

Baker School District 5J
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New Citizens' Bond Oversight Committee Formed

During yesterday's regular monthly meeting, the Baker School District board approved and charged a new independent, citizen-led bond oversight committee to monitor the delivery of the proposed bond program to ensure accountability, fiscal transparency, and community trust. The superintendent will serve as the direct liaison to the group, which will also provide periodic updates to the community and school board.

The committee's work will include helping to select general contractors, architects, and vendors; review financial statements, project scope, construction documents, and bid solicitations; inspect school facilities and grounds; recommend policies and procedures to enhance accountability; communicate bond project progress; and help inform program decisions.

The 11-member bond oversight committee will be comprised of the following individuals: Jess Blatchford, Liz Burton, Kevin Cassidy, Nathan Defrees, Josey Gaslin, Loran Joseph, Katie Lamb, Dave Lindley, Bruce Nichols, Phil Stone, and Deon Strommer.

Committee members span a wide range of expertise, including community involvement, business leadership, finance, construction, long-range facility planning, and infrastructure project management.

"We are thankful for the willingness of these new committee members to serve in such an important capacity," says Superintendent Witty. "A school bond measure hasn't passed locally since 1948, and we are excited for the community to be part of this important revitalization of local schools."

About the Baker School District

Nationally recognized Baker School District 5J (BSD) is a major employer in Baker City, OR, serving 1,700 students locally with an additional 3,000 online students across the state of Oregon. Through enterprising, collaborative endeavors, BSD is creating an innovative educational foundation for future Oregonians. BSD believes strong school collaboration with local partners enables us to create vibrant communities that support lifelong learners.

The Baker 5J schools enhance community vitality by providing opportunities for rewarding, individual educational experiences.