

ROSEBURG PUBLIC SCHOOLS  
Roseburg, Oregon

Vol 6, No 12a

Budget Hearing and Regular Board Meeting

June 18, 2014

**BOARD MEMBERS:**

Rodney Cotton	<u>X</u>
Daniel Endicott	<u>X</u>
Joseph Garcia	<u>X</u>
Charles Lee	<u>X</u>
Paul Meyer	<u>X</u>
Steve Patterson	<u>X</u>
Stacy Stiefel	<u>X</u>

**ADMINISTRATION:**

Dr. Larry C. Parsons, Superintendent	<u>X</u>
David Hanson, Assistant Superintendent / HR	Excused
Cheryl Northam, Chief Operations Officer	<u>X</u>
Matt Brausam, Director of Student Services	<u>X</u>
Dawne Huckaby, Director of Teaching & Learning	Excused

**BUDGET HEARING**

**CALL TO ORDER:** Chair Patterson called the Budget Hearing to order at 7:00 p.m. and invited Director Garcia to lead in the pledge to the flag.

**ATTENDANCE:** School Board members in attendance included Rodney Cotton, Daniel Endicott, Joseph Garcia, Charles Lee, Paul Meyer, Steve Patterson and Stacy Stiefel. Administrators in attendance included Larry Parsons, Cheryl Northam and Matthew Brausam. David Hanson and Dawne Huckaby were excused.

Kyle Bailey of Brook Communications was in attendance as well as Eric Geyer, Budget Committee Member.

**BUDGET HEARING:** Chief Operations Officer Cheryl Northam shared that the Budget Committee met on April 16<sup>th</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup> and passed a Resolution approving a total budget for 2014-15 of \$71,272,158 and a debt service levy of \$2,155,830. Ms. Northam explained that while there are minor changes being made to account numbers such as safety projects, there is no change to the dollar amounts.

Directors discussed anticipated major maintenance expenses that were not known during the budget process, and Cheryl advised that reallocating funds would impact remaining budgeted areas, and the majority of the hiring process has already been completed for next year. Director Stiefel noted that the Eastwood modular, Synergy support and gym remodel issues have all emerged after the budget committee concluded their task. Cheryl responded that one of the reasons for having a contingency fund is to be able to deal with unforeseen expenditures. Chair Patterson stated that we may consider reallocating funds at some point, but he is fine with the budget as presented.

Director Cotton inquired if funds originally intended for the RHS part-time band position would revert to the General Fund, and Cheryl confirmed that it becomes an unexpended expenditure line. Chair Patterson added that the subsequent recommendation from the band program was to fund a clerical position that assists all of the arts programs.

Director Garcia expressed concern at the elimination of the technical position due to Synergy support costs, and Director Endicott noted that partnering with CTA for Synergy support will assist the Technology Department. Director Garcia pointed out that our district employs fewer technology staff members than other districts of similar size, and he believes we could benefit from the addition of more positions. Cheryl explained that we lost a technical position during the last five years of budgetary cuts and adding that position back is a district priority, but the greater need to fund Synergy support arose. If the Board would like to reallocate funds for additional technical support, that request needs to come from the Board. Douglas ESD was unable to provide adequate service and then abruptly decided not to provide any support and we are contractually required by EduPoint to have Synergy support.

Cheryl also reminded the board that we will be receiving approximately \$65,000 from HeadStart that had not been negotiated at the time of the budget meetings. Director Cotton expressed that this is

discussion more appropriate for the budget meetings. Director Cotton added that he supports putting as many resources as possible toward the band program as it is our fastest growing program. Dr. Parsons noted that it is the nature of school districts that these types of issues come up with little notice. Cheryl shared that the state encourages districts to adopt budgets as late in the month of June as possible to allow for the inevitable changes that routinely come up. Director Stiefel restated his belief that more money should be allocated to major maintenance for the gymnasium roof.

**PUBLIC PARTICIPATION:** Judy Kulluson, 480 SE Leland Street, Roseburg, suggested filling the technology position since Douglas ESD will be paying a portion of Synergy support costs, and Ms. Northam responded that funding the position would require approximately \$45,000.

**ADJOURNMENT:** Chair Patterson adjourned the Budget Hearing at 7:24 p.m.

## **REGULAR MEETING**

### **MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS:**

**TIME, PLACE:** A regular meeting of the Douglas County School District No 4 Board of Directors was held on Wednesday, June 18, 2014, immediately following the Budget Hearing, at 7:25 p.m. in the Administration Office Board Room located at 1419 NW Valley View Drive.

**ATTENDANCE:** School Board members in attendance included Rodney Cotton, Daniel Endicott, Joseph Garcia, Charles Lee, Paul Meyer, Steve Patterson and Stacy Stiefel. Administrators in attendance included Larry Parsons, Cheryl Northam and Matthew Brausam. David Hanson is excused and Dawne Huckaby is attending the COSA Conference, completing her year as President, but attended telephonically later in the meeting.

Kyle Bailey of Brook Communications was in attendance, and Budget Committee member Eric Geyer excused himself at the conclusion of the Budget Hearing.

**CALL TO ORDER:** Chair Patterson called the meeting to order at 7:25 p.m. and noted that Director Garcia previously led the pledge to the flag.

**REVIEW OF AGENDA:** Superintendent Parsons noted that revisions this evening consist of a listing of Gifts to the District and the proposed purchase of a modular for Eastwood Elementary School.

**COMMUNICATIONS TO THE BOARD:** Dr. Parsons announced that we have received letters of resignation from Derek Bailey, RHS Math Teacher for two years, who has accepted a position closer to home; April Bauguess, RHS Language Teacher for six years, who has accepted a position with Connections Academy; Heather Callahan, Winchester Teacher for one year, who is returning to her home town of Salem, Oregon; Janette Grassman, RHS Language Arts Teacher for six years, who is moving with her family to St. Helens; and Terra McCracken, Eastwood Teacher for seven years, who has accepted a position with Sutherlin School District.

**CONSENT AGENDA:** The Consent Agenda consisted of Minutes from the May 28, 2014, Board Meeting and Personnel Transactions and Gifts to the District. Recommendations for employment included Jessie Cooper, Language Arts Teacher at RHS; Kyle Dever, Drafting/Engineering/Technology CTA at RHS; Renee Giraud, Sunnyslope Elementary; Erin Heath, Winchester Elementary; Angie Horton, Winchester Elementary; Colleen Jones, Language Arts Teacher at RHS; Emily Lazur, Sunnyslope Elementary; Jeffrey Lee, Special Education Teacher at Fremont Middle School; Stacci McIntyre, Language Arts Teacher at RHS; Jeffrey Soffer, Elementary Music Teacher; and Heather Sullivan, School Counselor at RHS.

It was moved by Director Garcia and seconded by Director Endicott to approve the Consent Agenda as presented. Motion passed unanimously.

M6-148 - Approve Consent Agenda

**PUBLIC PARTICIPATION:** None at this time.

**RESOLUTION 13-14-14 ADOPTING THE BUDGET, MAKING APPROPRIATIONS AND LEVYING AD VALOREM TAXES:** Chief Operations Officer Cheryl Northam reminded the Board that we are required to adopt our budget by June 30<sup>th</sup>, and the Budget Committee approved the proposed budget amount of \$71,272,158 with a debt service levy of \$2,155,830 on April 24, 2014.

It was moved by Director Endicott and seconded by Director Meyer to approve the proposed Budget. Director Garcia stated that he intended to abstain from voting since he was not able to attend the Budget Committee Meetings, adding that if he was voting, it would be against as he believes we need more allocated for major maintenance. Director Endicott stated that he was pleased to see the add-back of additional counselors at the middle schools due to the number of student expulsions this year.

Motion to adopt the 2014-15 Budget passed with Chair Patterson voting yes along with Directors Cotton, Endicott, Lee and Meyer, with Director Garcia abstaining and Director Stiefel voting no. Motion passed with 5 in favor, one abstaining and one vote no.

M6-149 - Adopt the 2014-15 Budget

**ELLIOTT FOREST LITIGATION - GUEST, SAMUEL LEE III:** Dr. Parsons introduced Mr. Sam Lee III, local financial advisor and OSBA Board Member. Mr. Lee shared that he is asking that the board support a resolution on behalf of Winston-Dillard School District. He provided background that when Oregon became a state, land was set aside to benefit the Common School Fund. Over the span of decades, harvesting the Elliott State Forest has provided CSF proceeds upwards of \$40 million. Environmental protests are now costing the CSF \$3.5 million annually. The State Land Board determined that if they couldn't manage the land, they would sell a portion and went through a bid process. An environmental lawsuit blocked the sale that ultimately went through when the lawsuit failed. However, two more tracks will be up for bid and more lawsuits are coming. The lawsuits mention nothing about the loss of funding to the Common School Fund.

Attorney Ronald Yockim prepared an Amicus Brief filed by the Winston-Dillard School District related to the litigation surrounding the Elliott State Forest. Sam Lee shared that if enough Oregon school districts support the Amicus Brief, the more likely OSBA is to address it through the Legal Action Fund. Currently, districts are being asked to remind the courts that this is about funding for kids by supporting the Amicus Brief, and this does not tie any districts into litigation. Director Stiefel noted that this may be the second best option since the state won't manage and harvest the land. Oregon's governor has not been inclined to fight the lawsuits, and the loss of annual revenue to the CSF is approximately \$3.5 million. Director Meyer shared his belief that this is a philosophical issue.

The Board members agreed to consider a Resolution in support of the Amicus Brief filed by the Winston-Dillard School District related to litigation surrounding the Elliott State Forest at the July 16<sup>th</sup> Board Meeting.

**CONTINUOUS IMPROVEMENT PLAN (CIP) UPDATE:**

Teaching and Learning Director Dawne Huckaby joined the meeting via telephone, requesting feedback whether the Board concurs with the draft document. Director Meyer stated that the draft document represents the ongoing conversations that took place in the Curriculum and Instruction Committee meetings. Dawne affirmed that these are the same indicators with detail around the recommended actions. With board consensus, Dawne will add more detail and sub-tasks prior to submission to ODE.

Director Lee shared that he would prefer a document stating where we are now and things we wish to change, rather than a list of aspirations. Dawne responded that ODE asked us to assess where we are currently. Director Garcia shared that nothing prohibits us from having further dialogue when we begin doing the Road Map work. Director Cotton responded that if we had done the Road Map work, we might have had answers to those questions.

The board requested that Dawne continue to move forward with her recommendations as presented.

**MIDDLE SCHOOL MATHEMATICS ADOPTION RECOMMENDATION:**

Curriculum and Instruction Director Dawne Huckaby joined the meeting by conference call, noting that the middle school mathematics adoption recommendation was shared at the May 21<sup>st</sup> Curriculum and Instruction Committee and reported on at the May 28<sup>th</sup> Board Meeting. She explained that a team of teachers from all grade levels as well as special education researched available resources. We are recommending an updated version of our existing curriculum adoption. Dawne confirmed for Director Lee that we do plan to utilize the materials available through the State of Georgia for elementary students.

It was moved by Director Lee and seconded by Director Garcia to approve the proposed middle school mathematics adoption recommendation of Connected Mathematics Project 3 (CMP3-2014 copyright) as presented Motion passed unanimously.

M6-150 - Approve adoption of Connected Mathematics Project 3 (CMP3-2014 copyright) for middle school mathematics

**PURCHASE AUTHORIZATION - MIDDLE SCHOOL MATHEMATICS MATERIALS:**

Chief Operation Officer Cheryl Northam explained that following the approval to adopt the middle school curriculum outlined above, we are requesting authorization to purchase Connected Mathematics Project, 3<sup>rd</sup> edition materials from Northwest Textbook in an amount not to exceed \$130,000 from the 2014-15 Instructional Support Fund (291). Teaching and Learning staff are negotiating a final price through Northwest Textbook, and the exact amount will not be known until the order is placed and discounts applied.

It was moved by Director Endicott and seconded by Director Lee to approve the purchase of Connected Mathematics Project, 3<sup>rd</sup> Edition materials from Northwest Textbook in an amount not to exceed \$130,000 from the 2014-15 Instructional Support Fund. Motion passed unanimously.

M6-151 - Approve the purchase of Connected Mathematics Project, 3<sup>rd</sup> edition materials from Northwest Textbook

**CALENDAR OF SCHOOL BOARD MEETINGS FOR 2014-15:** Superintendent Parsons shared that the proposed calendar is very similar to the 2013-14 calendar, adding that it is the board's privilege to meet on any occasion provided that public announcements are made when it deems such meeting to be necessary and appropriate.

It was moved by Director Endicott and seconded by Director Stiefel to adopt the 2014-15 Calendar of School Board Meetings. Motion passed unanimously.

M6-152 - Adopt calendar of School Board Meetings for 2014-15

**EASTWOOD ELEMENTARY SCHOOL MODULAR:** Chief Operations Officer Cheryl Northam noted that Purchasing Supervisor Denny Austin was in attendance to respond to questions regarding finances and timelines. If the board wishes to move forward with this recommended purchase, Cheryl explained that we would need to proceed fairly quickly in order to meet the target placement date of August 29<sup>th</sup>. Director Garcia noted that after evaluating existing modulares on the Green Elementary campus, it was recommended that they not be moved. Physical Plan Manager Tracy Grauer and Eastwood Principal Nicki Opp reviewed all potential placement sites at the school and are in agreement that the unit should be placed in the courtyard area. Director Lee stated his preference that the unit be placed elsewhere as he enjoys the open space between the buildings. Principal Opp recommends using the two new classrooms for kindergarten. The board will need to consider what to do about a music classroom in the future as well as monitor individual class sizes. Director Cotton stated that he was not interested in boundary adjustments. Board members agreed that no bathrooms should be installed in the facility as there are restrooms located nearby.

It was moved by Director Endicott and seconded by Director Garcia to move forward with the purchase of the modular. Director Cotton voted no because he believes that music on a cart isn't the best option and he would prefer to wait another year to gauge attendance numbers. Motion passed with 6 votes in favor and one against.

M6-153 - Approve purchase of modular building for placement at Eastwood Elementary School.

**SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT:**

Superintendent Parsons shared that the Douglas ESD has committed to contributing approximately \$46,000 toward Synergy support expenses next school year following their decision to discontinue providing Synergy support to local districts. He also shared an article regarding school shootings, noting that while the President quoted that there have been 74 incidents, CNN reported the number was closer to 15, while another group theorizes the number is somewhere in between due to the discrepancies in the definition used.

Dr. Parsons also reported that the Collaboration Time Committee members who helped develop the program recently met again to review Early Release time. The committee shared that staff perception is more positive than it was the first year, and recommended staying the course as they believe the opportunity is making a difference for our staff. Administrators are hoping to include classified staff in more of these events in 2014-15.

There was a break-in at the Rose School facility and fire extinguishers were emptied in the building and windows broken. The News Review recently reported that the last of the original group of kindergarten teachers in our district has retired. Hucrest teacher Lyn Biethen spent her career teaching kindergarten students, and the experience she brought to the program will be missed.

A recent press release reports that the Smarter Balanced field test has reached completion. The 25,000 Oregon students who participated were surveyed and they shared their experience that the new test is harder, but more interesting. Districts have been cautioned to expect student test scores to initially be lower as they make the transition to Smarter Balanced.

The Communities for Healthy Forests have invited local superintendents and members of the public to attend a tour of the Douglas Complex Fire Tour this Thursday. The most recent Legislative Report was made available to the Board. Dr. Parsons noted that he will miss the July 16<sup>th</sup> Board Meeting, and Assistant Superintendent David Hanson will preside in his absence.

**ENROLLMENT REPORT:** The School Board reviewed the May 30, 2014, Enrollment Report.

**FINANCIAL REPORT:** The School Board reviewed the most recent financial report.

**INDIVIDUAL REPORTS BY DIRECTORS:** Director Cotton noted that the new Jo Lane Middle School sign is attractive. He did express concern with the low elevation of the sign in the case of vandalism.

Director Garcia appreciated the comments regarding expulsion reports from Director Endicott, noting that sporadic attendance and the lack of parental guidance are becoming issues at much earlier ages and we need to hold parents accountable. He further noted that a few staff members expressed their dislike of having to work on Monday, June 16<sup>th</sup>, even though it was a contractual make up day due to the weather related school closure in December. Director Garcia also stated for the record that he wanted to commend Hucrest Elementary administration and staff members who happened to be working last Saturday and had to intervene until law enforcement could arrive to deal with a very unpleasant parental custody issue at the site. He also reported attending a very impressive Green Elementary School Fifth Grade Celebration. There were drawings and one student was provided with a Kindle.

Director Garcia reported attending a recent Douglas ESD Budget Committee Meeting to hear discussion regarding Synergy and the Early Learning Hub. Director Garcia expressed his interest in learning more about what the ESD provides for our district.

**BOARD COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

**ADMINISTRATION AND PERSONNEL: May 27, 2014:** Committee Chair Patterson reported attending the May 27<sup>th</sup> meeting where topics included the 2014-15 Synergy Support options; Departmental restructuring of transportation and purchasing; Board tablets; Classified vacation use and accrual change, and a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) pertaining to the Childcare Provider positions at the high school.

**BUILDING AND SITES: June 16, 2014:** Committee Chair Garcia reported attending the June 16<sup>th</sup> meeting where the committee received an RHS gymnasium update and discussed possible modular needs at Eastwood Elementary School. Engineer Russ Carter will be monitoring the facility once a month and has made assurances the building is safe and there has been no movement of structural components. If the proposed seismic grant is funded, construction could begin next summer.

**PUBLIC PARTICIPATION:** None

**ADJOURNMENT:** With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:55 p.m.

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Larry C. Parsons, Clerk