

ROSEBURG PUBLIC SCHOOLS

1419 Northwest Valley View Drive
Roseburg, Oregon 97471
Regular Board Meeting and Executive Session

Vol 4 No. 10

September 12, 2018

Board Members:

Rodney Cotton
Joseph Garcia, Chair
Micki Hall
Rev. Howard Johnson
Charles F. Lee
Vacant
Steve Patterson, V. Chair Excused

Administration:

Robert L. Freeman, Interim Superintendent
Richard Burton, Director of Student Services
Robert Emerson, Director of Teaching & Learning
Robert Freeman, Director of Human Resources
Cheryl Northam, Chief Operations Officer

REGULAR SESSION

TIME/PLACE: A regular meeting of the Douglas County School District No. 4 Board of Directors was held on Wednesday, September 12, 2018, in the Administrative Office Board Room located at 1419 NW Valley View Drive, Roseburg, Oregon.

CALL TO ORDER: Board Chairman, Joe Garcia, welcomed attendees and called the meeting to order at 6:05 p.m. and invited Chief Operations Officer, Cheryl Northam, to lead the Pledge of Allegiance.

ATTENDANCE: School Board and Cabinet members were present, with the exception of Director Patterson, who was excused. Reporter Janelle Polcyn was in attendance.

REVIEW OF AGENDA: Interim Superintendent, Robert Freeman, announced the addition of a request for leave of absence that has been added to the Consent Agenda.

COMMUNICATIONS TO THE BOARD: Director Freeman announced that Director Patterson is travelling and is therefore excused. He was also pleased to report that he had no current resignations to announce.

CONSENT AGENDA: Director Freeman presented the Consent Agenda consisting of Minutes from August 22nd, a Surplus Items Listing and the following employment recommendations:

- Jill Kraack, a TOSA at Fullerton IV Elementary School (temporary position for 2018-19);
- Elise Sensabaugh, Kindergarten Teacher at Hucrest Elementary School;
- Laurie Way, Math Teacher at Roseburg High School; and
- Gail Withers, Third Grade Teacher at Hucrest Elementary School (temporary position for 2018-19).

The Board also considered a request for Leave of Absence from Kristina Ikola, Third Grade Teacher at Hucrest Elementary School, to begin March 2019 for the remainder of the 2018-19 school year to extend her Family Leave.

Director Lee moved to approve the Consent Agenda. Director Hall seconded, and the Motion passed unanimously.

M4-37 Approved the Consent Agenda

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION: Several members of the audience approached the Board for public comment.

Michelle VanCromphant, 4408 SE Thompson, Roseburg, Oregon expressed concern that her son is not able to see a Roseburg Therapy counselor during the day while attending Fremont Middle School. The student refuses counseling outside of school hours. Chairman Garcia thanked the audience for their presence and explained that the Board or designee may respond to concerns outside of Public Participation as Board members do not engage in conversation during the public meeting.

Eric Sorensen, 116 Olivia Lane, Roseburg, Oregon expressed his disappointment that Chairman Garcia was not able to respond during Public Participation. Mr. Sorensen stated that Ms. VanCromphant's son is his friend and he believes he is being harassed by another student. He reported his experience of being called names and having items thrown at him and believes something needs to be done soon. Chair Garcia thanked Eric for his comments.

Stephanie Sprague, 116 Olivia Lane, Roseburg, Oregon stated that it was her son who was recently assaulted on the bus. She acknowledged that both RHS Vice Principal Blue and Interim Superintendent Freeman have listened to her concerns. She believes her son is bullied due to his sexuality and advocated that principals and school counselors be accountable.

Kristie Carlton, 116 Olivia Lane, Roseburg, Oregon stated that she is the student's grandmother, and this is the second generation in her family attending Roseburg Public Schools. She is in full support of what schools are doing, but believes the situation should not have reached the point of physical contact with another student hitting her grandson. She voiced concern with students using social media to threaten her grandson. She emphasized the seriousness of issues confronting students and proposed the district consider working with parents and grandparents, perhaps by volunteering on campus, or doing whatever is determined to be needed to keep kids safe.

Hannah Center, 467 Glenda Avenue, Roseburg, Oregon stated that she previously attended Fremont Middle School before being bullied, and now attends school in Glide. She communicated that she is upset that this is happening to her friend.

Chairman Garcia thanked the individuals who addressed the Board, acknowledging their braveness in coming forward.

INTRODUCTION OF MICHELLE KNEE, INSTRUCTIONAL LEADERSHIP COORDINATOR: Teaching and Learning Coordinator, Robert Emerson, had promised to invite our new Instructional Leadership Coordinator, Michelle Knee to a Board meeting and was very pleased to make the introduction. Mr. Emerson shared that Michelle comes to us from Clark County Schools in Reno, Nevada, having been an educator for 23 years. Mrs. Knee brings experience as a Reading Specialist and English Language Learner Specialist. Michelle has been an administrator for nine years, most recently at a PreK-5 school of 900 students. Her energy, enthusiasm and experience will serve her well in her current position working with our administrative staff. Michelle shared that she has been reaching out to two-four schools each day and is very appreciative of her this opportunity to serve Roseburg Public Schools.

POLICY IGBAJ: FREE APPROPRIATE PUBLIC EDUCATION, for Second Reading and Adoption: Student Services Director, Richard Burton, presented Policy IGBAJ: Free Appropriate Public Education, for Second Reading and Adoption. The revised language assures that districts will receive ADMw for students who re-enroll after earning a modified diploma to continue to learn life skills.

Director Lee moved to approve Policy IGBAJ: Free Appropriate Public Education, for Second Reading and Adoption. Director Hall seconded, and the Motion passed by majority with Director Johnson voting “No”.

M4-38	Approved Policy IGBAJ: Free Appropriate Public Education, for Second Reading and Adoption
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POLICY JHFF: REPORTING REQUIREMENTS REGARDING SEXUAL MISCONDUCT WITH STUDENTS, for First Reading: Director Freeman presented revised Policy JHFF: Reporting Requirements Regarding Sexual Misconduct with Students, for First Reading, explaining that the suggested revisions are due to language changes due to ESSA. Revisions reflect the addition of agents and contractor language to the existing policy.

Director Lee moved to approve Policy JHFF: Reporting Requirements Regarding Sexual Misconduct with Students for First Reading. Director Cotton seconded for discussion.

Director Hall explained that in her opinion, the policy is somewhat vague, and she would prefer that the ORS language be inserted into the body of the policy. She would also like to see the definition of what constitutes sexual contact.

Director Johnson expressed concern with the word “immediate” and would like to see definite timelines referenced with respect to any incident or the reporting of the incident. He reflected that as a minister, he has 24 hours in which to report sexual abuse. Board members discussed varying opinions on reporting timelines and consequences to not reporting. Chair Garcia pointed out that this could result in a labor issue. Mr. Freeman will inquire how TSPC factors into investigations. Director Lee stated his perception that some of the OSBA suggested wording could be clearer. Director Cotton shared that he researched other district policies via the web and discovered that they are using the same revised policy as suggested by OSBA. Chairman Garcia asked Director Freeman to research what other districts are doing before the Board moves forward on this revised version.

The Motion failed with Directors Cotton, Hall, Garcia and Johnson voting “No” and Director Lee voting “Yes”. The policy will be brought back for First Reading once requested information is gathered.

M4-39	Motion Failed
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CONSIDERATION OF BOARD WORK SESSIONS: Chairman Garcia presented ideas for topics of potential Board Work Sessions including:

- Interim Superintendent status and options for remainder of the 2017-18 school year;
- Superintendent Search
- Board and Cabinet members:
 - Communication;
 - What’s working; What’s not working?

- Current status of District
- How to engage staff
- What are we looking for in new Superintendent?
- Sub-Committee structure; Is there value in that model?

Director Lee noted that with Michelle Knee here this evening (the new Instructional Leadership Coordinator) and the recent articles in the local paper, he would appreciate knowing if there is a commitment on the part of the Board to continue with the changes begun under the former superintendent in the way education is being delivered; i.e. the new TOSA's, etc. He would like to see that commitment. Director Hall responded that the existence of the Instructional Leadership Coordinator and the new TOSAs are evidence of our commitment. Chair Garcia continued with suggestions for upcoming Work Sessions:

- The Board needs to be collectively “on the same page”
- Vision for the District; How are things aligned with that vision?
- Budget work for 2019-20

Director Hall suggested additional topics including:

- Goals for the new year for principals;
- Communication of the Board;
- Willingness to understand each other and work together as a team; not as adversaries but as promoters of education for kids.

Director Cotton suggested a Board retreat and reminded fellows members that there could be a major shift in the Board next year. Some members may consider retirement. He shared his belief that it takes a new board member a year to understand the Board's role. People interested in serving need to come to meetings so that they have an idea of what it means to be a board member and the kind of work that is being done.

Chair Garcia expanded on the above by suggesting that an important component of the work is to be clear what we expect the culture of the District to be, specifically. Director Hall added that this work is interconnected; the culture of the Board seeps down to administration and from there to teachers, etc. She suggested a public relations campaign to educate patrons exactly what the District does for kids, such as policies and practices in place that speak to bullying issues, etc. She noted that the slogan “*Whatever it Takes*” is outdated and needs updating. Work is needed in embracing ideas and how to go about making them happen. Ms. Hall reflected that when she taught, the class spent the first month reflecting on the meaning of leadership. Director Johnson noted that the word bullying is a new term for racism; it's simply a different label. As a Board, we need to reflect a culture where we do what's necessary so that children can be meaningful adults without a chip on their shoulder. Director Hall suggested that we create the culture. Director Lee commented that we have traditionally looked to principals to oversee the culture in their schools and the Superintendent oversees the principals. Chair Garcia shared that these conversations won't typically be accomplished in a one-hour work session before a regular meeting. These conversations will require a larger time commitment from Board members. Board members reviewed individual schedules and opted for the first work session to be held on Monday, September 17th at 7:00 p.m. to discuss options for Interim Superintendent. The Board recessed at 6:58 p.m. prior to entering Executive Session.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

An Executive Session pursuant to ORS 192.660(2)(h) to consult with legal counsel was brought to order at 7:02 p.m. The Board consulted with Attorneys Joel Hungerford, Blake Fry, Nancy Hungerford and Karen Vickers. At 8:35 p.m., Chair Garcia recessed the Executive Session and moved back into Regular Session.

INTERIM SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT: Mr. Freeman shared a draft document that was a result of the Keeley Report and the volleyball issue that is essentially a compilation of adopted Board policies that will be printed at Douglas ESD (in abbreviated version) for use by District administrators who deal directly with student behaviors. Mr. Freeman indicated that this work was accomplished through the efforts of our secondary and elementary principals. The document will be provided to students and parents during discipline procedures.

The RHS athletic field will be ready for the upcoming home football game, and the Green seismic rehabilitation project is on schedule for use of classroom space.

Mr. Freeman attended an assembly at Green Elementary this afternoon, where Principal Rodriguez was presented with the banner currently hanging in the Board Room celebrating Green's designation as a Zone 2 Blue Zone school.

CABINET MEMBER REPORTS:

Director of Student Services, Rick Burton reported that the District completed phase one of the Mid-Valley risk-assessment training with community engagement. The deployment of Compass Behavior therapists and counselors is continuing as planned.

Human Resources Director, Robert Freeman, reported that kindergarten numbers at Hucrest have reached 93 students, and his recommendation is that the Board approve an additional unbudgeted teacher; and likewise, at Green Elementary, where first grade numbers are 29 and 29. The Board has already approved an additional adult (instructional assistant) in all kindergarten classrooms. Green has not experienced these numbers in a long while and the recommendation is to add a first-grade teacher at the school.

INDIVIDUAL REPORTS BY DIRECTORS:

Director Johnson shared that he was blessed to be at Melrose while the new Instructional Leadership Coordinator, Michelle Knee, was there last week. He noted that he happens to know her family as one of her relatives was employed at DR Johnson Lumber.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION: No remaining members of the audience wished to address the School Board.

ADJOURNMENT: With no further business, Chairman Garcia adjourned the Executive Session and Regular Meeting at 8:43 p.m.

Robert F. Freeman, Interim Superintendent

Next Meeting: The September 26th School Board Meeting will be held at 6:00 p.m. in the Administrative Office Board Room, located at 1419 NW Valley View Drive, Roseburg, Oregon.

RLF/jlk