

Joint Interim Committee on Student Success Meeting Summary – Baker City Field Trips April 24, 2018

Business Leaders Roundtable, 8:00 AM

**Baker Public Library
2400 Resort St, Baker**

Members Present: Sen. Roblan, Rep. Smith Warner, Sen. Bentz, Sen. DeBoer, Sen. Frederick, Sen. Knopp, Rep. Smith, Sen. Taylor, Sen. Thatcher, Rep. Hernandez, Rep. Clem, Rep. Fahey, Rep. Sprenger, Rep. Wilson

Members Excused: Sen. Hass

Legislators met with business leaders, including members from the Chamber of Commerce, Baker County, Baker County YMCA, Baker County Economic Development Association, and other small businesses. They discussed local issues affecting businesses and education. Some of the issues raised include:

- the lack of post-secondary grant partnerships since 2014, and the benefit of these partnerships;
- the challenge in engaging children to work and find a career when generational public assistance exists in the family;
- bond measures and related issues; and
- maintaining interest in jobs that pay less than public sector jobs.

Business leaders discussed the value of Baker City's four-day school week in an agricultural community, the local welding program, and teaching children the value of entry-level jobs. The Committee discussed how other departments could pay for positions and resources such as school librarians or school nurses.

Student Listening Session, 9:30 AM

Baker School District Administrative Offices

Members Present: Sen. Roblan, Rep. Smith Warner, Sen. Knopp, Rep. Smith, Sen. DeBoer, Sen. Frederick, Sen. Taylor, Sen. Thatcher, Rep. Clem, Rep. Fahey, Rep. Hernandez, Rep. Sprenger, Rep. Wilson

Members Excused: Sen. Hass

Non-Members Present: Sen. Bentz, Rep. Findley

Legislators met with 32 students. Small groups of students and legislators sat at tables to discuss students' experiences in the education system. Legislators rotated to different groups of students at 10:05 AM and again at 10:30 AM.

Lunch at Baker Technical Institute (BTI)
2500 E St, Baker City

Members Present: Sen. Roblan, Rep. Smith Warner, Sen. Knopp, Rep. Smith, Sen. DeBoer, Sen. Frederick, Sen. Taylor, Sen. Thatcher, Rep. Clem, Rep. Fahey, Rep. Hernandez, Rep. Sprenger, Rep. Wilson

BTI President Doug Dalton welcomed the committee. Mr. Dalton introduced the students who had prepared the lunch, as well as two board members: Kevin Cassidy and Andrew Bryan. Mr. Dalton spoke about the history of BTI, its course offerings, the impact to students and the community, and his future plans. He emphasized the need within career and technical education for industry to be involved in the planning and implementation of programs. He spoke about the importance of teaching students career success skills, employability, and cultural change toward a renewed emphasis on CTE. He described BTI's evolution as an operating division of Baker School District and about his desire to file for postsecondary status. He also described industry's donations of equipment to BTI and about BTI's course offerings in the evenings and during school vacations for members of the community.

Tour Group 1:

Members Present: Rep. Smith Warner, Sen. Knopp, Rep. Smith, Sen. Taylor, Rep. Fahey, Rep. Hernandez

President Doug Dalton led the group on a tour of BTI. First, members and tour participants observed how students learn to operate heavy equipment using simulators. The tour group proceeded to the health services pathway, where a student spoke about graduating as a Certified Nursing Assistant. Next, the group toured the 3D printing operating room, where students learn how to manage projects, make samples and interacting with companies to plan and develop new products. The tour group then visited BTI's environment and natural resources program, where Mr. Dalton and a student spoke about students' efforts to cleaning up brownfield sites. Mr. Dalton noted that this program received the Obama Innovation Education award and explained that students develop skills relating to contracting and working with consulting firms. The last stop on the tour was the welding program, which provides students with industry certifications.

The tour group then walked to Baker Web Academy, 2725 7th St in Baker City. Dr. Daniel Huld, Superintendent of Baker Charter Schools, spoke about the school, along with Principal Roland Hobson and teacher Stephanie Rasmussen. A student named Henry described his education at Baker Web Academy, emphasizing the benefits to students of controlling the pace of their own work. Ms. Rasmussen described her work as a web academy teacher, describing her work advising 14 charter school students and 25 early college students. She spoke about the home visits teachers at the Web Academy perform every two weeks. Dr. Huld spoke about the history of the academy and its impact on students. He explained that the Web Academy opened in 2009, and that it will have 1,780 students in the 2019-2020 academic year. Mr. Huld emphasized the Web Academy's commitment to providing teachers with high-quality professional development and the role that professional development opportunities play in retaining effective teachers. Mr. Huld explained that each teacher at the Academy receives \$2000 every year for professional development opportunities, and teachers who mentor colleagues receive \$4000.

Tour Group 2:

Members Present: Sen. Roblan, Sen. DeBoer, Sen. Frederick, Sen. Thatcher, Rep. Clem Rep. Sprenger, Rep. Wilson

At Baker Web Academy, 2725 7th St in Baker City, Dr. Daniel Huld, Superintendent, Roland Hobson, Principal, and Stephanie Rasmussen, teacher, spoke to the committee about the school, how its classes are set up, and the relationships between students and teachers. They explained the Web Academy's drop-in centers, the school's demographics and its graduation rates. They also described the importance of a charter school's relationship with its district, the school's reliance on stakeholder feedback, the school's improvement plans, the need for open lines of communication, spending on professional development, and the importance of including staff voice in the management of a successful school. They stated that each teacher advises around 20 students, with whom they visit biweekly, and that each teacher grades the online assignments of around 150 students.

Dr. Huld, Mr. Hobson, and Ms. Rasmussen responded to questions from the committee.

The tour group then walked back to Baker Technical Institute, where BTI President Doug Dalton led the group on a tour of the school. The group began by viewing a trailer containing heavy equipment simulators that allows BTI to take its training program to locations around the region. The group then proceeded to the health services pathway classroom, where Mr. Dalton explained the health services pathway and how students proceed through it into careers. Next, Mr. Dalton led the group through the engineering and robotics departments, where students explained how they designed and built their own drones and used computer-aided drafting and 3-D printers for other projects. The group then proceeded to the environment and natural resources department, where students presented their work rehabilitating brownfields in their local community. Next, the group toured the aquaponics lab, the construction department, and the welding classroom. Mr. Dalton explained that it is not a high school welding class, but a professional school of welding located inside a high school environment. In his closing remarks, Mr. Dalton explained how the instructors at BTI are paid, and his challenges in finding and retaining qualified staff.

Roundtable with Local Education Stakeholders, 4:00 PM**Baker High School Commons****2500 E St, Baker City**

Members Present: Sen. Roblan, Rep. Smith Warner, Sen. Knopp, Rep. Smith, Sen. DeBoer, Sen. Frederick, Sen. Taylor, Sen. Thatcher, Rep. Fahey, Rep. Hernandez, Rep. Sprenger, Rep. Wilson

Members Excused: Sen. Hass, Rep. Clem

Non-Members Present: Rep. Findley

Senator Roblan welcomed the attendees. Stakeholders and committee members introduced themselves and spoke about the issues important to them, including workforce-related issues, funding, facilities, and more. The committee posed questions to the stakeholders for discussion on topics of local control, budgets, where new revenue should come from, and early childhood education.

Joint Interim Committee on Student Success

Meeting Summary – Hermiston Field Trips

April 25, 2018

Student Listening Session, 9:30 AM
Hermiston School District Administrative Offices

Members Present: Sen. Roblan, Rep. Smith Warner, Sen. Knopp, Rep. Smith, Sen. DeBoer, Sen. Frederick, Sen. Taylor, Sen. Thatcher, Rep. Clem, Rep. Fahey, Rep. Hernandez, Rep. Sprenger, Rep. Wilson

Members Excused: Sen. Hass

Legislators met with students. Small groups of students and legislators sat at tables to discuss students' experiences in the education system. Legislators rotated to different groups of students at 10:05 AM and again at 10:30 AM.

Tour Group 1:

Members Present: Rep. Smith Warner, Sen. Knopp, Sen. Taylor, Rep. Fahey, Rep. Smith, Rep. Hernandez

The group visited the Umatilla Head Start program at Irrigon Elementary School in Boardman. Superintendent Dirk Dirksen, Head Start/Early Head Start Director Julie Sander, Education Manager Candy Green, and Early Learning Hub Coordinator Erin Bartsch greeted the tour group. The presenters spoke about how the program's scores for the early learning assessment are the highest in the State of Oregon, that the early elementary and special education programs have children from seven counties, and that the preschool program runs for a half day on a weekly schedule of four days per week. The presenters emphasized that each student in the county can attend the Head Start program, whether or not they have financial means, provided they have transportation to the program. They described Blue Mountain Community College's partnership with Umatilla Head Start to provide two-year programs for teachers earning their Associate of Arts degree in Early Childhood Education, a program that qualifies new teachers for Head Start classrooms.

The tour group proceeded to Morrow School District in Irrigon. The group listened to a presentation on wraparound services by Dirk Dirksen, Superintendent; Erin Stocker, Executive Director of Human Resources; Sheree Smith, Morrow County Public Health Director; Mark Mulvihill, InterMountain Education Service District Superintendent; and Camille Preus, President of Blue Mountain Community College. The presenters described the challenges in coordinating work among multiple districts. The presenters responded to questions from the committee Career Technical Education (CTE) in certain districts.

Tour Group 2:

Members Present: Sen. Roblan, Sen. DeBoer, Sen. Frederick, Sen. Thatcher, Rep. Sprenger, Rep. Wilson

The group toured Washington Elementary in the Pendleton School District, a participant in the Tribal Attendance Pilot Project grant program. The tour was led by Principal Amy VanNice; District Director of Curriculum, Instruction, and Assessment Matt Yoshioka; Tribal Family Liaison Stacy Jacobs; and other tribal officials. The tour focused on the use of TAPP funds to make the school a more welcoming place for Native families and on cooperation between the tribal government and the school district.

Roundtable with Local Education Stakeholders, 4:00 PM

Hermiston High School Commons

600 1st St, Hermiston

Members Present: Sen. Roblan, Rep. Smith Warner, Sen. Knopp, Rep. Smith, Sen. DeBoer, Sen. Frederick, Sen. Taylor, Sen. Thatcher, Rep. Clem, Rep. Fahey, Rep. Sprenger, Rep. Wilson

Members Excused: Sen. Hass, Rep. Hernandez

Non-Members Present: Sen. Hansell

Representative Smith Warner welcomed the attendees. Stakeholders and committee members introduced themselves. Stakeholders spoke about the issues important to them, including revenue, funding, workforce-related issues, career and technical education, course offerings, and the impact of measure 5, among others. The committee posed questions to the stakeholders, including local control and accountability, where new funding should come from, how new funds would be spent, regionalization, cost drivers, barriers to graduation, and legislators' efforts during the 2018 session.

Roundtable with Local Business Leaders, 6:00 PM

Hermiston High School Mezzanine

600 1st St, Hermiston

Members Present: Sen. Roblan, Rep. Smith Warner, Sen. Knopp, Rep. Smith, Sen. DeBoer, Sen. Frederick, Sen. Taylor, Sen. Thatcher, Rep. Clem, Rep. Fahey, Rep. Hernandez, Rep. Sprenger, Rep. Wilson

Members Excused: Sen. Hass

Non-Members Present: Sen. Hansell

Legislators met with business leaders, including members representing the Hermiston Chamber of Commerce, Walmart, Murray Drugs, Port of Morrow, Bank of Eastern Oregon, Lamb Western and other small businesses. Business leaders spoke about local issues affecting businesses and education, including:

- difficulty filling manufacturing jobs paying from \$26 to \$32 per hour;
- student concerns regarding higher education debt;
- students' preference to work at high-paying jobs; and
- challenges facing Oregon students such as lack of self-confidence and skills.

Joint Interim Committee on Student Success

Meeting Summary – Hermiston and Arlington Field Trips

April 26, 2018

Tour of Student Homebuilding Site, 8:00 AM **898 SW Angus Ct, Hermiston**

Members Present: Sen. Roblan, Rep. Smith Warner, Sen. Knopp, Rep. Smith, Sen. DeBoer, Sen. Frederick, Sen. Taylor, Sen. Thatcher, Rep. Hernandez, Rep. Sprenger

Members Excused: Sen. Hass

Members toured a home built by students in the Columbia Basin Homebuilders Program. The group was greeted by Tricia Mooney, Interim Superintendent for Hermiston School District; Curt Berger, Program Director; and two students who participated in the construction. The presenters spoke about students' experience building the home without assistance except for instructional support and the school district's role in buying the land. Presenters spoke about students' application of math and science concepts to construction projects, and how students built a HVAC system. The presenters explained that the home will be posted on the real estate market for \$399,000, which will fund the program for the next school year.

Student Listening Session, 9:30 AM **Arlington High School**

Members Present: Sen. Roblan, Rep. Smith Warner, Sen. Knopp, Rep. Smith, Sen. DeBoer, Sen. Frederick, Sen. Taylor, Sen. Thatcher, Rep. Fahey, Rep. Hernandez, Rep. Wilson

Members Excused: Sen. Hass, Rep. Clem, Rep. Sprenger

The committee met with all 33 students at Arlington High School. Small groups of students and legislators sat at tables to discuss students' experiences in the education system. Legislators rotated to different groups of students at 10:05 AM and again at 10:30 AM.

Tour of Arlington High School:

Members Present: Sen. Roblan, Rep. Smith Warner, Sen. Knopp, Rep. Smith, Sen. DeBoer, Sen. Frederick, Sen. Taylor, Sen. Thatcher, Rep. Fahey, Rep. Hernandez, Rep. Wilson

Members Excused: Sen. Hass, Rep. Clem, Rep. Sprenger

Superintendent Hunking led the committee on a tour of the school, including the hallway, several classrooms, and the school's new CTE building. Superintendent Hunking spoke about the challenges of maintaining the school building, and about the CTE program in which students make vinyl signs, make dune buggies, work on other types of projects, and create their own businesses.