FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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District Takes Steps to Minimize Potential False Alarms

Baker City, OR - On Wednesday, January 17, at around 11:22 a.m., Baker County Consolidated Dispatch received notice of an alarm at Brooklyn Primary School and dispatched officers from the Baker City Police Department to the school. Officers from the Baker County Sheriff’s Office and the Oregon State Police also responded to the school to assist with the incident.

Officers on the scene methodically searched the school and quickly determined there was not an active threat on campus. Upon learning the campus was secure, Baker School District officials reopened Brooklyn Primary for normal activities.

Further investigation by Baker School District 5J officials determined the alarm was not activated through the fob system but was activated either by an individual accidently dialing the four-digit code on the phone system or a potential technical glitch due to the antiquated phone system.

Superintendent Mark Witty stated “The ability to notify emergency services of a potential threat quickly is critical for the safety of students and staff. The District is taking steps to minimize the potential of a false alarm by disconnecting the alarm mechanism from the phone system. We will distribute more fobs to staff in strategic locations throughout each building. Staff will be required to keep fobs in a hardened plastic container. These steps will maximize our ability to activate a quick response while further minimizing the chance of a false alarm.”

Speaking about the response of all those involved in the incident, Officer Lance Woodward of the Baker City Police Department said, “I am proud of the way Brooklyn Elementary students, staff, and parents handled this stressful situation. Students, staff, and parents kept their cool and responded exactly as they had been trained, which enabled law enforcement officers on scene to effectively complete their tasks and quickly return Brooklyn Elementary to normal school activities.”

Superintendent Mark Witty added “The professionalism exhibited by our staff and the Emergency Services Team was admirable! We are grateful for the collaboration between multiple Emergency
Services Agencies and the Baker School District. Each organization brings critical skills that enhance the safety of students and staff.”

For further information about this incident, please contact the Baker School District at 541-524-2260.

About Baker 5J School District

About Baker 5J School District Baker School District 5J is made up of Baker High School, Eagle Cap Innovative High School, Baker Middle School, South Baker Intermediate, Haines Elementary, Keating Elementary and School, Brooklyn Primary School. These schools serve a population of approximately 1,700 students. In addition to these schools, Baker School District 5J sponsors two charter schools: Baker Web Academy, and Baker Early College. These two schools offer online education combined with teacher relationships. Baker School District recently launched Baker Technical Institute, a Career and Technical program which partners with regional employers and industry experts to provide an innovative education in hands-on fields. #

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