

## Board Members Tour of Building Projects

While summer may seem quiet without students on campus, it is the perfect opportunity to complete capital improvement projects. On Wednesday, August 20, 2025, the Grant School District 3 school board members toured the Grant Union Jr/Sr High School and Humbolt Elementary School buildings with Superintendent Mark Witty and Project Manager Aaron Lieuallen to see the many building projects recently completed.

One of the biggest changes at Grant Union Jr/Sr High School is the addition of a new HVAC system, allowing effective heating and air conditioning for each of the classrooms. The process took “a lot of communication and people working together,” according to Lieuallen, who worked closely with the CB Construction crew, Tye Parsons of S&C Electric, and several engineers. The

project included the removal of the old boiler from Grant Union and the addition of mini-split units in each classroom. Billy Moon with American Lawn Service LLC built beautiful fencing to disguise units at the front of the building, adding curb appeal to complete the project. This HVAC upgrade complements the ongoing project of systematically replacing windows with more energy-efficient windows.

At Humbolt Elementary School, an HVAC system was installed by CB Construction, the greenhouse was completed by Hitz Contracting and Hueckman Contracting, and new landscaping was completed with the help of Brad Armstrong of Fields Tree Service and Harney Lawn and Irrigation. Its a great day to be a Prospector!



Board Members tour (left to right) Grant Union Jr/Sr High School, Humbolt Elementary and the new Greenhouse.

## Seneca Students Extend History Through Art and Language

By Stacy Durych, Head Teacher at Seneca Elementary

Seneca Elementary is proud to announce an exciting new project that will bring our school’s historical timeline into the present day. Thanks to a \$3,000 grant from the Juniper Arts Council, along with \$1,500 from the Seneca PTA for artist-in-residence support, students now have \$4,500 to extend the painted canvas timeline that lines the school hallway.

The existing timeline depicts events from the 1800s through the year 2000. With the new funding, students will research and paint canvases that carry the timeline forward from 2000 to 2025, wrapping around to the opposite hallway. Research is already underway: students are using Chromebooks with guided research packets, visiting local libraries, touring the Blue Mountain Eagle newspaper, and preparing to interview long-time residents about events that shaped Seneca over the last 25 years.

Seneca Elementary has also applied for a second grant to add a cultural layer to the project by incorporating Paiute language. Each historical canvas would be paired with an appropriate Paiute word—such as one for “fire,” “snowfall,” or “celebration.” Placards will include QR codes linking to recordings of Paiute elders and students speaking the words aloud, creating a living language connection between past and present.

To strengthen this work, Mrs. Durych will attend the Carrying Our Ancestral Languages Forward summit in Arizona, hosted by AILDI and the WR-Native American Language Resource Center. In preparation, students are

learning four new Paiute words each week and reviewing them daily in class.

The project will culminate in a community event at the end of the school year. Families, residents, and Paiute community members will be invited to walk through the completed timeline, view the artwork, hear the language recordings, and enjoy student-led presentations with refreshments. For Seneca’s six sixth-graders, this will be a meaningful capstone project in their final year—a legacy they leave behind for future students.

Seneca Elementary is proud to celebrate creativity, culture, and community pride through this unique endeavor.



Seneca Elementary students will be adding art and language to extend the existing historical timeline.