March 20, 2018

Media Contact:

Mark Witty, Baker School District 5J, 541-620-2109, mark.witty@bakersd.org

Baker School District Qualifies for $4 Million Matching Funds

(Baker City, Ore.) – Baker School District is one of seven districts in Oregon that have qualified for the Oregon School Capital Improvement Match (OSCIM) grant. According to Baker School District Superintendent Mark Witty, the OSCIM grant is a competitive grant specifically set aside by the legislature to support school district infrastructure.

To qualify for this grant, districts are required to develop an in-depth facilities plan through a community process. Baker 5J accomplished this work through the Long Range Facilities Planning Committee (LRFPC), largely comprised of community members.

“This is a great opportunity for the Baker community to leverage state funds while helping students to receive a quality education in 21st century facilities,” Witty said. The grant can only be accessed if the community supports a bond of $4 million or more in November of 2018.

“While the Board has not yet determined that the District will go out for a facilities bond, it was important for us to do our due diligence in applying for this grant,” Witty said. “If the board determines to approach a bond in November, we are in a position to leverage critical state dollars.”

About Baker 5J School District

Nationally recognized Baker School District 5J (BSD) in Baker City, OR, is the largest of three rural school districts in Baker County, serving 1,700 students and employing over 110 educators and staff. District elementary schools include Brooklyn Primary School, Haines Elementary, Keating Elementary School, and South Baker Intermediate. Baker Middle School and two high schools, Baker High School and Eagle Cap Innovative High School, are also part of BSD. Additionally, BSD sponsors two charter schools, Baker Web Academy and Baker Early College, each offering teacher-supported online education. BSD provides next generation education for the future of Eastern Oregonians and launched Baker Technical Institute (BTI), a career and technical program that partners with regional employers and industry experts to provide an innovative education in hands-on fields. BSD believes strong schools are the foundation of strong and vibrant communities and is committed to prepare students to become successful lifelong learners.

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.