Director's Report

November 10, 2026

Reporting period: October 13 through November 9, 2026

Administration, Finance and Governance

- **State Library FY2025-26 Statistics Report submitted.** Highlights and trends from the report will be presented at the November board meeting.

Collections and Technical Services

- **TeachingBooks evaluation.** Trial access to this database supporting literature education and engagement is available through December 3. Access information was shared with Baker School District contacts to solicit feedback from educators and administrators.
- **Gale databases renewed.** Renewals were completed for Miss Humblebee's Academy, Gale LegalForms: Oregon, and ChiltonLibrary.

Facilities, Vehicles and Energy

- **Tile grout maintenance.** Facilities staff and I are coordinating cleaning and resealing of tile grout in the Baker branch entryways and restrooms. The tentative schedule targets the Martin Luther King Jr. holiday weekend, with preparation beginning after 4 p.m. on January 16, closure on January 17, and January 18 reserved for additional ventilation and returning furniture to place.
- **Bike repair station and public phone temporarily out of service.** Prominent, double-sided signage is in place while replacement bicycle pump components are in transit. Parts totaled $217.72, including shipping. The public phone is obsolete and requires replacement; staff are evaluating replacement options.

Personnel and Training

- **Branch substitute position advertised.** An on-call position supporting the Halfway and Richland branches when branch leads are unavailable has been posted on the district website and advertised in the Hells Canyon Journal.
- **EveryLibrary training through Libraries of Eastern Oregon.** On October 15–16, Technical Services Department Manager John Brockman and I attended a seminar in Maupin led by John Chrastka of EveryLibrary. Libraries of Eastern Oregon sponsored the training, which drew approximately 25 colleagues.

  The central message was to connect library services to residents' shared values: equitable opportunity, community strength and tradition, and individual freedom. Libraries can communicate effectively across political perspectives while maintaining a consistent mission and nonpartisan identity.

Sessions emphasized demonstrating community outcomes through credible data and personal stories, engaging nonusers as stakeholders, and explaining what adequate funding makes possible and what underfunding puts at risk. Recommendations included engaging community leaders early, building broad coalitions, addressing questions transparently, and preparing staff and trustees to communicate consistently. These approaches can strengthen public trust and translate goodwill into sustained support.

Programs, Services and Outreach

- **Early literacy partnership.** Youth Services Specialist Missy Grammon will explore a partnership with the Eastern Oregon University Reading Clinic involving early literacy kits, family engagement events, and potential use of library space for free tutoring.
- **Presenter Mini Grant.** Youth Services staff and I are developing a proposal for a State Library of Oregon grant opportunity opening November 16. The program offers up to $2,000 to bring special presenters to rural libraries for youth and family learning and cultural engagement.

Technology and Cybersecurity

- **Microsoft licensing review.** The Technology Manager is transitioning the district's email licensing to nonprofit purchasing through TechSoup. The review identified substantial savings and improved device management capabilities.
- **Branch cybersecurity incident contained.** Newly installed cybersecurity tools detected and neutralized a malware threat on a branch staff workstation. Staff will review system logs to verify that the threat has been fully resolved.