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Witty invited to speak at Portland meeting

Baker School Superintendent Mark Witty will share our unique story about rural schools and the Student Success Act during the September 6 meeting of the City Club of Portland.

Witty will be part of a panel of speakers. He will join Miriam Calderon, Oregon's Early Learning System director, and Parasa Chanramy, policy and implementation director for Stand for Children. About 200 people attend the City Club's Friday Forum.

The City Club of Portland is a civic organization that holds forums on public issues related to Portland, the metro region, and the state, said Danielle Pacifico-Cogan, who serves on the City Club board of governors and works at the Children's Institute. She said the club's signature event is called Friday Forum which "features a discussion about the most timely and significant public matters."

The September 6 topic is the Student Success Act, which creates a new business tax to generate about $1 billion a year for education from early learning to grade 12.

"Mark was asked to sit on the panel because of his deep history as a K-12 leader in rural Oregon and his interest in expanding essential early education programming in Baker City," Pacifico-Cogan said. "He also has the unique set of experiences that allow him to speak eloquently about the potential challenges and opportunities presented by the SSA, the CTE work that has grown with Measure 98, and can highlight the continued unmet need for educational resources in Baker City and the surrounding areas."

Witty said he will bring a rural perspective to the panel, and talk about how the SSA will impact Baker schools and other rural areas. He will also share our story of collaboration in developing an early learning initiative focused on reaching children before age 5.

The Friday Forum will be broadcast online at https://www.youtube.com/user/pdxcityclub and on the website https://www.pdxcityclub.org/live/.
About Baker School District 5J

Nationally recognized Baker School District 5J (BSD) is a major employer in Baker City, OR, serving 1,700 students locally with an additional 2500 online students across the state of Oregon. Through enterprising, collaborative endeavors, BSD is creating an engaging educational foundation for future Oregonians. BSD believes strong school collaboration with local partners enables us to create vibrant communities that support lifelong learners.