

ROSEBURG PUBLIC SCHOOLS

School Board Meeting
1419 NW Valley View Drive
Roseburg, Oregon 97471

Vol 1 No. 4

August 28, 2019

Board Members:

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

Administration:

Jared P. Cordon, Superintendent
Richard Burton, Director of Student Services
Robert Freeman, Director of Human Resources
Michelle Knee, Director of Teaching & Learning
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 at 6:00 p.m. on Wednesday, August 28, 2019, in the Administrative Office Board Room, located at 1419 NW Valley View Drive in Roseburg, Oregon.

CALL TO ORDER: Director Garcia welcomed attendees and called the meeting to order and asked Director Rebecca Larson to lead the Pledge of Allegiance.

ATTENDANCE: School Board and Cabinet members were present. Reporter Sanne Godfrey was also present.

REVIEW OF AGENDA: Superintendent Cordon shared that the Building & Sites Committee Meeting report was moved up to Item No. 2.

COMMUNICATIONS TO THE BOARD: Superintendent Cordon noted that additional recommendations for hire have been added to the Consent Agenda. Human Resources Director, Robert Freeman, clarified by the Board Chairman that benefits applicable to job-share positions are distributed half to each employee. Mr. Cordon also reminded the Board of the upcoming Curriculum & Instruction Committee meeting and Work Sessions scheduled for September 4, 2019.

CONSENT AGENDA: Superintendent Cordon presented the Consent Agenda consisting of Minutes from the August 14th regular meeting and August 16th Special Session; and recommendations for hire effective with the 2019-2020 school year, and a licensed resignation as listed below:

Recommendations for Hire

Licensed Staff:

- Holly Farrimond, Second Grade Teacher at Fir Grove Elementary;
- Stephanie Finlayson, Music Teacher at Melrose and Winchester Elementary Schools; and
- Juli Gettys, Mathematics Teacher at Joseph Lane Middle School (job share with Janelle Hubbard)

Licensed Resignations:

- Nicole Kaye, RTI Program Specialist, after five years in the District.

Director Rebecca Larson moved to approve the Consent Agenda as presented. Director Micki Hall seconded, and the Motion passed unanimously.

M1-22 Approved the Consent Agenda

REAPPOINT BUDGET COMMITTEE MEMBER, KEITH CUBIC

Chairman Garcia welcomed and introduced long-time Budget Committee member and former School Board member, Mr. Keith Cubic. Mr. Cubic confirmed that he had served on the Board of Directors for 18 years and reflected that he considers himself a life-long supporter of our schools, believing in the value of contributing to the school district and community. He thanked the Board for considering him for reappointment.

Director Rodney Cotton moved to approve the reappointment of Mr. Cubic to the Budget Committee. Director Charles Lee seconded, and the Motion passed unanimously.

M1-23 Approved reappointment of Budget Committee member, Mr. Keith Cubic

BUILDING AND SITES COMMITTEE MEETING REPORT

Committee Chair, Howard Johnson, directed the Board to the minutes of the meeting, adding that the meeting had begun promptly at 11:30 a.m. and concluded at 12:10 p.m. Items discussed were informational and did not require any action on the part of the Board. Project Manager, Mike Jardine, had updated the committee on project status, timelines and budget. Eastwood and Green Elementary representatives provided information to the committee as they informed them of their desire to improve their school track facilities in order to inspire more physical activity for students, hopefully beginning in school year 2020-2021. Efforts have begun to raise funding through various fundraising activities. The committee members were supportive of the endeavors and encouraged both schools to verify that the projects will not result in any drainage issues or create conflicts within the surrounding neighborhoods.

Director Patterson pointed out that this effort highlights the need for the Board to solidify practices for receiving donations provided in support of projects.

LONG-RANGE PLANNING AND BOND CONSIDERATION DISCUSSION – RECEIVE DIRECTION FROM THE BOARD

Superintendent Cordon thanked the Board for taking the time needed to prepare for this discussion. He reminded each Board member that their opinions, thoughts and input are valued and the intention for all voices to be heard. He expressed that the goal this evening is to end up with a unified Board decision that all members can support with regard to a pathway forward in regard to a capital improvement bond, utilizing the Focus Framework specific to long-range facilities planning. Potential pathways discussed included:

- Repair
- Remodel
- Rebuild
- Something else (other)

Superintendent Cordon shared that once the Board provides direction to the District, application will be made to the state for a portion of \$5.8 million dollars in available matching funds. Districts wishing to be considered must submit applications this week. More information should be available to share with the Board on September 11th. Chairman Garcia noted his perception that we have been working on long-range facility planning for five years now, referencing the seismic rehabilitation projects at the elementary schools and high school. He confirmed that none of the Board members present were opposed to the general concept of pursuing a bond. Director Johnson pointed out some concerns with the timing with respect to presidential

elections, etc., noting that citizens concerned about their community are interested in having a voice in these kinds of measures.

The Board then heard pros and cons with respect to various dates including May 2020, November 2020 and May of 2021. Director Cotton pointed out that May 2021 is just shy of two years away and suggested that's too long to wait. Mr. Cotton stated his opinion that voter dynamics are evolving, and shared his belief that if we put forth the work necessary to present the details of what is needed by our schools and students, the community will trust us and believe in the work needed to improve our educational environment. Chairman Garcia noted that K-12 education needs to drive the conversation of what we want our community to look like. While not everyone will agree on specifics, he is looking forward to the conversation.

The Board also shared ideas on preferences for pathways (repair/remodel/rebuild/other). Director Lee shared that the majority of our schools are at the end or beyond the end of their designed life and are needing major internal system replacements. Going forward, he would anticipate extensively changing one or two schools every 10-15 years rather than all at once. Director Hall pointed out the objective of providing safe, secure, relevant spaces for students and staff suggesting that improving schools can make a community better. Director Larson commented that being out in some spaces within the District, in some cases she can't help but feel that it would be wise to just start over when considering the inefficient layouts and outdated infrastructure. She is frankly amazed that instructors are making some of those spaces work. While she loves the history of some of our spaces, she also believes a balance can be achieved in honoring the old while updating facilities to meet current needs while establishing a long-term plan. Immediate needs such as HVAC need to be considered along with the long-term plan. Director Johnson encouraged the Board to visualize what our grandchildren will be doing 20 years from now, and what the Roseburg community will look like. When remodeling, building codes come into play and you tend to discover hidden costs. He encouraged community involvement to come together to reach a mutual decision. Improving facilities would attract quality people to Roseburg and improve the economy. Director Patterson reflected that the District has done a good job of making repairs where needed such as boilers, etc. Considerations of remodeling costs, redesigning, safety, and community input will need to be included in the work of the Board and consultants going forward. Our schools are important to expanding commerce locally.

Chairman Garcia also acknowledged that despite challenges, we have done an excellent job making buildings last as long as they can, but if we don't have an ambitious plan, it is just kicking the can down the road. He has spent extensive time consulting with the individual who conducted the facility assessment. He advised starting with creating the vision for an appropriate learning environment for kids, an appropriate teaching environment for staff, and making buildings safe and secure. A couple buildings are needing drainage issues addressed and/or are within 15 years of the end of their effective life span. It's time for establishing a vision for our community in creating facilities that make people want to come and stay here and creating a legacy for our children.

The team also reviewed similar-sized school district levy rates within Douglas County. Chairman Garcia invited Budget Committee member, Keith Cubic, to inform the Board of District-owned properties that could also factor into future planning. Mr. Cubic shared his insights regarding property in Green, Charter Oaks and acreage near UCC. The Board also reviewed potential costs related to various project scenarios. He emphasized that this conversation is intended to be high-level brainstorming. With the right team in place, a common ground and vision can be established to narrow down priorities. The first step is community polling to establish the existing level of community support when considering various levels of facility repairs and improvements. Director Cotton emphasized that our purpose tonight is to reach consensus on whether to pursue a bond, not to suggest any particular amount or determine the specific areas to be addressed.

Director Micki Hall moved to direct administration to begin preparations necessary to pursue a potential bond measure in May 2020. Director Rod Cotton seconded, and the Motion passed by majority vote with Director Charles Lee abstaining.

M1-24 Directed District administration to begin preparations necessary to pursue a bond measure in May 2020

INDIVIDUAL REPORTS BY DIRECTORS:

Director Howard Johnson thanked Janet for noting in the minutes his great-daughter’s selection as 2019 Miss Oregon Princess. Bethel School District recently referenced Roseburg in justifying their superintendent’s raise.

With summer winding down, Director Steve Patterson noted that school doors are open, and teachers began preparing for their school year this week. He thanked administration for preparing for the resulting chaos that will now consume their lives until the end of the school year.

Director Rebecca Larson shared that she had the opportunity to represent the Board at this year’s New Teacher breakfast and the annual employee Kick-Off event held at the Rose Theatre. She noted that we are very fortunate to have such committed staff members dedicated to meeting the needs of kids.

Director Micki Hall thanked Superintendent Cordon for creating a positive start to the 2019-2020 school year, sharing her belief that the start of each school year is even more exciting than Christmas. She read in the paper of Jared’s intention to not use air conditioning in his office and was relieved that the Board Room was air conditioned. She also reported that a former Roseburg student now working in Beaverton shared on Facebook that she was disheartened when Jared left the Beaverton school district, but then became equally excited for Roseburg that he was leaving to come here. Micki thanked Mr. Cordon for his efforts to ‘walk the talk’.

Director Charles Lee shared that his grandson, a new freshman at Jefferson High School in Portland, accepted the challenge to join the Cross-Country team and he is pleased to see schools encouraging students to participate in activities they are unaccustomed to.

Director Rod Cotton pointed out that there is a great deal of work ahead for the Board in supporting an upcoming bond; declared that it is the right thing to do and challenged everyone to be actively involved. He looks forward to working out the details.

Chairman Garcia also acknowledged his fellow board members for coming prepared for the discussion tonight. He expressed his belief that we are presented with a unique/time/circumstance to potentially provide more support for our students and staff. He apologized to the superintendent for hiring him and now saying, “Guess what we are doing?” However, judging by what he has observed already, he believes Jared is game for it. He concluded that this presents an exciting opportunity to do something very special for this community if we are willing to put forth the hard work that will be necessary.

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

ADJOURNMENT: With no further action before the Board, Chairman Garcia adjourned the regular meeting at 8:00 p.m.

Jared P. Cordon, Superintendent

JPC/jlk