

ROSEBURG PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Special School Board Meeting
Electronically via Zoom
1419 NW Valley View Drive
Roseburg, Oregon

Vol 1 No. 23

March 25, 2020

Board Members:

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

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

SCHOOL BOARD SPECIAL MEETING

TIME/PLACE: A special meeting of the Douglas County School District No. 4 Board of Directors was held at 11:30 a.m. on Wednesday, March 25, 2020 in the administrative office Board Room, located at 1419 NW Valley View Drive in Roseburg, Oregon, electronically via Zoom.

CALL TO ORDER: Chairman Garcia welcomed the attendees and called the Board Meeting to order.

ATTENDANCE: Superintendent Cordon and Chief Operations Officer, Cheryl Northam were present, with School Board and Cabinet members attending via Zoom. Directors Johnson and Patterson were excused. Reporter Carisa Cegavske was in attendance via Zoom.

REVIEW OF AGENDA: Superintendent Cordon shared the agenda updates with attendees.

GENERAL OVERVIEW AND UPDATE OF DISTRICT CLOSURE:

Human Resources Director, shared the Governor's essential guidelines for schools:

1. Supplemental learning
2. Food Service
3. Childcare for First Responders and health care providers
4. Mental health supports

MEALS

Chief Operations Officer, Cheryl Northam, shared that we have been serving meals throughout Spring Break at all schools. Beginning March 30th, buses will begin delivering meals along bus routes designed specifically for that purpose. The routes are indicated on our website for parent reference. Meals will also continue to be served at each school. Each person will be provided with a bag lunch as well as a breakfast for the next morning. Families will be encouraged to take enough meals for their households. Superintendent Cordon added that we are preparing to provide up to 8,000 meals per day and are at 1,000 now. We anticipate that this will be a popular option for our student families. The state will be reimbursing districts for mileage for the 27 buses we

have rolling Monday morning. The Lunch Box Express service will be sunset on April 1st and is replaced by the bus meal delivery. This may have the added benefit of individuals needing to go to the store less frequently.

SUPPLEMENTAL EDUCATION / TECHNOLOGY

Teaching & Learning Director, Michelle Knee, informed the group that starting next week, teachers will be making contact with students to begin sharing supplemental learning resources including non-tech, as well as on-line. Many were already anxious to establish contact and have already started this process. Michelle has provided teachers with a Google.doc to facilitate sharing helpful information with each other. Teachers are also making suggestions for family activities. The intention is to provide activities, resources and ideas to stay engaged, rather than packets of worksheets. Items will be shared at the locations where meals are being distributed (bus stops) as well as school sites.

Teachers will also report with the technology staff via Google.docs to identify families lacking necessary devices or internet access. Staff are also working with available internet providers. Our objective is to provide access and equity for all students throughout the school closure. Every teacher is establishing a student contact list and student email is being established for all students, with information posted on the district website. Director Larson reported that her children are currently receiving emails from instructors via ParentVUE. Chairman Garcia received confirmation that the middle school teacher leaders are working on establishing alignment between the schools. Instructors and librarians are helping with identifying resources for families. Principals will be contacting teachers regularly to confirm that contact has been made with our students. Superintendent Cordon will be requesting data to share with the Board confirming that we are following through with the clear expectations set forth for staff.

CHILDCARE

Michelle also updated the Board with the directive from the Governor that school districts provide childcare for health care providers and emergency responders in the Roseburg community. The plan is to potentially provide services at Eastwood, Hucrest, Sunnyslope and Winchester Elementary Schools effective April 1st with three classrooms with a maximum of seven children each and three adults per room. Groups of children will be kept together the entire time they are present, with no intermingling with the other classrooms. The teachers will be encouraged to have the children outside as much as possible and engaged in activities to minimize contact with other children. One administrator and office staff will need to be present as well. The anticipated schedule is 7:30 a.m. through 6:00 p.m. Michelle has been in contact with the Roseburg VA Medical Center as well as AVIVA Health to keep them informed of our progress.

Michelle anticipates submitting the District application for providing childcare to the state later today. Staff have begun ordering supplies and preparing activities. Children will be provided with meals and snacks during their stay. Robert has requested that principals reach out to identify staff members available to fill positions.

HIGH SCHOOL SENIORS

Superintendent Cordon shared that we are working closely with ODE and the governor's office with regard to decisions on amending graduation requirements/credits. Rules are being created to address this issue and we are hopeful of hearing an announcement tomorrow. Mr. Cordon credited Principal Jill Weber and her staff at RHS for having done incredible work identifying where each senior is so that if the requirements are adjusted, we can recalibrate. He also noted that new rules would be for all students over the next four years and we may see a tiered directive. We are most concerned with making sure we are ready to support our students in these next steps, not limited to graduation. Schools are required to reach out to all seniors and discuss with families what changes will look like going forward. If school should reconvene in late April we will need to plan for that

as well. RHS staff is meeting next Monday to begin navigating this directive. Jill expressed hope that students enrolling in courses at UCC be allowed to enroll late. Tuition is not required if our staff can provide the instruction.

FACILITIES / PLAYGROUNDS

Facilities are being monitored throughout the week to prevent damage from potential broken pipes or vandalism. Children have been gathering on playgrounds after receiving meals, but ODE has suggested closing these public areas. It was determined that signs will be posted to discourage public gatherings consistent with the governor's directives.

WEBSITE LAUNCH

Jared announced that we had been excited for the anticipated March 31st launch date for the new district website, but the recent Executive Order has somewhat delayed our efforts. Technology Coordinator, Gary McFarlane, has been asked to move forward with an April 6th launch date. This site will be an important source to provide information about COVID/transportation/nutrition/supplemental learning and to share videos, etc.

BUDGET UPDATES AND ADJUSTED TIMELINES

Chief Operations Officer, Cheryl Northam, reminded the Board that we had initially proposed April 15th as the first Budget Committee Meeting. She suggested delaying that until April 29th to accommodate changes that may come from the upcoming legislative special session. The second meeting could be May 6th. We do anticipate that the meetings will need to be conducted electronically in consideration of the Executive Order.

POTENTIAL DELAY ON CAT TAX

The upcoming legislative short session is expected to include robust conversation about a potential delay in the CAT tax that could potentially impact SIA funding which has previously been Board approved. Any changes would impact upcoming budget discussions. Businesses have not yet begun paying the tax.

POTENTIAL IMPACT ON STATE SCHOOL FUNDS AND STUDENT SUCCESS ACT FUNDS

Keeping in mind current funding reserves, districts are advocating for minimizing potential impacts on the state school fund as well as the Student Success Act funding.

HOMELESS POTENTIALITY AT K-12 SITES

The state is also considering housing homeless populations in school sites, giving rise to concerns about the likelihood of spreading the virus and is problematic for districts like Roseburg who are leading efforts in planning and implementing childcare for first responders.

STUDENT /STAFF RECOGNITION SCHEDULE

Jared acknowledged that our long-standing staff and student recognition program does not lend itself well to electronic Board meetings. Chairman Garcia concurred that there is value in celebrating people, and they deserve to be appropriately recognized. Board members reached consensus to put the recognition program on hold until public meetings are being conducted normally so that family and staff members can attend and be part of the celebration.

SCHOOL BOARD SUB-COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Superintendent Cordon reminded the Board of the important work remaining for Board sub-committees, and suggested moving forward with electronic tools such as Zoom to maintain progress. Board members were agreeable to conducting sub-committee work via Zoom as the district continues to deal with mandated closures

and social distancing.

ON THE HORIZON

Jared updated the Board regarding a donation of 2,000 masks to the Mercy Foundation as PTE is the main concern of health care providers nationally. We are in contact with our community partners as we continue to navigate this mandated closure.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

The construction RFP is on track.

Jared continues to work with our multiple city, state and county providers and shared that those partnerships have grown and deepened during this health crisis over the past month with impacts far beyond schools. Work is pivoting toward work in lobbying at the state level. Funding reserves were significant ahead of any adjustments. Districts are pushing hard with government decision-makers to encourage communication far ahead of additional school closures to allow families adequate time to respond.

Jared thanked the Board for their flexibility and his team for moving forward thoughtfully in these challenging times.

Communication with the public and board will be maintained consistent with what has currently been provided during the closure. Chairman Garcia encouraged everyone to remain flexible to meet upcoming challenges and communication needs. Jared explained that updates will focus on the essential services as outlined by the state such as childcare and supplemental education, etc. Director Micki Hall stated that it was great to see everyone electronically, and thanked district staff for the work they are doing. The superintendent added his thanks to the people at the district who are working hard.

BOARD MEMBER REPORTS

Director Rod Cotton thanked Chairman Garcia and the PAC for their work on the bond, adding that the "Yes for Roseburg Schools" on Facebook is well done.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION: Chairman Garcia inquired if any patrons attending via Zoom wished to address the Board, and there were none.

ADJOURNMENT: With all business before the Board completed, Chairman Garcia called for adjournment at 12:40 p.m.

Jared P. Cordon, Superintendent

JPC/jlk

Next Meeting: April 8, 2020 at 6:00 p.m. via Zoom in the Administrative Office Board Room located at 1419 NW Valley View Drive in Roseburg, Oregon.