FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
April 19, 2018

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Board Approves Eugene Bates as South Baker Principal

From: Baker School District
Re: South Baker Principal
Date: April 19, 2018

Baker School District is pleased to announce Baker School Board approval of Eugene “Geno” Bates as the new principal for South Baker Intermediate starting July 1, 2018. Mr. Bates comes to us with 13 years’ experience as an elementary teacher and 18 years of successful leadership as an administrator. Sixteen of those years were invested as a building principal primarily at the elementary level.

The District plans to organize a day for the community to meet Mr. Bates later this spring. “I look forward to the opportunity to get acquainted with the staff and parents of South Baker Intermediate School,” said Bates. “I’m excited to continue the great work that has taken place there, and look forward to working with the outstanding staff in order to enhance and promote a positive and enriching learning environment.”

“I strongly believe Eugene Bates will be a collaborative leader that will continue the excellent work and shared leadership at South Baker Intermediate School promoted by current principal Nanette Lehman,” said BSD Superintendent Mark Witty. Lehman notified the District this past March of her decision to accept a principal position in Idaho for the 2018-19 School Year.
“Nanette Lehman has done a wonderful job of creating a shared leadership within the staff that strongly supports individual student success. She will be missed,” Witty added.

In acknowledgement of the increased student load at South Baker, the District plans to post a Dean of Students position this Spring. “Adding a Dean of Students will provide the capacity to create quality supports which ultimately promote greatest success for our staff and the students in their care,” said Witty.

A brief bio of Eugene Bates has been posted on the South Baker website. The community can access this information by going to https://sbi.baker5j.org/

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.

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