

ROSEBURG PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Regular Board Meeting

Vol. 1 No. 7

November 18, 2015

BOARD MEMBERS:

Rodney Cotton	X
Daniel Endicott	X
Joseph Garcia	Excused
Rev. Howard Johnson	X
Charles F. Lee	X
Paul E. Meyer	Excused
Steve Patterson	X

ADMINISTRATION:

Gerry C. Washburn, Superintendent	X
David W Hanson, Assistant Superintendent/HR	X
Richard Burton, Director, Student Services	X
Cheryl Northam, Chief Operations Officer	X
Jeff Plummer, Interim Director, Teaching & Learning	X
RHS Student Leadership Representatives	X

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 18, 2015, at 6:00 p.m. in the administrative office board room at 1419 NW Valley View Drive, Roseburg, Oregon.

CALL TO ORDER: Chair Cotton welcomed attendees and called the meeting to order promptly at 6:00 p.m., asking Teaching & Learning Interim Director Jeff Plummer to lead in the Pledge of Allegiance to the flag.

ATTENDANCE: All cabinet members were present. Board members Joseph Garcia and Paul Meyer were both excused. There were no media representatives present. RHS Student Representatives Hope Mounts and Lucas Ball were in attendance.

REVIEW OF AGENDA: Superintendent Washburn announced that Roseburg High School Student Representative Josh Arnold was present this evening to update the Board regarding a metals project on the high school gymnasium roof.

COMMUNICATIONS TO THE BOARD: Superintendent Washburn shared that licensed resignations have been received from Eastwood Elementary Special Education Teacher, Deborah Frederick and Youth Shelter Teacher, Joyanna Ellis.

Eighth Grade Fremont Middle School student, Ashtyn Hooten, was not present this evening for her student recognition presentation. This will be rescheduled.

CONSENT AGENDA: The Consent Agenda this evening consisted of Minutes from the October 28 regular Board Meeting and a recommendation to hire Shirley Thomas, Special Education Teacher, for a temporary position this year at Roseburg High School.

Director Endicott moved to approve the Consent Agenda. Director Patterson seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

M1-41 Approved the Consent Agenda

STUDENT RECOGNITION: Director Dan Endicott shared a letter from Green Elementary Principal, Kristen Garcia, and her staff celebrating the achievements of Fifth Grade Student, Noah Fisk, who is being recognized as Green Elementary's Outstanding Student based on his strong character and academic skills. Noah plans to run for Student Council President this year and enjoys academic challenges, particularly in math and science.

Noah demonstrates compassion for his peers and has become a positive role model in the classroom as well as on his soccer and baseball teams. Noah hopes to continue to develop his skills in his quest to become an engineer.

Director Charles Lee shared a letter from Melrose Elementary Principal Robert Freeman and his staff, celebrating the selection of Fifth Grade Student, Sydney Smith. Sydney's teachers share that she is an exceptional student who has compassion for her fellow students. Younger students have benefited from Sydney's willingness to volunteer her time, while she remains 100 percent engaged in learning. Sydney sets high standards for herself, which should create many opportunities in her future.

Chair Cotton invited the families of the students being recognized to remain for the presentation by one of our RHS students, Josh Arnold.

PRESENTATION FROM ROSEBURG HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT, JOSH ARNOLD: RHS Principal, Jill Weber, shared that a group of students have been working over the past two months with Adroit Construction at the high school on a special project. Principal Weber explained that this student-led project enhances our \$1.5 million seismic rehab project for the RHS gymnasium building, and noted that the high school is honored to have our students design this project. The gym roof and flooring have been replaced, and the building paint refreshed inside and out. She introduced Josh Arnold.

Josh and his fellow Skills USA students are creating metal ROSEBURG HIGH SCHOOL lettering that will be installed at the top of the renovated gymnasium. The letters will be powder-coated in bright orange letters that will help to obscure the HVAC equipment behind it. The lettering will be viewable from the stadium area as well as the freeway and will be spotlighted from the bottom. Director Johnson inquired how the power-coating will be done, and Mr. Arnold shared that he will be taking the project specs to local businesses for estimates.

Superintendent Washburn commented that the Adroit Construction crew members have been very complimentary of Josh, and believe he has a great future in store. This student project has become an unexpected and very pleasant benefit of our seismic rehab project, and this is the sort of thing the district needs to do more of.

RHS STUDENT LEADERSHIP REPRESENTATIVES REPORT: Leadership Student Hope Mounts has participated in leadership during the past four years. She reported that homecoming events over a two-week period were very successful, with ticket sales for Homecoming exceeding sales from prior years. RHS students Kelli Jones and Kyle Yates were selected as Homecoming Queen and King. Seniors won the annual Powder Puff game 21-0. The volleyball team competed in state competition as did Cross Country athletes. Hope commented that student spirit and school involvement have seen a big improvement.

Leadership Student Lucas Ball announced that leadership is working on posters in honor of UCC that will be laminated and either posted at UCC or the high school. Winters sports practices have also begun. A "Pennies for Patients" fundraiser is underway, with boxes placed in all classrooms.

Students are assisting custodial staff by helping to stack chairs in the cafeteria after lunch. Food items are being donated for the FCCLA canned food drive.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION: There were no audience members wishing to address the board.

Chair Cotton asked for a brief recess at 6:20 p.m. to allow the families of the students being recognized to depart for the evening. The meeting resumed at 6:24 p.m.

MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING WITH “I LOVE U GUYS”: Superintendent Washburn shared that this proposed MOU is part of the requirements for using the Standard Response (SRP) and Standard Reunification Method (SRM) products of the I Love U Guys Foundation of Bailey Colorado. The foundation was started by a father of a victim of a school shooting. Director Lee shared that the author was one of the presenters at the recent OSBA conference. When police are responding to emergencies at different schools and the schools use different terminology, it can cause confusion in the response agencies. The foundation utilizes research based processes for training school staff. Materials are free of charge if districts sign the Memorandum of Understanding and remain within the design framework. Posters will be placed in school buildings. We had several staff members recommend the materials independently of our work in this area.

Director Endicott moved to approve the Memorandum of Understanding with the “I Love U Guys” Foundation. Director Patterson seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

M1-42 Approved the Memorandum of Understanding with the “I Love U Guys” Foundation

POLICY EBCD: EMERGENCY CLOSURES – FOR FIRST READING: Superintendent Washburn explained that the Oregon State Board of Education modified OAR 581-022-1620, Required Instructional Time. The effect to Policy EBCD: Emergency Closures, is that with Board approval, for the 2015-16 school year, up to 14 hours of emergency school closures due to adverse weather conditions and facilities failure, may be included in calculating instructional time. Superintendent Washburn shared that this would give us the ability to alter our district transportation schedules based on recommendations and to notify people of closures and related processes. The only change to the existing policy is the footnote at the bottom related to the 14 hours allowed. The superintendent’s preference is to make up school days. This policy is directed at districts who have 5-6 days of closures as it allows them to take two day’s credit and continue on with their school year. Director Endicott noted his preference that the recommendation be communicated clearly with staff.

Director Endicott moved to approve Policy EBCD: Emergency Closures, for First Reading. Director Johnson seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

M1-43 Approved Policy EBCD: Emergency Closures, for First Reading

POLICY JFCF: HAZING/HARASSMENT/INTIMIDATION/MENANCING/BULLYING/CYBERBULLYING/TEEN DATING VIOLENCE/DOMESTIC VIOLENCE - STUDENT, FOR SECOND READING/ADOPTION: Superintendent Washburn explained that the only change to the policy is the addition of domestic violence to the terminology of the current policy. The district will have posters in visible locations on our campuses. Director Lee indicated that he wanted to do further research before the second reading.

Director Endicott moved to adopt Policy JFCF for First Reading. Director Patterson seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

M1-44 Approved Policy JFCF: Hazing, Harassment/Intimidation/Menacing/Bullying/Cyberbullying/Teen Dating Violence/Domestic Violence – Student for First Reading

ROSEBURG HIGH SCHOOL BAND UNIFORMS DISCUSSION: Purchasing Supervisor Denny Austin noted that at the previous board meeting, the board had asked that he proceed with a sole source procurement for band uniforms. The proposed purchase was properly advertised and Mr. Austin reported that the district is now prepared to move forward with the purchase with the Fred J. Miller Company.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT:

Pre-K Programs: Superintendent Washburn reported that he, Kris Kelso and Tatum Stedman visited the Pre-K programs in Earl Boyles and Gladstone School Districts. The group toured the programs to observe how the different agencies operate within the schools. Mr. Washburn noted that there were 85 kids our district was not able to serve in pre-school this year. There are a number of families who need this support.

Drug/Alcohol Prevention: Mr. Washburn noted that two years ago, there were eight drug-related student referrals on the RHS campus. To date, we already have 27. The superintendent has met with the Student Services Director and Sam Moore, the district Drug/Alcohol Prevention Specialist. Sam has reached out to local agencies and the group plans to meet with high school administrators to determine how to have a continuum of response to this accelerating problem. One of the reasons for meeting with community partners such as Aric Fromdahl is to develop policies in line with counseling services.

The superintendent explained that this is about safety, keeping kids safe and providing safe places for our students. We are looking at having a drug dog on campus on a more consistent basis. Our efforts will focus on preventing kids from bringing drugs on campus, not trying to catch kids with drugs. Mr. Washburn discussed the importance of creating a non-retaliatory environment for students to feel comfortable. Students have approached administration regarding instituting drug testing. Our reality is that we need to acknowledge that there is a problem on the campus and we need to engage our community in what is going on.

Reporter Richard Chasm has scheduled an hour-long interview with the superintendent to be aired on KQEN discussing the district's stance on marijuana and the importance of keeping it off school campuses due to the detrimental effect on student health.

Calling marijuana use "recreational" has changed the conversation, and in reality kids are having a hard time figuring out why they shouldn't be involved. Peer pressure is ratcheting up. We believe that one component of higher rates of drug discipline referrals is due to drug accessibility.

ADAPT services are working well at the secondary level, but services need to be accessible much earlier. Mr. Burton cautioned that drug use can be very entrenched by the time a student reaches high school, and we are exploring the "Peer Power" program with ADAPT.

Transition Update: Superintendent Washburn will be prepared in December to give the board specific details on his activities so far this school year, such as his community outreach efforts. He is looking forward to scheduling formal conversations/meetings with high school students. He also hopes to have more conversations with various parent groups to continue reviewing student achievement data. MAPS data will be available soon, and we will use this data in discussions about our instructional direction. The board chair requested a board work session immediately following the December board meeting for this board update.

Crisis and Communication Plans: The superintendent is working with Communications Specialist DD Bixby on creating communication plans.

Budget: The superintendent has been meeting with Chief Operations Officer Cheryl Northam on a regular basis.

Organizational Structure: The superintendent is in the process of reviewing the current organizational structure.

Community Outreach: Superintendent Washburn has actively sought out community activities such as band performances, athletic events and community meetings. He reports having very nice conversations with community members.

Staff Survey: A staff survey is scheduled to be forwarded to staff on Friday, asking staff members for input on a variety of questions. Personnel have the option of responding anonymously.

Attendance: The superintendent shared that chronic attendance is now at 21.48%, up from 20.80 in September. Winchester Elementary has had nearly a 40% decrease in chronic attendance, down to 46 students from 76 the previous month. Fullerton IV, Green, Hucrest, Melrose and Winchester all have rates of 12% or less. Hucrest is at 9%. Hucrest emphasizes the message to parents that “being present” is important. This means not just being at school, but being actively engaged in what is going on. Mr. Washburn would like our families to become more comfortable communicating with us what the barriers are in getting their kids to school. We need to discuss what the struggles are and find ways to help.

ENROLLMENT REPORT: Superintendent Washburn stated that as of October 31st, we have 455 students at Eastwood Elementary, up from 441 last year. Enrollment at Fir Grove is down, primarily due to moving the DLC to other buildings. Fullerton IV is up 7 students; Melrose is up 19, while Winchester has remained stable at 332 students. Overall, elementary enrollment is down 27 students, with total enrollment down 94 from last year. Our current enrollment is 26 less than enrollment projections. We continue to get closer on our projections.

On a positive note, alternative and charter students are up seven students from projections. Transfers in and out continue to be nearly identical at 177/173. We continue to see the accelerations of kids enrolling in online programs. We are having good conversations regarding the online/alternative education environment, talking about what does and does not work in setting up those programs, creating a positive path forward. Our commitment is to have a program up and running at the start of next school year. Discussion continues on where to centrally locate a blended-model program that includes adult support and a check-in environment. Research indicates that a bare minimum of two hours per week face time is needed to keep students moving forward academically.

INDIVIDUAL DIRECTORS’ REPORTS:

Director Endicott supported developing drug policies that aren’t punitive for the students, such as bringing in the drug dogs. He reported that in his coaching position, kids are requesting drug testing. He encouraged the district to review policies from other districts. Referrals will continue to increase if we don’t take action. Corrective action plans are preferable to expulsions. Mr. Endicott also suggested that the board should consider a pilot program for a late start for students. Some students are taking care of their siblings and it makes it difficult to get to school earlier than their younger siblings.

Director Patterson shared that he is open to new research and different ways to deal with drugs issues. He reflected that he has a difficult time teaching that there are no consequences to actions. He fully agreed that the wording on “recreational” marijuana is poor. Kids also view beer consumption as recreational. He recalled that as a student, some of his peers lost positions on sports teams due to making poor decisions. They learned from those mistakes and became successful adults. Having no consequences can be a lesson in itself.

Director Johnson inquired if media (TV/radio) support has been considered in battling the drug problem. Superintendent Washburn responded that his preference would be to meet with “boots on the ground” agency

representatives who actually deal with the kids who are having problems in order to identify what our path forward should be. It's important to educate our community that drug dogs and testing are not about getting kids in trouble, but rather getting them the help they need. There are significant health implications for kids using marijuana. Kids need to have a student voice in this issue. Director Johnson reflected that you have to know how to fight the battle these kids are fighting with gangs and drug pushers.

Director Johnson also expressed his belief that major employers have zero drug tolerance employment policies. We could join with them and encourage media involvement advertising that partnership to address the issue. When kids understand that you can't get a paycheck if you use drugs, it may get their attention. It would be nice to have major employers join the school board in support of the issues.

Director Lee shared that there are serious signs that indicate we should teach kids later in the school day. He also recognizes that this may cause issues with sports. He also doesn't see clear evidence that we have been effective in convincing kids of the negative effects of smoking and drinking. Unfortunately, there is a common disconnect when kids hear from their peers/parents/movies that marijuana use is okay. Science is very clear that alcohol abuse and particularly marijuana use in developing brains is not a good thing. Mr. Lee equated damage to teenage brains from using drugs to the damage from contact sports. We need to educate families so they can make positive choices and know the risks involved. Drug testing only during periods of extra-curricular activities has no impact on activities during the post season. It's important to educate kids not why using drugs is wrong, but help them understand why it is bad for them.

Chair Cotton shared that we don't spend enough time talking about and complimenting the large majority of our kids who are doing great things. These are all good discussions and indicate that the small group of kids having trouble are very important to us. Mr. Cotton recalled a program in the district years ago called "DARE" that his children appreciated. It effectively taught young children that certain behaviors were not good. Superintendent Washburn agreed to research where we are with that program.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION:

Teacher Patricia Pecorilla shared that both her son and daughter graduated from Roseburg Public Schools. Son Neil graduated in 2008 three years after his sister. Following graduation at the University of Oregon, he didn't immediately find his direction and has been working in sales. He received notice yesterday of his acceptance into the Peace Corps and will be leaving in February for two years in Costa Rica. Neil speaks fluent Spanish after spending his junior year in Ecuador. Pat's daughter was married in September, and board members concurred with her that you don't ever stop worrying about your children.

Patron Olga Keith, of 1223 NE Cedar Street, Roseburg, operates Dynamic Martial Arts. Ms. Keith expressed her appreciation for the superintendent meeting with her to talk about an afternoon anti-bullying enrichment program for Eastwood, Fir Grove and Hucrest Elementary Schools. The focus of the program is to teach the tenants of the purpose of martial arts, conflict resolution, helping people engage without resorting to violence. She expressed the importance of citizens helping with the drug problems facing our students and pledged to contribute what she can.

Owen Dykema, 3264 W Normandy, Roseburg, Oregon, expressed that it was rewarding to see the kids honored this evening, as it gives purpose and meaning the importance of their education. He appreciates the superintendent's willingness to communicate via the media with our community.

ADJOURNMENT: With no further business, Chair Cotton adjourned the meeting at 7:25 p.m.

Gerry C. Washburn, Superintendent
GCW/jlk