

## Administration Reports

April 2026

### **Sam Boardman Elementary**

As we close out the third quarter at Sam Boardman Elementary, we are proud of the continued growth, engagement, and positive experiences our students and staff have shared throughout the past several weeks.

Highlights from this month include celebrating students who achieved perfect attendance for the third quarter with a cookie party and an extra recess. We are incredibly proud of their dedication, as consistent attendance plays a critical role in academic success and building strong learning habits.

Our first-grade students recently visited a local sheep ranch, providing a meaningful, hands-on learning experience connected to their classroom studies. Students explored animal care, agriculture, and aspects of rural life in our community.

In addition, we successfully wrapped up ELPA testing, marking another important milestone in supporting our multilingual learners. As the quarter concludes, our teachers have been engaged in grading, reflecting on student growth, and analyzing data to inform next steps. This intentional reflection ensures that instruction remains responsive and targeted. Teachers are identifying both strengths and areas for growth, and are making thoughtful adjustments to support continued progress for all students.

We are also grateful for our dedicated PTO, which continues to support both students and staff through meaningful events. Our third annual Young Entrepreneurs event (Youth Farmers Market), held during spring conferences, was a great success. Many of our students proudly sold their goods, demonstrating creativity, responsibility, and perseverance. This PTO sponsored experience provides valuable real-world learning, helping students understand the importance of hard work, passion, and tenacity—skills that may one day grow into future business ventures within our community.

We are grateful for the continued support of our families, staff, and community as we work together to ensure a positive and enriching educational experience for all students at Sam Boardman Elementary.

### **Windy River Elementary**

#### **2026 WAX Museum**

One of the major highlights this month was our 2026 WAX Museum, which was truly outstanding. Our hallways were filled with families as students proudly presented their speeches, bringing historical figures to life such as Albert Einstein, Marie Curie, and Abraham Lincoln, along with many others. Students demonstrated incredible preparation, confidence, and engagement. A special highlight of the evening was our “live show,” where approximately 40 students performed their speeches in front of a gym packed with parents and community members. We were also thrilled to have members of the Boardman Fire Department attend and support the event. It was an AWESOME night for our school community. I would like to recognize our outstanding 4th grade team—Mrs. Locey, Mrs. Worden, Miss Sepulveda, and Mrs. Stewart—for their leadership and dedication in organizing this event.

#### **End-of-Year Testing Preparation**

As we look ahead, we are preparing for end-of-year assessments. Both the i-Ready Diagnostic and OSAS testing will take place in May. Students have been working hard all year, and there is a sense of both excitement and anticipation as they prepare to demonstrate their learning and growth.

#### **Spring Book Fair**

We are also currently hosting our Spring Book Fair, and Mrs. Fernandez has done a fantastic job promoting literacy and a love of reading. Students are excited about books, and it is great to see that enthusiasm continue to grow throughout the school.

#### **Principal PLC Collaboration**

On a personal note, I have truly valued our Elementary Principal PLCs this year. Collaborating with colleagues such as Mrs. Stocker, Dr. Herron, and the rest of the elementary principal team has been incredibly beneficial. We have visited each other’s schools and worked together around the six elements of effective teaching, strengthening our collective practice across the district.

## Phonics for Reading Implementation

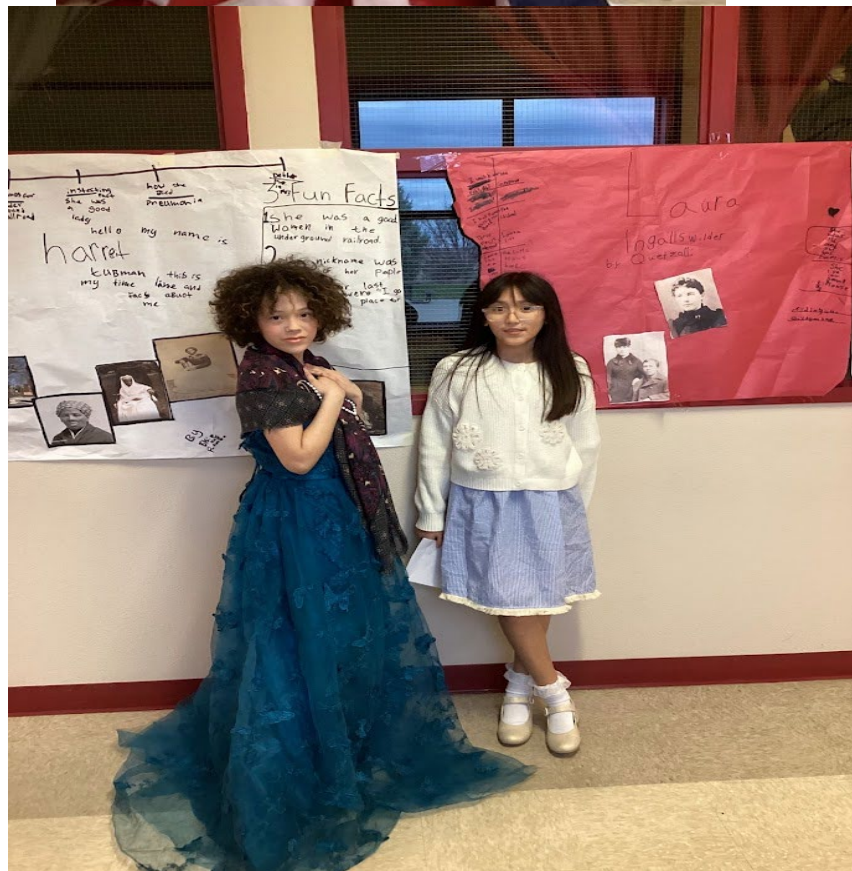
Finally, we have fully implemented Phonics for Reading in 4th and 5th grades this year to support our struggling readers. The growth we are seeing in students' decoding skills, fluency, and comprehension has been remarkable. Perhaps most importantly, we are seeing a significant increase in student confidence. Watching students transition from non-readers to confident readers has been incredibly rewarding.

Pictures of the Wax Museum:

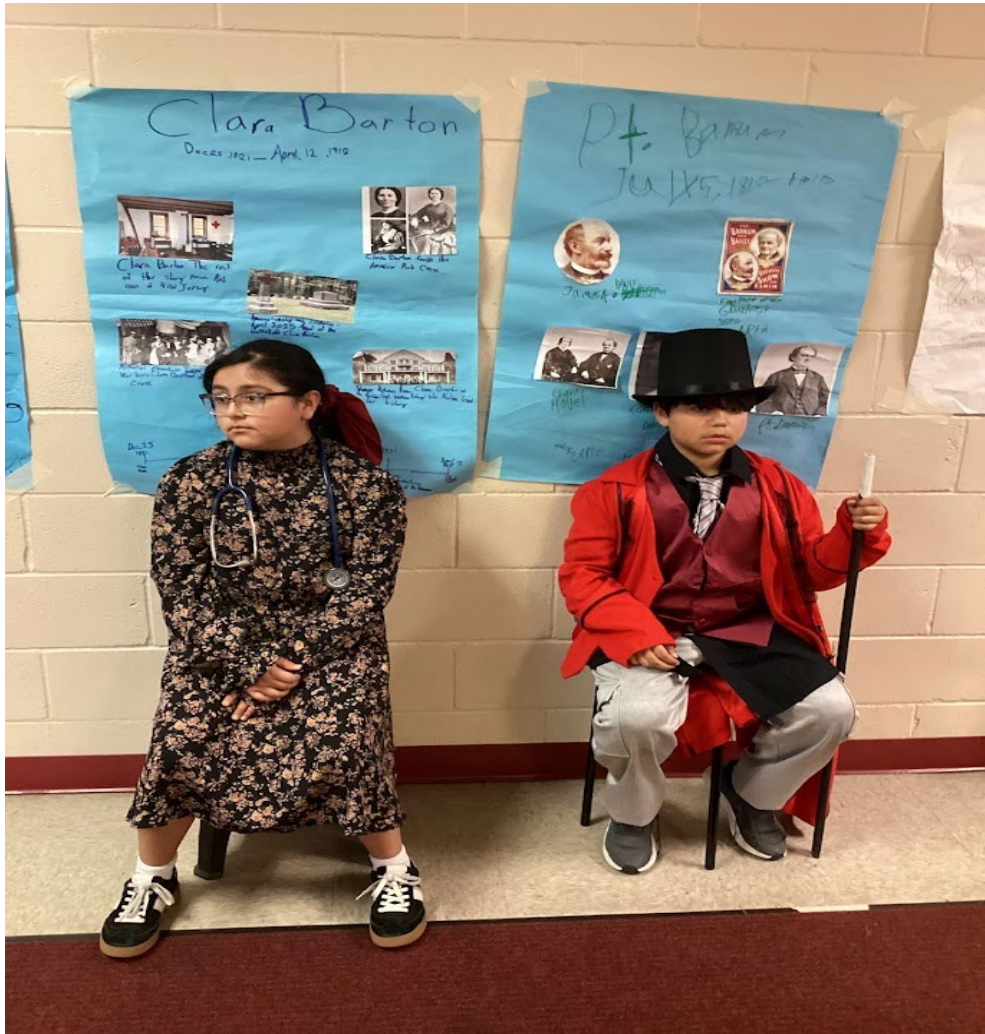
(kids practicing their wax museum - the LIVE show):











# PIRATE NATION NEWSLETTER

(541) 481-2525

[RHS.MORROW.K12.OR.US](http://RHS.MORROW.K12.OR.US)

## Student Spotlight



### Izabell Hopkins

Izabell is a junior this year and excels in academics and extracurriculars such as volleyball and softball.

## UPCOMING VARSITY HOME GAMES

### Track

April 3rd at Pendleton  
11AM



### VS. Irrigon

April 3rd  
2PM Softball



### VS. Irrigon

April 3rd  
2PM Baseball



## Athletic Spotlight Cooper Cemore

Junior Cooper Cemore just finished his third year playing point guard on the Pirates Varsity squad.

For the second consecutive year, Cooper was honored as the EOL Player of the Year. His team had a tremendous run in the 3A State Tournament before falling to Valley Catholic in the Championship.

Cooper was recognized as the OSAA 3A Player of the Year, beating out players from across Oregon.

## Mrs. Rosen's Corner

### College & Career News:

- 4/6- BMCC Dual Credit Registration Deadline
- 4/10- 4 Hr Conferences
- 4/24- EOU Dual Credit Registration Deadline





TEACHER FEATURE

## Mrs. Ochoa

This is Mrs. Ochoa's 1<sup>st</sup> year teaching at Riverside. She teaches LA2, LA4 and LA7. Although Mrs. Ochoa has only been teaching at Riverside for a short time she has had a positive impact on students!

Many students look up to her as an inspiring and helpful teacher!



"My favorite thing about teaching is when students understand the lesson."

—Mrs. Ochoa

## This Month In Pictures



The prom court of 2026!



The wrestling team before heading off to compete in state!



The boys Varsity basketball team on their way to Coos Bay!



Mr. Ashby influencing students to buy a yearbook!



## Riverside Club Corner

### FFA

Riverside's FFA members attended the state convention at the Deschutes Fair & Expo Center in Redmond, Oregon. Many of the FFA members competed in different events such as the ones below!

- FBM (Farm Business Management)
- Beginning Public Speaking
- Info Test (Test on FFA Knowledge)
- Chapter Secretary Book

### Upcoming Club Meetings

Key Club - 4/14 - Advisory - Ms. Simpson Room  
FFA - 4/16 - 7PM - Ms. Rodelo Room  
NHS - 4/20 - Advisory - Ms. Myers Room  
FBLA State Convention, April 8<sup>th</sup>- 11<sup>th</sup> in Eugene, Oregon

Created by Abigail Mendoza

### A.C. Houghton Elementary

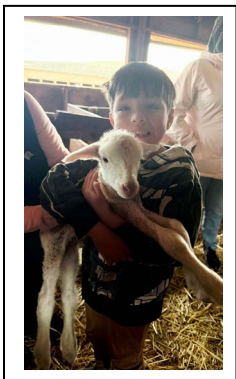
April has arrived, and with it the welcome signs of spring. We are enjoying the warmer weather, even after such a mild winter. At A.C. Houghton, the past several weeks has been filled with a variety of engaging and meaningful experiences for our students. From enriching field trips to well-attended community events, there has been a great deal of activity that highlights the strong connection between our school and families. In addition, our staff has been actively preparing for upcoming end-of-year activities while continuing to support daily instruction and student growth. This time of year, brings a full schedule, including state testing for our third-grade students, and we are proud of the focus and effort they are demonstrating. Overall, it has been a busy yet rewarding time of year, and we look forward to the continued learning and celebrations that the remainder of the school year will bring.

- **ACH Family Literacy Night/Charlotte’s Web** March 5<sup>th</sup> we hosted a literacy night at ACH. We have partnered with Eastern Oregon University Reading Clinic to host a “Our School Reads” event. Over two months we will be reading Charlotte’s web together. EOU graciously sponsored this event by providing each ACH household with a copy of the book. We kicked off the event at our literacy night. We had 85 students attend with over 140 family members also attending. Local vendors supported, books were read, fun activities were enjoyed. Thanks to EOU and staff, was a very successful fun evening promoting literacy. Stay tuned for more information on “Our School Reads” project. We also gave away raffle prizes and a bike to a very lucky kinder student Yael!



- **1<sup>st</sup> Grade Field Trip to Krebs Sheep Ranch** March 10<sup>th</sup>, students had the opportunity to visit a large-scale sheep

ranch operation at Krebs Sheep Company near Lone, where they engaged in a variety of hands-on learning experiences. During the visit, students learned about animal tagging, the use of solar energy in agricultural operations, the process of wool production, and proper techniques for feeding lambs. They also had the unique opportunity to observe and assist with the care and feeding of working puppies. This field trip provided meaningful, real-world insights into agricultural practices and animal care. It was especially valuable in broadening students’ understanding of an industry that, while local, may not be familiar to all. Experiences like this help bridge the gap between classroom learning and the rich



agricultural environment that surrounds our community. Photo, on right, is of the winners of the coloring contest; they proudly earned new bags sponsored by Ag West.



- **2<sup>nd</sup> Grade Field Trip to Sage Center/Boardman Foods/Irrigon Fish Hatchery** Tuesday, March 31, students traveled to Boardman for an engaging educational experience that included a tour of the SAGE Center. During their visit, representatives from Boardman Foods provided an informative presentation, offering insight into this important local agricultural business. Students enjoyed a picnic lunch and a special treat of Tillamook ice cream before continuing their learning. On the return trip, students stopped at a local fish hatchery, where they learned about regional fishery operations and the vital role they play in supporting and sustaining our environment. This field trip provided a valuable opportunity to connect classroom learning with real-world applications in our local community.



**McTeacher Night on April 15<sup>th</sup>** – Our recent fundraiser at a local McDonald’s was a tremendous success. Staff members volunteered their time to serve meals to students and families, creating a fun and memorable experience for everyone involved. We are continually grateful for the incredible level of community support this event receives—raising nearly \$1,400 in just two hours. Students especially enjoy seeing staff in a different setting, and our team has just as much fun stepping into new roles—often with a smile and the familiar question, “Would you like fries with that?”





## Irrigon Elementary School

March was a productive and engaging month for our school community, marked by meaningful professional learning, strong family engagement, and continued focus on student achievement.

Our elementary staff participated in a dedicated professional development day hosted at our school. This learning opportunity focused on strengthening the effectiveness of our math instructional planning and implementation. The conversations—both across schools and within grade-level teams—were thoughtful, collaborative, and impactful. Staff engaged in rich dialogue that is already moving us in a positive direction toward stronger vertical alignment across grade levels. This work will continue to support consistency and clarity in math instruction for all students.

On March 12, we hosted a highly successful Family Night that brought together students, families, and community partners for an evening centered on math and science. The event created a welcoming and energetic atmosphere, complete with a hot dog dinner and hands-on learning opportunities for students. We also had a few things available to fundraise for our ASB fund. One was a temporary tattoo the teacher fundraiser. This was a first time event and will happen again as it was a fun way to involve so many students and teachers. Mr. Temple is always a great sport for these types of ideas!



We were fortunate to have strong participation from community partners, including The Sage Center, Boardman Parks and Recreation, Bank of Eastern Oregon, the GO STEM Mobile Lab from Eastern Oregon University, Irrigon Library, Irrigon Fire Department, and The Loop, among others. Their involvement helped make the evening both educational and memorable. Students left with a variety of “goodies” and resources that extended the learning beyond the event and into their homes.

As we transition into the spring term, our staff remains focused on supporting student academic growth and success. Preparation is underway for upcoming state and local assessments, including OSAS and i-Ready. In addition to academic priorities, students and staff are also preparing for a spring concert, which will provide an opportunity to celebrate student talents and bring our community together once again.





Overall, March reflected our continued commitment to high-quality instruction, meaningful collaboration, and strong connections with our families and community.

**Irrigon Jr/Sr High School**

Thanks to the wonderful team assembled to build the new high school we are deep into the planning stages and are discussing exciting topics like natural lighting, creating a welcoming space and community use of the new building. I have appreciated the collaboration and contribution of everyone involved.

IJSHS was recently awarded grants from the Trailblazers Foundation and Amazon. These grants will go towards updating athletics facilities including beautification of the area around the new tennis courts.

During Spring Conferences we hosted Lines for Life, a suicide prevention training, for community members to attend. These representatives were in the building for two nights. One night was hosted in English and the other in Spanish.

FBLA has several students competing at state the dates of April 8-11.

We will host the Irrigon Track and Field Invite on May 7 for the second year in a row. 15 teams are scheduled to compete.

The FFA plant sale is slated to begin May 8.

## Heppner Elementary School

Spring is in full swing, and we are leaping into the last quarter at Heppner Elementary School. After spring break, teachers are focused on working through core curriculum, state testing, and district testing.

Tupper Outdoor School will take place the first week of May. 6th graders are preparing and training is taking place for counselors. Tupper has a 50 year history of tradition, fun, and learning- parents often reminisce about their time there, teach their children the campfire songs, and share memories of fishing with their friends on Bull Prairie. I look forward to organizing and carrying out this long standing tradition.

In March, we welcomed Telly the Police Dog to HES, with a demonstration for each grade of her strong training and capabilities. Students enjoyed watching Telly and her handler use her nose to find objects, her trained responses and the technology in cars to help when needed. Telly was a hit with students, and we are thankful for our partnership with the Morrow County Sheriff's Office and their time educating students at HES!

Parent-Teacher conferences are taking place this week, and we always appreciate opportunities to build relationships with parents. We will continue to create connections and strive to have HES be a place where families feel comfortable. I believe strongly that education is a team sport, and we need all stakeholders to best support students. I want to thank our wonderful PTC for supplying teachers with dinner during conferences. It is much appreciated!





## Heppner Jr/Sr High School

1. At HJSHS, we are continuing the development of our Master Schedule for the upcoming 2026–27 school year. We will maintain an 8-period day schedule while focusing on maximizing student access to both core courses and elective offerings. As part of this process, we are evaluating our current schedule to determine the best configuration for delivering a balanced offering of core classes and electives to both our middle school and high school students. Our goal remains to minimize scheduling conflicts while ensuring equitable opportunities for all students.
2. Our 3rd Quarter Awards Ceremony is scheduled for April 14th. This continues our effort to consistently recognize student achievement throughout the school year. Student of the Quarter recognition continues to be a positive driver within our building, highlighting students who demonstrate perseverance, integrity, character, civility, and leadership. We will continue to celebrate these students publicly to reinforce a positive school culture and set clear expectations for all students.

3. Our student programs continue to provide strong opportunities for involvement and achievement.

### **FFA:**

Heppner FFA students represented our school well at the State FFA Convention held over Spring Break, earning strong individual and chapter recognition.

- National Chapter Award: Gold Distinction (qualified for Nationals)
- State Degree Recipient: Claire Lindsay

### **Individual & Team Highlights:**

- Technology Scrapbook – Bronze (Natalie Piper)
- Advanced Portfolio – Gold (Natalie Piper)
- Beginner’s Portfolio – Bronze (Mikalee Duncan)
- Scrapbook – Silver (Natalie Piper)
- Extemporaneous Public Speaking – Sarah Estes (6th place, state)
- Ag Marketing Team – 2nd place in state contest (Catherine Lindsay & team)
- AgEd Poster – 1st place (Mikalee Duncan)
- Ag Essay – 4th place (Aaron Siniard)
- Art Mixed Media – 1st place (Kaylee Jean Davis)

### **State Proficiency Qualifiers:**

- Diversified Ag Production – Owen Guerra
- Diversified Livestock Production – Sarah Estes
- Beef Production Placement – Sarah Estes

### **FBLA:**

FBLA students will be traveling to Eugene this week to compete at the state level, with five students participating in multiple events. I will be attending alongside our students, filling in for Mrs. Collins while she is out on leave.

4. State testing is currently underway at Heppner Jr/Sr High School. We began with Science and will transition into Math, followed by ELA. This is a busy time of year for both students and staff as we work to ensure a smooth and focused testing environment.

## **MCS D Maintenance & Facilities Report – April 2026**

This month, we will begin scheduling the summer inspections and beginning the process for approved summer projects then the information and dates will be shared with Head Custodians and Administration.

### **Bond Project Update:**

Wenaha, SAJ and District team have weekly meetings and monthly meetings with Fowler Construction.

We are excited to report that we received seven CM/GC proposals for the Riverside Jr Sr High major renovation project. Our selection team will review them on April 8 and if needed, conduct interviews on April 14. The team will then make a recommendation to the board at the May meeting. We look forward to adding another contractor to our bond team.

In March, Irrigon's DAC toured Kennewick High School and Grandview High School to gather ideas and inspire our design process. The buildings offered two distinct design styles, and it was very useful to see spaces that we have been discussing at the DACs. The group was able to take pictures and have discussions about the specific things that were positive or negative in those buildings. Everyone felt the tours were informative and worth the time to attend. At the next DAC meeting in April, they will review the imagery charette, review feedback from the tours and learn about the educational specifications that SAJ is developing for the District.

Boardman's DAC will meet from July 2025 – January 2027. Heppner's meetings are September 2026 – March 2027. During those meetings, the DACs will create unique, individual spaces for their buildings.

Irrigon's DAC members are Rose Palmer, Marie Shimer, Addie Cole, Dan Locey, James Durfee, Brenda Shockman, Heidi Horn and daughter Jade and Aaron Palmquist.

Boardman's DAC members are John Christy, Marie Shimer, David Boor, Stephanie Simpson, Claude Birt, Smokey Joe Wightman, Veronica Nunez Lezama and daughter Ariana and Luis Campos.

Heppner's DAC members are Ryan Gerry, Laura Winters, Marie Shimer, Petra Payne, Jason Palmer, Ashley Beard, Sarah Matheny and son Peyton, Linsey Hanna and son Jasper, Jennifer Wilson, John Doherty and Linda Kenny.

The DAC groups are tasked with helping to shape the design and vision of the schools and to communicate the work with the staff, community and stakeholders. They will prioritize cost framework, craft the design goals and refine the design to shape the future of our schools.

On March 6, SAJ conducted virtual educator workshops to engage specific staff on programming needs. The groups include special education/life skills, media center/library, art, business, food service, music, physical education/athletics, science/ag/shop and administration/student services. SAJ received great feedback and answered questions during the meetings.

In May, SAJ is scheduling a 3 day, in-person educator workshop for IJSH. The workshop will offer time for staff to review the proposed design plans and engage in a hands-on design process using their patent pending, Modular Planning Kit for their specific spaces. We are planning to offer a Community Forum on the evening of the third day to present the design plans to the public. We will communicate details via email and social media.

Fowler Construction has provided comments on the Irrigon draft plans to help the project continue to be efficient, especially from the mechanical, electrical and utilities standpoint. Their collaboration with SAJ has been vital. Fowler met with the subcontractors at IES to engage in the bidding process for the safety and security upgrades at IES and WRE that are slated for this summer.

The District team along with SAJ, Wenaha and the IT department attended a product demo day where three companies presented options for access control and security camera software and products. The day was informative and as a group we selected two companies that we would like to receive quotes from. The next step is to review the quotes and



make a recommendation. The goal is to find systems that will be used in all our facilities that are versatile and long-lasting.

MACC Estimating Group was selected as the third-party cost estimator. Structural Waterproofing was awarded the bid for the building envelope consultant. The next procurement is for the commissioning agent. All surveys and consultants are a vital part of the process to aid the architects and general contractors to know what to expect and provide a checks and balances system which in turn should keep the change orders and unexpected expenses minimal.

The Bond Oversight Committee's next meeting is May 19 at 6:00pm in the RJSH library. Scott from Wenaha, presents an update on the progress, budget and answers questions. As a reminder, the committee will meet quarterly through the entire bond process ending in the fall of 2029. The BOC's core purpose will be to carefully monitor the delivery of the proposed bond program to ensure accountability, fiscal transparency, and community trust. The meetings are facilitated by Wenaha along with Matt, Gabe and Brandi. Up to three board members are allowed to attend the meetings.

The BOC members include Brett Harrison, Meghan Golden, Don Alleman, Justin Nelson, Tia McNamee, Zac Acock, Debbie Radie, Phyllis Danielson, Torrie Griggs, Frances Glenn, George Shimer and Karen Pettigrew.

Pacific Northwest Communications is continuing to create press releases, social media content and update the website. When the draft floor plans are ready for release, we plan on presenting to our schools, community organizations and members to share the hard work from our DACs and the SAJ Architects.

The District team would like to thank all the volunteer committee members for their time, openness and support. We are excited to work collaboratively with the school board, staff, students and the community to create facilities for the next generations.

For Irrigon, the proposed schedule is as follows:

Schematic Design:	03/2026 – 06/2026
Design Development:	06/2026 – 10/2026
Construction Documents:	11/2026 – 03/2027
Bidding and Permitting:	02/2027 – 06/2027
<b>Construction:</b>	<b>07/2027 – 04/2029</b>

For Riverside, the proposed schedule is as follows:

Schematic Design:	07/2026 – 09/2026
Design Development:	10/2026 – 01/2027
Construction Documents:	01/2027 – 05/2027
Bidding and Permitting:	06/2027 – 09/2027
<b>Construction:</b>	<b>10/2027 – 03/2029</b>

For Heppner K-12, the proposed schedule is as follows:

Schematic Design:	09/2026 – 12/2026
Design Development:	12/2026 – 03/2027
Construction Documents:	03/2027 – 06/2027
Bidding and Permitting:	07/2027 – 10/2027
<b>Construction:</b>	<b>02/2028 – 06/2029</b>

Respectfully Submitted By,  
Matt Combe, Gabe Hansen and Brandi Sweeney

**Staff Incident/Accidents Report:**

<b>Date</b>	<b>School</b>	<b>Incident</b>
3/16/2026	RJSHS	Employee twisted ankle coming down the stairs into the gym, Medical attention sought, time loss claim was filed.
3/16/2026	WRE	Employee was hit in the face by an object thrown by a student. Medical attention sought, no time loss.
3/29/2026	Portland, OR	1 employee/coach and 2 coaches traveled to a Blazers game to accept a grant and their vehicle was hit by another vehicle. The MCSD driver was not at fault. Two of the employees have sought medical attention, no time loss incurred.