

ROSEBURG PUBLIC SCHOOLS
Roseburg, Oregon

Vol 7, No 8

Board Work Session and Regular Board Meeting

November 12, 2014

BOARD MEMBERS:

- ✓ Rodney Cotton
- ✓ Daniel Endicott
- ✓ Joseph Garcia
- ✓ Charles Lee
- ✓ Paul Meyer
- ✓ Steve Patterson
- ✓ Stacy Stiefel

ADMINISTRATION:

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

- ✓ RHS Student Representative: Garrett Wedge

MINUTES OF THE BOARD WORK SESSION:

TIME, PLACE: A Work Session of the Douglas County School District No. 4 Board of Directors was held on Wednesday, November 12, 2014, at 5:00 p.m. in the Administration Office Board Room located at 1419 NW Valley View Drive.

CALL TO ORDER: Chair Cotton called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m.

ATTENDANCE: School Board members in attendance included Board Chair Rod Cotton, Daniel Endicott, Joe Garcia, Charles Lee, Paul Meyer, Steve Patterson and Stacy Stiefel. Administration members included Superintendent Parsons, Matt Brausam, David Hanson, Dawne Huckaby and Cheryl Northam. No media representatives were present.

REVIEW OF AGENDA: The only agenda item for this work session is the Phoenix Charter School Renewal Request. Superintendent Parsons explained that Teaching and Learning Director Dawne Huckaby had prepared a power point presentation and would be leading the discussion.

DISCUSSION: Dr. Parsons emphasized that the district has taken this contract renewal process very seriously and the board had previously been given a document dividing up the various contract areas for review. However, Dawne subsequently created a chart and power point to move the group through the evaluation process.

Dawne Huckaby noted that the board members have been provided with a current Phoenix Charter School contract. The various contract elements under review were emailed to the board prior to this meeting. The purpose of the review is to provide information about the renewal process and specific charter school data to enable board members to make a decision regarding the renewal request at the December 10, 2014 board meeting.

The board and staff reviewed the 14 page contract elements document section by section. Dawne explained that sections 1, 2, 3, 7 and 11 were not applicable to the renewal process.

Section 4 - Educational Program, Student Assessment and Curriculum

(Item J.i.) Dawne noted that the school has not maintained its admission focus as it has now changed to a CTE focused school. Director Garcia recalled a comment at the hearing that Phoenix would like referrals from Roseburg. Dawne explained that "referral" is actually old language pertaining to alternative ed practice. Charter schools are schools of choice. They call it placement but it's still student choice to attend Phoenix, Oregon Connections Academy, or any other school in the state. When students need alternative placement, our conversations with counselors and administration reflect frustration with lack of credits or levels of academic rigor. Elective classes don't move students toward a diploma.

Dr. Parsons commented that for multiple reasons, some kids need an alternative setting where they feel respected and honored. However, schools need to make sure the students are also meeting statutory requirements around academics. It's critical for the kids to feel good about attending, but you have to also help them academically. It can't be a situation of "either", "or".

The board members discussed section 4 and it was determined that although there were some accountability issues and essentially marketing issues, there was nothing in that section that would prompt them not to renew.

Section 5 - Evaluation of Student Performance and Procedures for Corrective Action

Dawne noted that this area is in need of academic shoring up. World languages may be an area where they accommodate students through their partnership with UCC. Student graduation rates dropped significantly in 2011-12 but showed an increase in 2012-13. Data appears to track with our district.

Over the course of the four years for which we have data under the current contract, the rate at which students are meeting state assessment requirements either declined or remained the same as the first year of the contract with the exception of reading, writing and science scores for 2013-14.

Four year graduation rates have declined over this time frame although new requirements for demonstrating proficiency for essential skills were implemented with the graduating class of 2012.

Chair Cotton shared that this section shows considerable opportunity for growth and should be addressed within the contract. Board members expressed interest in seeing comparative data from comparative schools.

Section 6 - Financial Matters, Funding, Annual Budgets, Annual Audit

Phoenix School has met the fiscal requirements in the contract. Due to declining enrollment, the school has reduced the number of staff as needed to remain fiscally stable.

Section 8 - Contract Elements

Phoenix uses the Roseburg Public Schools board policies in governing their school. They are compliant with state and federal laws.

(Items G.i-xxi) Phoenix data for any of these items are available through state reports or financial audit and are explicitly identified in other parts of the contract. For those items which are not readily available or otherwise identified, Phoenix provides information about them (student, parent, teacher surveys, etc.). These items have not been submitted by October 15 each year.

Director Garcia inquired how much of Phoenix Schools is funded through the SSF and the district. Roseburg School pays approximately \$1.3 million per year. Phoenix retains 95% of basic school support.

Section 9 - Highlights/Summary - Contract Elements

(Item A.i.) We received information about the staff and evaluations for submission to the state as required but have not received a list at the beginning of the year. These items have not been submitted by October 15 each year.

(Item C.i.) Prior to 2014-15, Phoenix Charter School has had one or more staff who have not met the requirements to be considered Highly Qualified for one or more courses being taught. We have had similar issues in our high school over these same years with hard to fill positions.

Section 10 - Contract Elements - Insurance/Legal Liabilities

In general, Phoenix has met the requirements of the contract in this section.

Ms. Northam clarified that Phoenix does not provide transportation to their students. They contract those services through Durham Transportation through our district at no cost to us. At this time we do not charge any administrative time to do this.

Section 12 - Contract Elements - Miscellaneous

Phoenix has met the requirements of the contract in this section.

The group discussed the remaining time lines. Chair Cotton noted that he would not be present at the December 10th board meeting as he expects to be out of town. Superintendent Parsons thanked Dawne Huckaby for the considerable work she has done surrounding this contract renewal request.

ADJOURNMENT: With no further business, the work session was adjourned at 6:45 p.m.

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR BOARD MEETING:

TIME, PLACE: A regular meeting of the Douglas County School District No. 4 Board of Directors was held on Wednesday, November 12, 2014, at 7:00 p.m. in the Administration Office Board Room located at 1419 NW Valley View Drive.

CALL TO ORDER: Chair Cotton called the regular meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. and asked Mr. Denny Austin to lead in the pledge to the flag.

ATTENDANCE: School Board members in attendance included Board Chair Rod Cotton, Daniel Endicott, Joe Garcia, Charles Lee, Paul Meyer, Steve Patterson and Stacy Stiefel. Administration members included Superintendent Parsons, Matt Brausam, David Hanson, Dawne Huckaby and Cheryl Northam. Reporter Kyle Bailey was present.

REVIEW OF AGENDA: Superintendent Parsons noted that the report for the Building and Sites Committee Meeting of November 10th has been added to the agenda.

STUDENT RECOGNITION: Board Chair Cotton announced that we have three students present this evening to be honored and recognized by the school board. Each student received a letter from their school honoring them for numerous accomplishments along with a gift certificate from McDonald's.

Director Endicott introduced Fifth Grade Fir Grove Elementary student Bryson Rammage. Bryson is being honored for being respectful and a friend to his peers, and producing quality school work. Bryson enjoys science and math but his teachers believe he is skilled at reading as well. Favorite activities include reading fantasy books and participating in basketball and soccer. His future goals include pursuing an engineering degree.

Director Patterson introduced RHS Senior Corinne Walters who is being recognized for taking the most rigorous courses available while maintaining a 4.0 cumulative GPA. Corinne is currently enrolled in three AP courses, English, Calculus and Government along with three upper level band classes. She is a member of the RHS Marching Ensemble serving as a trumpet section leader. Corinne was recently selected as a member of the Oregon All State Honor Band. In addition, Corinne is active in Jazz Ensemble and Wind Ensemble, Varsity Soccer, Track and Field, National Honor Society, the Interact Club, Girls Scouts and her church. Her teachers commend her upbeat attitude and demeanor, determination to do her best and being a wonderful role model for others. Corinne aspires to study civil engineering at Oregon State University and her teachers are confident that she will become a tremendous success.

Director Lee introduced Fifth Grade Melrose Elementary student Preston Smith whose teachers feel he is most deserving of his Student of the Month award. Preston's peers look up to him as a role model and leader. His teachers share that he is kind, thoughtful, articulate, polite, precise, athletic, artistic and inventive. Preston loves to read and soccer is his favorite sport. With a demonstrated drive to succeed, Preston is sure to have a remarkable academic journey and he hopes to pursue a career in Geology.

SPECIAL STAFF RECOGNITION:

Director Garcia stated that he was honored to introduce Fremont Middle School Teacher James Walker and present him with a Crystal Apple Award. Mr. Walker was acknowledged for his passion in building a level of trust to help his students find success, especially those who are disabled or disadvantaged. Fellow staff members share that Jim has been a well-respected mentor and friend to his colleagues during his 13 years at Fremont where he anchors the sixth grade team.

COMMUNICATIONS TO THE BOARD: Superintendent Parsons regretfully reported that RHS Principal Karen Goirigolzarri has announced her intention to retire at the conclusion of the 2014-15 school year and shared her letter of resignation. Board members each congratulated Karen, who was in the audience this evening, for her hard work over the years, and especially her courage over the past year. Her experience, guidance and expertise will be greatly missed by administrators, school board members and the students and staff of Roseburg High School.

CONSENT AGENDA: The Consent Agenda consisted of minutes from the October 8, 2014, Board Work Session and Regular Board Meeting.

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

M7-48- Approve Consent Agenda

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION: None at this time.

ANNOUNCEMENT OF SODEXO FOUNDATION BACKPACK FOOD PROGRAM

GRANT: Sodexo Nutrition Services Director Kyle Micken was joined by Homeless/Indian Education Liaison Juliana Marez and UCAN Executive Director Mike Fieldman in announcing the award of a \$1,000 Backpack Grant for the district to benefit our students in need of nutritional assistance. This grant is the result of a nation-wide program applied for by hundreds of school districts. Only 44 districts were selected and of those, three in Oregon. Roseburg has been very fortunate to receive this grant over the past few years. Ms. Marez is instrumental in creating a team of volunteer students, community and church members that provide assistance in assembling the food items to be delivered by our courier to school staff members that get the items into the hands of our kids who need it the most. Her efforts are augmented by several local pastors who lead the effort in their churches.

In addition, Mr. Micken shared that nine of our schools recently participated in the Stop Hunger Campaign and donated 4,120 pounds of canned food items to UCAN as well as \$60 in cash donations from administrators and staff. Kyle announced that he is planning another food drive for all eleven of our schools in April, 2015.

Chair Cotton accepted the generous Sodexo grant on behalf of the district.

RHS GYM ROOF REPLACEMENT PLAN: Chief Operations Officer Cheryl Northam requested that Facilities Manager Tracy Grauf bring the Board up to date on the status of the RHS Gymnasium roof.

Mr. Grauf explained that we are currently taking monthly readings of roof measurements to assure that no major downward movement occurs. There has been nothing of concern to report so far. He shared that one upward support will be fitted with a replacement clamp for added precaution and Tracy is waiting for the engineer to provide drawings before proceeding. The district is moving forward with planning for the roof replacement. Grant applicants will receive notice of whether their seismic grant applications were successful in late December, 2014 or early January, 2015.

Ms. Northam noted that it will take approximately \$2.2 million to replace the roof, existing gym floor and complete seismic upgrades. Successful grant recipients will receive a maximum of \$1.5 million. The district will need to determine a way to fund the remaining \$7-800,000 needed to complete the project. The project has been a topic at Building and Sites Committee Meetings. It is more cost effective to replace the existing roof rather than having to replace one bow string truss at a time.

Mr. Grauf also shared that he joined the engineer, Russ Carter, and Dr. Parsons in a brief meeting with the interim director of the local building department to keep him informed of our plans. The interim director's office would become involved in the event of snow accumulation on the roof.

Ms. Northam expressed that the engineer and our staff have high hopes that our seismic rehabilitation grant will be successful. The recommendation from administration would be to replace the roof regardless of results of the seismic grant application.

Director Stiefel made a motion to proceed with replacement of the RHS gymnasium roof in the summer of 2015. Director Garcia seconded the motion.

Discussion: Director Patterson shared that the Building and Sites Committee members have also discussed other building improvements that might be appropriate during replacement of the gym roof. Director Garcia noted that we are expecting a proposal to help us determine what those improvements would be. Ms. Northam stated that it's extremely helpful to have the planning done now with input from the high school so that we can plan for those alterations even if they aren't done initially. The structure of the replacement roof depends on the configuration of the building. Chair Cotton pointed out that increasing the roof area over the boys locker room as well as the opposite side would potentially expand court space and wrestling space. Director Stiefel commented that we have been repairing these trusses and the engineer is recommending replacement of the roof. He further noted that hundreds of kids are involved in classes and activities in the gym every day.

Director Lee commented that the current roof has bow string trusses and he would assume the replacement roof would have a different design. Mr. Grauf responded that it would be an open truss steel web system that is flat on the top and bottom. The triangle supports would be in a much tighter and shorter span than what is currently in place. It would rest on the current weight bearing walls that the engineer believes are of quality construction. Director Cotton noted that the proposed project would include replacement of the lighting and HVAC systems.

Director Meyer concurred that advance planning is important now, so that we have an idea how large the roof should be. The \$18,000 for conceptual drawings and information gathering will provide us with what we need to know.

The directors had discussion regarding PERS deferral rates for the next year and PERS debt service for our obligation bonds. Director Stiefel noted that if any potential savings are not utilized for the roof project, then funds should be set aside for when rates go back up so that we would be funded. Ms. Northam pointed out that we have had no budget discussions. Director Stiefel suggested that this project is an example of major maintenance issues that can happen unexpectedly.

Director Endicott stated that we have many areas without adequate funding. However, we do have options and a motion is on the floor. How we proceed and the budget discussion are not the question. Director Lee offered that this sort of project is good for a great many years and the benefit of borrowing is that you spread the cost out over time. It's not always possible to set aside \$60,000 annually. Mr. Lee added that the engineer should be asked if the new structure could handle solar panels in the future. Chair Cotton pointed out that a year ago we attempted to pass a bond levy to do this sort of project and it failed. This project needs to be done, adding that this board is charged with keeping our buildings in shape and taking care of safety issues.

M7-49- Approve replacement of the RHS Gymnasium Roof beginning in the summer of 2015

With discussion concluded, the motion to replace the RHS Gymnasium Roof beginning in the summer of 2015 passed unanimously.

Director Garcia asked whether the board had reached consensus on whether to proceed with the proposal from the DLR Group for preparation of conceptual plans and information gathering to allow the district to begin planning for the upcoming project. Directors individually responded affirmatively.

Chair Cotton asked for potential funding discussion, and Ms. Northam indicated that there are adequate funds in the Fund 404 Capital Improvement Fund to accommodate this requested expenditure.

2015-16 SCHOOL CALENDAR CHANGES: Assistant Superintendent/HR David Hanson presented a revised 2015-16 school calendar. The impact of scheduling regular early release days each Wednesday has resulted in the discovery that we needed to add one additional instructional day. The Calendar Committee met on November 6th to consider various options. The committee considered that the proposal to change November 25, 2015 from a non-contracted day to an early release day would have the least impact as elementary schools would not be in session that day due to conferences. In the original calendar version, November 18th and 19th were kindergarten conference days. Moving to All Day Kindergarten in 2015 eliminates the need for double conference sessions and we no longer need the additional conference days in November or March. The committee recommendation is that we remove November 18th and 19th as conference days as well as March 1st and 2nd 2016.

It was moved by Director Patterson and seconded by Director Stiefel to approve the revised 2015-16 school calendar as presented.

Director Garcia inquired if we are required to have non-contract days. Mr. Hanson confirmed that we are not, but historically the October date was utilized for state-wide in-service purposes. While there is less need for that at present with fewer training opportunities being offered, it has been a non-contracted day for a good many years. Our district no longer refers to it as a state-wide in-service day. Director Lee stated that he would defer to the decision of the Calendar Committee as they are the experts.

At the conclusion of discussion, motion passed with Director Garcia voting 'No' and all other Board members voting 'Yes'.

**M7-50- Approve revised
2015-16 school calendar**

RHS STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE REPORT: Chair Cotton was pleased to introduce RHS student, Garrett Wedge, who will be the 2014-15 RHS Student Representative to the Board.

Garrett reported that 15 German students recently visited RHS, staying with local families, attending classes and touring the surrounding area.

Garrett noted that Homecoming events were fun and well received. Student Leadership raised \$1,000 from the "jungle-theme" homecoming dance that will be used to fund school improvement projects and the Student Council Conference held last week in Seaside, Oregon where attendees interacted with representatives from other schools and traded ideas. Students are busy collecting ideas to present to administration.

The comedy "Almost Maine" will be performed in the Rose Theater next week. The RHS Marching Band was presented with the Mayor's Trophy for their performance during the Roseburg Veterans Day Parade.

Winter sports are scheduled to begin November 17th and our wrestling team athletes are excited. Students have been busy with preparations for acknowledging student body and staff birthdays, plans for an upcoming Sadie Hawkins Dance as well as a men's volleyball tournament. Students are eagerly awaiting results of what song has been selected for the upcoming Lip Dub event in the spring.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT:

Superintendent Parsons asked Student Services Director Matthew Brausam to speak to the Board about current Homeless numbers that were recently released.

Mr. Brausam indicated that he wished he had better news. Homeless numbers at this time of year are typically in the range of 20-30. This year we have already reached 130 students who qualify according to the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act criteria. Matt noted that this is unsettling in that we haven't yet reached the "spike" that we typically see in mid-to-late November and on into the winter season. He noted that as heating bills go up, we see families slipping into the homeless ranks. The support that will be provided by the Sodexo BackPack Grant could not have come at a more opportune time. Mr. Brausam has been meeting with Homeless/Indian Ed Liaison, Juliana Marez, and she observes that our new student reporting system is more accurately tracking this population. Indications are that our local economy is not improving for our unemployed and underemployed families. The "Feed the Burg" program is reporting numbers much higher than historical averages. Local families are in need of support.

Superintendent Parsons shared a spreadsheet reflecting numbers of students who have transferred in and out of our district over the last ten years.

Dr. Parsons also shared a recent News Review article regarding our district Painter, Brad Hahn, noting that the recognition was well deserved for the high quality work that he does.

Chief Operations Officer Cheryl Northam reported that when the district issues debt for General Obligation Bonds or to refinance debt, we are required to submit a packet of information to help investors who are deciding whether or not to purchase our bonds. The packet includes continuing disclosure certificates and pieces of information including audited financial information. When we submitted our official statement for pension bond refinance, we signed that we had done full disclosure of all information for the previous five years. All information was submitted through the data port and people interested in investing could access that data. Our district failed to disclose within the 270 day reporting deadline in 2008. Once it was discovered, we reported the information.

Under the MCDC Initiative, the SEC is allowing underwriters and districts to self report mis-statements on official statements. Seattle NW Securities has already self reported for our district, and the board was in agreement that there is no reason for our district not to proceed with self reporting as well. Ms. Northam and Attorney Dan Clark are also in agreement that the district should self-report. We have contracted with Ann Sherman, Bond Counsel to help with the process of self reporting. The issue will be further discussed at the A & P Committee Meeting on Monday with Ms. Sherman participating via telephone to answer any questions.

Superintendent Parsons requested that Director Endicott share a little about the recent OSBA Fall Regional Meeting they both attended at UCC. Director Endicott noted that OSBA is embarking on a bold ad campaign, "The Promise of Oregon", a public education support campaign and advocated for local district support. Speakers indicated during a 2015 legislative preview that there are more bills than we can possibly keep track of, but they will keep us apprised as more details develop. School funding priorities included All Day Kindergarten, ELL spending and how it is weighted, which essentially is just a different way of distributing the same pool of money.

INDIVIDUAL REPORTS BY DIRECTORS: Director Endicott shared that he and Director Patterson recently traveled to Hillsboro with the RHS Marching Band, where the kids did very well. They very nearly made the finals for what would have been the third year. There is a dessert awards banquet scheduled for tomorrow night.

Director Patterson added that the competition in Hillsboro required very long hours, with the band members not finishing up until 11:00 p.m. The band has been permitted to stay overnight in sleeping bags on the gym floor at Century High School with parent chaperones. Band Director Hansen reads stories to the kids and the Century High School Band Director stays the night as well so that the schools don't incur added expense for janitorial staff to be present. Their marching band brings ice cream to the visiting students at 11:30 p.m. Mr. Patterson expressed that it is a very positive interaction between the schools.

Director Stiefel thanked RHS Principal Karen Goirigolzarri for her service during her tenure with the district. He also expressed his hope that the high school administration would remain active in discussions as we move forward with the gymnasium roof project.

Chair Cotton shared his opinion that it is now time for the Board to go paperless and proceed with the purchase of tablets or other technology to efficiently share information. Other smaller districts have already made that transition and Director Cotton would like to see our Board accomplish that this school year.

Director Garcia concurred with Chair Cotton's suggestion for the Board. He also noted that the RFQ for executive search firm responses will be opened on November 19th. Mr. Garcia added his thanks to Principal Goirigolzarri for all that she has accomplished. While he admitted that her pending retirement makes him feel old, he added that he is very happy for her and appreciated her courage this year.

Chair Cotton added his appreciation as well.

COMMITTEE REPORTS: The Building and Sites and Curriculum and Instruction Committee Meeting reports scheduled for this evening will be postponed to the December 10th board meeting.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION: None at this time.

ADJOURNMENT: With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:29 p.m.



Larry C. Parsons
Superintendent