

# Principal & Director Reports

November 2011

**Goal 5 - Maintain a strong financial management plan that supports staying current with infrastructure and providing diverse learning opportunities for students.**

## AC. Houghton Elementary

ACH, as well as all schools, have had to prioritize infrastructure projects to maintain our facilities over the last several years. The two major projects that we have done in this light have been the replacement of our rubberized playground material last year which was a huge project absorbed mostly by our custodial staff, with materials purchased by the district and, from this past summer, the sealing and draining of the high water content soil in front of our third-grade classroom wing. This problem was seriously deteriorating the South concrete wall of the building. We are currently in pretty good shape with the aforementioned projects completed.

## ACH Student Diverse Opportunities

The opportunities are provided are the following:

- Bi-yearly artists in residence funded by the North Morrow Foundation
- Buck and Elizabeth musical residency provided every two years funded by parent group
- Our school budget funds one field trip per year for each grade. This includes going to a play for the third-grade
- Each year our student body funds to the national school assemblies which usually involves artists for science related activities.
- We usually have a visit from OMSI every year sponsored partially by scholarship and the other part sponsored by parent group and our student body.

## Heppner Elementary School

It is hard to believe that November has arrived. The recent frosty mornings are a sure sign that winter is just around the corner. Our enrollment is currently 188 students at HES and our attendance percentage for the first quarter was 97.1%. As always we will continue to communicate the importance of regular attendance to the students and parents of Heppner Elementary School.

The HES Staff and I enjoyed Parent/Teacher conferences this past week and the roll out of the new district elementary report card at HES was a focal point during our conversations. As a result of positive behavior and grades during the first quarter we will be handing out 109 Honor Cards to students at HES on Thursday, November, 10<sup>th</sup> at 2pm and we will also be awarding 95 perfect attendance certificates as well.

The HES Staff and I work hard to provide diverse learning opportunities for students and we are committed to provide them through our budget planning process and fund raising efforts. In this month's report I will be focusing on - **Goal #5: Maintain a strong financial management plan that supports staying current with infrastructure and providing diverse learning opportunities for students:**

One program that we are very proud of at HES is a program similar to S.M.A.R.T. (Start Making a Reader Today) that we call H.E.R.O.E.S. (Heppner Elementary Reading Opportunities for Every Student). This program was implemented at HES a few years ago after SMART ended their

programs across the region due to financial difficulties. The HEROES program has been funded entirely through assistance from Adopt-A-Teacher, HES - PTC and fundraising efforts at HES. In addition to the HEROES Program we offer several other learning opportunities that are supported through fund raising efforts, PTC assistance, and strategic planning and use of our HES Resources. Some of these programs include; TAG, Knowledge Master, Geography Bee, Basketball Reading, Read Naturally, 3<sup>rd</sup> grade educational field trip to Maryhill Museum, 4<sup>th</sup> grade educational field trip to The John Day Fossil Beds, 5<sup>th</sup> grade educational field trip to The Dalles Discovery Center, Tupper Outdoor School for 6<sup>th</sup> grade, PBIS/Character Education - Student of the Month Assemblies, Quarterly Honor Card & Perfect Attendance Assemblies, and our End of year awards night, just to name a few.

We will continually seek opportunities to increase partnerships with all stakeholders for continued success at HES and to provide the necessary programs and diverse learning opportunities to facilitate this district goal.

### **Heppner High School**

#### **Nuts and Bolts-**

Our fall athletic teams in both football and volleyball have made the state playoffs with volleyball being district champions. Congratulations to our players and coaches for their continued excellence through athletics. Red Ribbon week came and went with a great special speaker (Brooks Gibbs) from Ann Arbor Michigan presenting. He spoke on decision making and future planning with meeting individual goals. It was a moving presentation that left a favorable impression with our students. The first Eastern Promise meeting happened at Eastern Oregon University and it went well taking three teachers from Heppner High School. We are all very excited with the prospects of being able to go through the process so our students can gain college credit that is part of the Oregon Transfer Module for \$10 a credit hour. It will be interesting to see how quickly we can get Communications 110, Biology 101, and Math 111 up and going. This spring, we should have a good chance to have math finished, but timelines have not yet been established- I will keep you posted. Ms. Stensland has our drama students practicing hard and preparing the production of Where There is a Will, There is a Murder. This will be the first production of two this year from our drama department. Please plan on attending one of the four scheduled performances if you can. The dates are November 17<sup>th</sup>, 18<sup>th</sup>, and 21<sup>st</sup> at 7pm and November 19<sup>th</sup> at 2pm. The cost is \$5.00 for general admission and \$3.00 for students.

#### **Board Goal #5 Maintain a strong financial plan with infrastructure and provide diverse learning opportunities.**

Heppner High School is one of the oldest buildings in the district. Our maintenance plan has always been built around sound planning to address our infrastructure and the big picture of what needs to be fixed or updated one year, five years, and ten years out. In the past seven years, I along with the help of others have built some strong fundraising campaigns to help with our infrastructure. Bleachers, a new track shed, a football shed, and a football stadium snack shack along with bathrooms are just a few of the infrastructure additions we have done to help guide district funds towards other building maintenance and infrastructure priorities. The one project that will need to be part of a bigger discussion is that of our gym floor. It has been on the list for eight years to be replaced, but with the lack of money- it has not been seriously considered. It is my hope that our district looks at some of the bigger ticket maintenance items that need to be replaced and improved with some creative ways to find money in the future.

The Eastern Promise and Honors/AP courses will continue to be a large part of what we develop and maintain here at Heppner High School. Currently we are offering four Advanced Placement classes that serve 70 students and four honors classes that serve about 50 upper level division

high school students. Due to the eight period day, we are not only able to offer classes that stretch rigor with our TAG students, but we currently offer six extension/booster or tutorial type classes for students that struggle meeting the essential skills of the diploma. Our Engineering and Manufacturing program offers nine dual credit college credits and our Agricultural Science program offers twelve dual credit college credits for students that complete a combination of classes during their four high school years. These credits are \$10.00 a credit hour and are offered through Blue Mountain Community College. Currently, we still have several field trips annually. Our teachers fundraising efforts along with their students have made offering these every year a reality. Overall, when compared to other schools are size- I think we do a great job with creating diverse opportunities for our students. Our school has been very creative and we have tried to not allow financial barriers to get in our way of student opportunity. With the help of our district board goals and the finances to meet the necessities of student achievement- we are on our way to exceed goal five at Heppner High School.

### **Irrigon Elementary School**

In keeping with our 5th District Goal, Irrigon Elementary School is incorporating several programs to provide diverse learning opportunities for students.

1. First Quarter Assembly- On November 3<sup>rd</sup> IES celebrated our second assembly of the year. We gave away three bikes for students motivated to read 100% of their AR Reading of library books. The bikes were bought and presented by the Umatilla Masonic Lodge. Five gentlemen including the Mayor of Irrigon presented the bikes. We also presented P.E. Gatorade awards for athletic achievement, IES Art Award for the Art board expeditions, and each teacher awarded three students from their classes for being exceptionally Reliable, Responsible and Respectable. This positive recognitions help students behave better and do all that they are supposed to do. It is part of our Positive Behavior Supports Program.
2. Junior High Math- To help students who are at grade level, we are also challenging them in doing 7<sup>th</sup> grade math as well. There are about 10 sixth graders who are doing both the 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> grade math. These top students are being double dipped to be ahead of the game. Mr. Long is their teacher and the sixth graders from all three classes come to his room for a quick teaching and then they go back to their classes to do their assignments. Mr. Long believes that some of his students will be finished with the 8<sup>th</sup> grade math by the end of the year.
3. Technology/Careers- At IES we are using the skills and credential of Mrs. Marquardt to teach our student typing, computer operations and careers. Students get time to learn how to do keyboarding, make power points presentations, and operate Word. She is also working with a group of 6<sup>th</sup> graders giving them support in Reading/Math using Study Island. This helps every student keep current on technology and some basic academics.
4. Small Groups- Here at IES we have focused our classified staff to work as much as possible with small groups of students. In our SPED, Title I, ESL and classrooms you will see small groups of children working with our classified aids. These focus groups are giving major support to students with needs for closer attention or explanation. No child is left behind. We are not able to provide support like this in every class period, but the main periods we are putting our classified to have the biggest impact on student learning.
5. SuccessMaker at IES- The district purchased SuccessMaker for all schools in the district and we have been using it here in our special education program. Every student is put to do Reading or Math. The program is able to locate a student exact Math/Reading ability and then situate them exactly to what they individually need to know. It is amazing. There have been some student who fight it because it makes them work. But most student are engaged learning more. I think this year we will see RIT gain with our SPED students getting exactly what they need.

## **ESL Program**

1. A.M.A.O. Annual Measurable Achievement Objectives- This year we made all three AMAO's! Yes that's right. Morrow County School District was one of 23 school districts in the state of Oregon which made all three AMAO's. Here are our results:
  - a. AMAO #1 was to have 53% of our ESL students go up from one level of English proficiency to the next. **Morrow County scored 57.8%.**
  - b. AMAO #2A was to have 15.5% of the total population of our ESL students exit the ESL program. **Morrow County scored 19.1%.**
  - c. AMAO#2B was to have 24% of our ESL students who have been in the program 5 or more years to exit the ESL program. **Morrow County scored 43.4%.**
  - d. AMAO #3 was to meet AYP with our ESL students in the program and with our First Year Monitored student and our Second Year Monitored students. **We made AYP for the 2010-2011 school year with at least 70% of our ESL students meeting Benchmarks in Reading and Math!**

Thanks to all the teachers and classified assistants who have worked hard and are still working hard to make student achievement possible. Thanks to our administration who have kept faithful to Morrow County goals and to seeing student results happen.

## **Irrigon High School**

- Our GEAR-UP team was able to apply for and receive an additional \$50,000 to spend on technology in addition to the \$30,000 we receive annually from the grant.
- We have found web-based programs and open-source software for free to replace programs that previously carried annual subscription costs.
- We have collected donations of labor and materials to create a computer lab and a concessions building.
- We were able save a substantial amount of money by using our own CTE/metals program to build equipment for our stage upgrade instead of purchasing equipment.
- We currently offer two A.P. classes: Literature and Composition and US History. Our teachers were also able to attend a week long annual training provided by College Board.
- Students are able to earn BMCC Dual Credit in Math 111 & 112.
- We also offer 18 credits through BMCC for our Ag program: Crop Science, Soils & Fertilizer, Animal Science, Ag Computers, Ag Welding, and Livestock Judging.
- Annual day long MS career fair
- We provide annual college visits for all grades 7-11 and a career trip for 12<sup>th</sup> grade students.
- There is at least one college, trade school, and/or military representative in the building weekly
- Transportation is provided for students and parents to attend College night in Hermiston
- We host an annual financial aid night in the fall as well offer evening classes for students and their parents each week in January for assistance with FAFSA. Local college ambassadors attend these as well to provide assistance to families that attend.
- Students are enrolled in BMCC Business and Sociology courses through the expanded options program.
- Several TAG students have compiled and published a review containing artistic and literary works by IHS students.

- We have two students from RHS taking Ag-Science through V-Tel.

### **Riverside High School**

At Riverside Jr/Sr high school the following interventions and initiatives have been implemented to address the building Goal # 5:

Maintain a strong financial management plan that supports staying current with infrastructure and providing diverse learning opportunities for students. This includes support and enrichment in the following areas: AP, TAG, fieldtrips, dual credit, distance education, assemblies, etc.

- A.P. We currently offer Two A.P. Classes:
  - A.P. English – **27**
  - A.P. World History - **17**
- BMCC Dual Credit: Math 111-112
  - M111 **14**
  - M112 **6**
- Field Trips to College Career – Hermiston in October
- In building College Fair – 8 colleges and universities presented to RHS students-Oct
- Sr. students taken to Hermiston Civics presentation
- In Building financial Aid information night and support Nov.
- Spanish Class: twice a year students are allowed to take Spanish Challenge Exam for Spanish-speaking students. They take the test and if they pass, they receive a credit for either Spanish 1 or 2, depending on what their credit needs are and if they have taken Spanish in the past. It helps with credit recovery and for placement in higher level Spanish classes
  - Spanish I **8**
  - Spanish II **5**
- Leadership Class: We are in the process of completing our mission statement focused on the community 101 grant funds. It should be completed by the end of this week
- Students enrolled in expanded options. **2** Web Design – Physic – Psychology
- Ag-Science through IHS-via VTel **2** Students

### **Sam Boardman Elementary School**

**Enrichment opportunities for students within the regular school day include:**

- Reading Blocks – students are challenged with instruction specific to their skill level.
- English Language Development – all students receive language instruction and practice specific to their language level. Students with benchmarking language skills receive enrichment opportunities.

- Saxon Math’s spiraling curriculum provides lessons targeting benchmark standards while exposing students to advanced concepts. Daily practice allows for differentiation.
- Computer programs such as Study Island give students access to technology while allowing them to be challenged at their instructional level.
- Field Trips – kindergarten students typically visit the pumpkin patch, 1<sup>st</sup> the nature trails, 2<sup>nd</sup> local agriculture and 3<sup>rd</sup> museum visits.

**Events beyond the school day celebrating advanced achievement:**

- District math competition is held in the spring
- S.B.E’s super spellers compete in the Intermountain ESD’s Spelling Bee.
- Students nearing the *exceed* range on OAKS are invited to Friday School for two days. At which time, our TAG facilitator provides enrichment instruction emphasizing the math processes and reading comprehension of story elements.

**Diverse opportunities coming to Sam Boardman for enhanced learning:**

- University of Oregon provides eight weeks of FOSS kit instruction taught by graduate scientists. This week, kindergarten and first grade students are learning how to think critically as they explore making paper and constructing particleboard.
- S.B.E.’s PTO is sponsoring Buck and Elizabeth who will be providing a song writing workshop the first two weeks in January.
- Title funds will bring children’s author Trudy Ludwig to S.B.E. in February. Trudy will teach students important social skills and how to deal with bullies.
- This year’s Artist-in-Residency is sponsored by North Morrow Community Foundation. In April Annie Heron will have students create a clay tile mosaic for the school.

**Assemblies for developing cultural enrichment:**

- The Hampstead Players in April will present “Robin Hood.”

**Windy River Elementary**

**Board Goal #5** *(Providing diverse learning opportunities for students)*

WRE provides students with several extended learning opportunity activities throughout the school year. Each grade provides various enrichment activities all year long based on the need of each student within their level. Twice a year WRE student participate knowledge master. Once a year they participate in the national geography bee, MCS D math contest, and spelling bee. Each grade has their own field trips. The fourth grade travels to Whitman Mission and Tamastlikt Cultural Center. The fifth grade has a two day field trip to the John Day Fossil Beds. The sixth grade travels to Meadowood Speech Camp for Outdoor School. Twice a year WRE has outside presenters give assemblies. Usually one assembly is the fine arts, such as a play by a traveling group. The other assembly is in science presented by OMSI. WRE also has a Junior National Honor Society Club.

**WRE Extravaganza/Open House**

September 21<sup>st</sup> Windy River Elementary held its first ever Back To School Extravaganza. This was a traditional Back-To-School night with a twist. Students and parents were able to participate in games, prize drawings and a free hotdog dinner, in addition to meeting new teachers and touring the school. All students received a new book from the library. This event also brought in several community outreach organizations including, the Morrow County Health Department, CSEPP, Oregon Child Development Coalition, and the OSU Extension Nutrition Program. Students were awarded prizes including an ipod shuffle and 2 new bikes for their participation in the events of the evening. All in all, this night was a great success with more than 250 people present at the event. Windy River Elementary wishes to thank the afore mentioned organizations and Larry Kennedy of Kennedy Fence Building for his donation to make this event possible, Penny Krebs for her wonderful cookies and Riverside High School Volunteers; Nereida Navarro, Marie Agripino, Marco Carranza, Rosario Zavala, Amelia Martinez, and Alondra Ramirez. We look forward to a bigger and better night next year.

Data:

Adults: Male, 28, Female 63 By Ethnicity based on view: white 47, Hispanic 43, Asian 1

Children: Male 62, Female 93. By ethnicity based on view: white 64, Hispanic 87, Black 1, Asian 3

Total people present, not counting staff and volunteers=246

## **Management's Discussion and Analysis**

### **Financial Highlights**

The district is continuing to see changes on the financial front from current legislation and changes to initial estimates of revenue. The areas below highlight the issues we have knowledge of since the last meeting:

1. The Riverside and Irrigon High Schools were awarded the Gear-Up grant – which is a significant amount of income over the next 7 years. The schools are looking to improve their overall technology for students and teachers. The goal of the grant is make students more college ready upon leaving high school.

The district has also experience the following with expenditures that should be noted:

1. We received the 3 school vans and are working through the process to get them licensed and certified to transport students.
2. The district should be receiving the 2 district cars in the month of November.
3. The new copy lease should be completed by the end of November.

### **Future Financial Planning**

The district is starting the initial planning phases of the local option serial levy, which would be a renewal of the current levy. Research needs to be completed on compression and how this will change what is currently in place. The plan is currently to introduce the plan to the board after the first of the year.

### **Current Financial Issues and Concerns**

No significant issues or concerns to report this month

### **Maintenance**

Maintenance is a significant budget item and is one area that can change the financial position of the district with one incident. The district has only had some minor unanticipated repairs in the current year; however, below are any projects that are financially significant:

1. Irrigon Elementary School: The initial bid came back from the contractor and was determined to not be an option with the current maintenance budget. The district is now researching alternatives that will resolve the ongoing issue at a cost that would be substantially less. The district should have those plans and bids in for their review by the end of November.
2. ACH: A boiler pipe fitting busted in the main hallway and Apollo made a normal service call. Apollo assured the district that the fluid leaked was non-toxic and was of no risk to employees, children, or others.

### **Morrow Education Center**

Greetings from Morrow Education Center. As the year progresses, we are still hammering out the small things in the Heppner High School alliance with curriculum plan we have in place. However, as a whole, students are beginning to really take off with it and we are implementing tracking devices to help students understand how they are awarded credits and what each topic is worth. In regards to Goal 5 of the Morrow County School District Board Goals, we definitely have a distance education program that is set up and in place. We are still in constant communication with Heppner staff when questions/concerns arise and the staff has been great in working with our staff and making the curriculum flow better or assisting the students understand what is being asked of them in the course. In regards to other areas such as TAG, field trips, AP, etc. we have decided to focus on the distance education portion of our curriculum, but will be more than willing to help students in the area of TAG and AP courses if a need arises. With regards to field trips, we have sent students in the past in a partnership with Irrigon High School to college visitation trips, etc. Thank you for your continued support of Morrow Education Center and our students.