



Regional Board Conference Provides Training for IMESD School Districts

School board members, superintendents and administrators from eastern Oregon gathered on September 19th for a Regional Board Conference at IMESD. The event in Pendleton provided opportunities for school board members to receive professional development about their role and for superintendents to learn about interacting with their school boards. Approximately 45 superintendents and board members attended.

The conference began with a networking dinner, followed by a few superintendents from school districts sharing some recent celebrations in their districts, from completed bond projects to reading intervention programs.

Then, Spencer Lewis from OSBA (Oregon School Boards Association) gave a presentation to the entire group about Board Policy Best Practices. He shared that a school district's board policies are intended to meet legal requirements, establish rules for the district and to communicate.

Conference participants then chose 30-minute breakout sessions to attend. The "Superintendent Evaluations" session was led by Umatilla School District Superintendent and Morrow County School District Superintendent Matt Combe. They acknowledged that like any job, some years for superintendents go great and some are more challenging, but having collective feedback from the school board can be helpful.

"Creating and Managing a School Budget" was another session led by Dr. Mark Mulvihill, IMESD Superintendent, Kelly Bissinger, IMESD Board Chair, and Beth O'Hanlon, IMESD Chief Financial Officer. Bissinger said school boards need to keep their mission and vision statements at the forefront of budget planning. "Say to yourself, if we were meeting here three years from today, what has to happen for us to be happy," Bissinger said. CFO O'Hanlon said it's important to remember that district funds are government money the second they enter the building and "today's money is meant for today's students, we are not an investment bank."

OSBA's Lewis and his colleague Haley Percell presented a session entitled "Executive Session Procedures" which included reasons for using these sessions, complaint processes and media access to these.

MISSION

To provide outstanding customer service to our school districts in four areas: special education, technology, school improvement, and administrative services.

VISION

IMESD strives to ensure the success of every child by providing equitable services to close the opportunity gap. We are committed to the values of antiracism and multiculturalism.