Community celebrates ‘School Board Recognition Month’

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

The Baker School District will join the other 196 school districts throughout Oregon to celebrate January as “School Board Recognition Month,” Superintendent Mark Witty announced.

“Our school board members spend countless hours of unpaid time working to provide the best possible education for our students,” said district Superintendent Witty. “They also serve as the corporate board of directors for one of our community’s largest employers. Celebrating School Board Recognition Month is one way to say thanks for all they do.”

School board members represent their fellow citizens’ views and priorities in the complex enterprise of maintaining and running the community’s public schools, Witty said. They also reinforce the principle of local control over public education, which is an important, highly valued aspect of education in Oregon.

“Too often the efforts of school board members go unrecognized,” Witty said. “We would like to acknowledge the dedication of our following board members: Kevin Cassidy, Chairman; Chris Hawkins, Vice-Chair; Andrew Bryan, and Katie Lamb.

The school board has worked hard to develop a vision for the Baker School District that will enrich our students and community, Witty added. To achieve that vision, the board focuses on the following goals:

The Baker 5J schools exist to be the center of community vitality eliminating the barriers for gratifying individual educational experiences in order to have capable contributing citizens with character.
• Make strategic investments in programs, people and infrastructure in order to support educational opportunities within the community and region.

• Develop and implement a transparent budget process that includes opportunities for multiple levels of input and looks for sustainability and investment.

• Implement a calendar that creates robust educational opportunities for students, staff, and the community.

• Use collaborative leadership to align Pre-K through post-secondary educational opportunities.

• Develop and implement a facility review process that engages multiple stakeholders to consider how our facilities can best support quality education for students, provide a rewarding environment for teachers and staff and serve the broader community.

“Even though we are making a special effort during January to show appreciation for our school board members, we recognize their contributions reflect a year-round effort on their part. They are dedicated individuals who are committed to improving student achievement and to fighting for the best for all of our students,” Witty said.

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