year; Betty Hall, IJSHS language arts teacher, end of 2015-16 school year, Emily Sarha, IJSHS science teacher, end of 2015-16 school year, Jarrett Thompson, RJHS social studies, end of 2015-16 school year, head baseball coach, end of 2015-16 season, Laura Thompson, SBE second grade teacher, end of 2015-16 school year.

-approved the following retirements: Louise Kienzie, WRE/SBE music teacher, end of school year; Dianne Skoubo, RJSHA library tech, end of school year.

-approved the following employment/promotions/transfers: Michele Ashbeck, WRE/SBE fifth grade teacher 2016-17, Andrea Chairez, MEC/District Office, part-time assistant custodian, Franca Drake, ACH first grade teacher 2016-17, Leah Gadsden, IJSHS art teacher 2016-17, Bruce Kernal, SBE assistant custodian, Gary Klinger, IJSHS assistant custodian, Adam Lemmon, ACH/IES elementary PE teacher, 2016-17, Chelsae Linehan, SBE/WRE K-sixth grade music teacher 2016-17; Elizabeth Rosen, RJSHS counselor 2016-17, Leticia Zuniga, SBE assistant custodian.

-approved the following extra duty contract-Matthew Scrivner, HJSHS assistant golf.

-approved the first readings of rescinded, new or revised policies on local wellness program, drug free workplace and public conduct on district property.

-adopted rescinded, new or revised policy on criminal records checks.

-heard a request for clarification from a board member concerning changes in the district’s assessment program. The new

assessment policy reads as follows, “A student may opt-out of the Smarter Balanced and/or alternate Oregon Extended Assessments in English language arts and mathematics as provided in state law. The district shall provide the required notice and necessary forms to the student. The district shall provide supervised study time for students who are excused from participating in the assessment. Parents and adult students will be provided the required notices that include a time frame in which statewide assessments will take place and an adult student’s or parent’s right to request an exemption from taking the statewide summative assessments.

“For all other statewide assessments (OAKS Online Science and Social Sciences, ELPA21, the Kindergarten Assessment, and the Extended Science Assessment), parents may request that their student be exempted from state testing based on either disability or religion. OAR 581-022-1910 allows school districts to excuse students from a state required program or learning activity, including state testing, to accommodate a student’s disabilities or religious beliefs. In order for a school district to excuse a student from testing under this rule, the student’s parent must submit a written request to the school district, listing the reasons for the request and proposing an alternative individualized learning activity for the student that meets the same goals that would be accomplished by participation in state testing. Appropriate school personnel must evaluate and approve the parent request.

“The district shall establish conduct and discipline consequences for student-initiated test impropriety. “Student-initiated

test impropriety” means student conduct that is inconsistent with the “Test Administration Manual or accompanying guidance; or results in a score that is invalid.”

-approved the following revised budget calendar: March 18-budgets due from superintendent and assistant superintendent, April 1-budgets due from buildings and departments, April 23-publish first notice of budget committee meeting on website, April 27-publish second notice of budget committee meeting, May 10-budget committee meeting, district office, Heppner Elementary School, 7 p.m.-elect officers, present budget message, present budget document, receive citizen input, review budget document, May 24-final meeting target date for budget committee approval of budget, June 1-publication of notice of budget hearing and budget summary and funds, June 13-budget hearing 7 p.m., regular board meeting, adopt budget, make appropriations and levy tax.

-approve increase in 2016-17 substitute teacher pay to \$197.38 per day.

-approved a four-year agreement with Mid-Columbia Bus to provide bus services for the district which includes an increase of over \$17,000, but with a stipulation for MIDCO to provide additional buses.

-reviewed the Oregon Department of Education nutrition services.

-approved the following 2016-17 board calendar: July-no meeting, Aug. 8-district office, Heppner Elementary, Sept. 12-Sam Boardman Elementary, Boardman, Oct. 10-A.C. Houghton Elementary, Irrigon, Nov. 14-Windy River Elementary, Boardman, Dec. 12-Irrigon Jr./Sr. High School, Jan. 2017-no meeting, Feb. 13-Heppner Jr./

Sr. High School, March 13-Morrow Education Center, Irrigon, April 10-Irrigon Elementary, May 8-Heppner Elementary, June 12-Riverside Jr./Sr. High School.

-adopted the Property and Casualty Coverage for Education, a self-insured property and liability program with Oregon School Boards Association (OSBA).

-received notice of the OSBA summer board conference, “Creating a Vision for Student Learning,” at Bend July 15-17. The keynote speech, “Vision for School boards to Effect Positive Change in Student Learning” will be presented by Kip Motta, Richland School District, Utah. Other conference topics include, “Framing the Equity conversation for Today and the Future,” by Mary Fertakis, National School boards Association; “Addressing the Needs of Our ELL Students,” by Taffy Carlisle, Oregon Department of Education, “Closing the Achievement Gap,” by C.J. Robbins, city of Portland, “LGBT Legal and Equity Issues in your Schools,” by Kelly Noor, Garrett Hemann Robertson P.C.; and “Eliminating Barriers for Under-Represented and Students of Color Through Board Policy and Action,” Mary Fertakis, NSBA.

-received the following announcements: MCS D budget committee meeting, May 10, HES; Crystal Apple awards, May 17, Pendleton Red Lion; seniors’ last day, Thursday, May 26; Memorial Day holiday, Monday, May 30; graduation, Saturday, June 4-RHS, 10 a.m., IHS, noon, HHS, 2 p.m.; students’ last day, Thursday, June 9; OSBA conference, July 15-17, Bend.

-held an executive session concerning student expulsion.

VOTE

JIM DOHERTY

COMMISSIONER

- BORN AND RAISED ON THE DOHERTY SHEEP RANCH
- 18 YEAR MORROW COUNTY RESIDENT
- PRODUCTION AG DEGREE; BA IN BUSINESS & HISTORY

- LONG TIME LIVESTOCK BUSINESS OWNER
- HAS VISION, FORESIGHT & COMMON SENSE
- UNDERSTANDS CHALLENGES OF RURAL LIFE & WANTS TO MOVE MORROW COUNTY TO THE FOREFRONT OF LIVABILITY & COMMERCE

JOHN L. BALLARD

FOR CIRCUIT COURT JUDGE

Paid for by Committee to Elect John L. Ballard Circuit Court Judge