

ROSEBURG PUBLIC SCHOOLS

School Board Regular Meeting

Via Zoom

1419 NW Valley View Drive
Roseburg, Oregon

Vol 2 No. 5

August 12, 2020

Board Members:

Brandon Bishop
Rodney Cotton
Micki Hall
Rev. Howard Johnson Exc
Rebecca Larson, Chair
Charles F. Lee
Steve Patterson, Chair

Administration:

Jared P. Cordon, Superintendent
Richard Burton, Director of Student Services
Robert Freeman, Director of Human Resources
Michelle Knee, Assistant Superintendent
Cheryl Northam, Chief Operations Officer

SCHOOL BOARD MEETING

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 12, 2020 in the Administrative Office Board Room, located at 1419 NW Valley View Drive in Roseburg, Oregon, electronically via Zoom link.

CALL TO ORDER / PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE: Board Chair Rebecca Larson welcomed Zoom participants and called the Board Meeting to order, and asked Human Resources Director, Robert Freeman, to lead in the pledge of allegiance.

ATTENDANCE: Board and Cabinet members were in attendance via Zoom, with the exception of Director Johnson, who was excused. Superintendent Cordon, Chair Larson and Assistant Superintendent, Michelle Knee, were on site. Education reporter, Sanne Godfrey, was also in attendance via Zoom.

COMMUNICATIONS TO THE BOARD / REVIEW OF AGENDA

Superintendent Cordon noted that Agenda Item No. 1 – revision to Student Fees, has been added to the agenda. There was also one additional hire included with the Consent Agenda. Jared reminded the Board that Director Johnson was excused tonight and we hope to see him at the next meeting.

CONSENT AGENDA:

Superintendent Cordon presented the Consent Agenda consisting of Approval of the Consent Agenda, Minutes from the July 15th School Board Meeting, Surplus Items Listing and employment recommendations as follows:

- Jeff Fusco, Physical Education Teacher at Eastwood Elementary School;
- Gina Holgate, Special Education, ERC, Teacher at Green Elementary School;
- Conor Nehl, Social Studies Teacher at Roseburg High School; and
- Mark Vinciguerra, Science Teacher at Roseburg High School.

A notice of Resignation was received by the Board:

- Chris Backen, Third Grade Teacher at Fir Grove Elementary, is retiring effective August 3, 2020, after

34 years in the District. Congratulations and Happy Retirement, Chris!

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

M2-18 Approved the Consent Agenda

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION: Chair Larson asked if there was anyone wishing to address the Board, and there were none.

REVISED STUDENT FEES FOR 2020-21:

Chief Operations Officer, Cheryl Northam, explained that the Board has expressed interest in the past to reduce or eliminate student fees. As Superintendent Cordon advised during his July 15th report to the Board, changes are being made to the fee structure in an effort to ensure equitable and inclusive participation in student coursework, activities and athletic offerings. Fees for all school-sponsored athletics and most student fees are greatly reduced for the 2020-2021 school year.

Director Steve Patterson moved to approve the revised 2020-21 Student Fees. Director Micki Hall seconded, and the Motion passed unanimously. Board Chair Larson stated that this is great news for our community as well as a huge step forward for equity.

M2-19 Approved the 2020-21 revised Student Fees

COMMUNITY ELIGIBILITY PROVISION (CEP) for NUTRITION SERVICES: Chief Operations Officer, Cheryl Northam, updated the Board that the district is applying for the Community Eligibility Provision, or CEP with the Oregon Department of Education. Approval for CEP would allow for the district to serve all students free meals while no longer needing to request that parents and guardians fill out an income application. All students will be served meals for no cost and the district will receive federal and state reimbursement based on the rates of free, reduced-price, and paid meals determined by direct certification only multiplied by a 1.6 factor. The district will lose the parent paid portion of the meals served to paid qualifying students but expects to make up the difference by increased overall participation. This will also eliminate the current problem of uncollectable lunch balances.

DESIGNATION OF SUPERVISORY AND CONFIDENTIAL EMPLOYEES

Human Resources Director, Robert Freeman, presented the annual designation of supervisory and confidential employees in accordance with Oregon Collective Bargaining Law.

Director Charles Lee moved to approve the annual designation of supervisory and confidential employees. Director Micki Hall seconded, and the Motion passed unanimously.

M2-20 Approved designation of 2020-21 supervisory and confidential employees

APPROVE UMPQUA COMMUNITY COLLEGE (UCC) ALTERNATIVE EDUCATION SERVICES AGREEMENT FOR 2020-2021

Student Services Director, Rick Burton, provided an overview of the long-standing partnership between the District and UCC in providing alternative education options at the Woolley Center as a drop-out recovery option for students not qualifying for a standard diploma but interested in obtaining a GED in order to pursue employment in the workplace.

Director Brandon Bishop moved to approve the annual Alternative Education Services Agreement with Umpqua Community College (UCC) for 2020-2021. Director Charles Lee seconded, and the Motion passed unanimously.

M2-21 Approved UCC Alternative Education Services Agreement for 2020-2021

CONSIDER PHOENIX CHARTER SCHOOL DRAFT AGREEMENT

Superintendent Cordon again thanked Student Services Director, Rick Burton, for working with Phoenix on the charter sponsorship agreement. The sponsorship agreement was discussed at the August 6th Work Session. Director Hall had previously addressed areas within the agreement that she believed needed correcting, and we are moving forward with goals within the agreement.

Mr. Burton clarified for Director Hall that the draft has eliminated some of the redundancies of the prior agreement and includes specific academic goals based on areas the District agreed needed improvement, such as academic rigor and levels of student attendance, along with graduation rates. The proposed contract will assure accountability and identify roles and responsibilities of each organization. Mr. Burton pointed out that Phoenix does exceptional work with students with Special Education needs, trauma informed, etc., but this contract focuses more on academics, an area that needs to be improved.

Director Charles Lee moved to approve the draft Phoenix Charter School Agreement for 2020-2021. Director Steve Patterson seconded, and the Motion passed unanimously. Chair Larson was assured that the draft will now go to the Phoenix Board for review and approval.

M2-22 Approved Phoenix Charter School Draft Agreement for 2020-21

POLICY JHH: STUDENT SUICIDE PREVENTION, for Second Reading and Adoption

Student Services Director, Rick Burton, reminded the Board that this policy language has been reviewed by the District's Policy Committee and was approved for First Reading at the July 15th School Board Meeting. Mr. Burton pointed out that suicide is the second leading cause of death in youth, and we are training staff to engage with at-risk youth faster to provide necessary supports.

Director Steve Patterson moved to approve Policy JHH: Student Suicide Prevention, for Second Reading and Adoption. Director Charles Lee seconded, and the Motion passed unanimously.

M2-23 Approved Policy JHH: Student Suicide Prevention, for Second Reading and Adoption

POLICY IGBAH-AR: SPECIAL EDUCATION – EVALUATION AND ELIGIBILITY PROCEDURES, for First Reading

Director Burton explained the need for districts to continue the work necessary to ensure students are evaluated through Child Find. Assurance to evaluate all students for any and all suspected disabilities are written into the policy. Staff work through district, community or parent referral to identify students so that services are provided as soon as possible to achieve academic progress.

Director Micki Hall moved to approve Policy IGBAH-AR: Special Education – Evaluation and Eligibility Procedures, for First Reading. Director Steve Patterson seconded, and the Motion passed unanimously.

M2-24 Approved Policy IGBAH-AR: Special Education – Evaluation and Eligibility Procedures, for First Reading

POLICY GBN/JBA; JBA/GBN: SEXUAL HARRASSMENT, for First Reading

Human Resources Director, Robert Freeman, explained that these policies are included within the Personnel (G) and Student (J) sections of our Policies and both contain identical language.

Director Brandon Bishop moved to approve Policy GBN/JBA; JBA/GBN: Sexual Harassment, for First Reading. Director Charles Lee seconded, and the Motion passed unanimously.

M2-25 Approved Policy GBN/JBA; JBA/GBN: Sexual Harassment, for First Reading

SUPERINTENDENT’S REPORT

Superintendent Cordon updated the Board on Monday’s Special Session, where the Oregon Legislature took definitive budgetary actions, including confirmation of a \$9 billion State School Fund, compared to the \$8.7 billion estimated previously. Measure 98 is to be fully funded. Student Investment Accounts (SIA) will be funded at only one-third of the original estimate. There are no changes to the Seismic and Oregon School Capital Improvement Matching Program (OSCIM) Grants. The liability discussion did not make it to the floor of the legislature, but a work group was formed and will be led by Milwaukie Representative Karin Power. Another special session is likely to be announced next month to hopefully address statute flexibility around Division 22 standards during a COVID year. Mr. Cordon pointed out that the new metrics released by the state this week do not apply to our district, as we do not meet the definition of rural and remote county exceptions. This has already led to misperceptions and we continue to expect to hear shifts and changes in the coming weeks.

Superintendent Cordon concluded his report with notice of a delay in the delivery of 900 Chromebooks ordered earlier this summer. We are told to expect that delivery in mid-October or sooner.

INDIVIDUAL REPORTS BY DIRECTORS

Director Micki Hall thanked parents for their understanding and grace. She is personally aware of teachers who have been working since August 1st to prepare for school starting. Administrators at the buildings and district office have done everything they can to make the reopening as good as it can be. Micki expressed the importance of continuing to encourage one another.

Director Steve Patterson echoed Director Hall's thoughts, sharing that state guidance is changing weekly or even daily. He appreciates the Superintendent communicating with our community through radio interviews.

Chair Rebecca Larson echoed Director Hall's request to offer grace to one another and to be patient and kind. Mrs. Larson shared that she is incredibly grateful for everyone who is working so hard; she has observed so much effort when she stops by the principals' offices. Everyone is doing their very best and she is grateful for leadership's wisdom and flexibility as they continue to come up with solutions. Her trust in Roseburg Public Schools has been validated as she observes administrators, teachers and district office staff keeping the best interests of children in their hearts.

Chair Larson also was pleased to share that the Oregon Coaches Association selected Roseburg High School Swim Coach, Christy Todd, to receive the Coach of the Year Award in recognition of her inspirational skill in helping our swimmers accomplish their goals.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION:

Amanda Mendoza, a member of the Muscogee Creek Nation, shared her experience growing up in Roseburg, most of which was amazing and positive. However, her darker-skinned family members did experience discrimination. Ms. Mendoza noted that Roseburg has a reputation and history of being unaccepting of people outside of the dominant culture. Allowing the use of an ethnic group as the high school mascot has the potential to solidify that reputation for people. It also carries the risk of negatively impacting student social identities. A change of the mascot in schools could help students learn critical thinking skills, social justice and to love and respect all people. Ms. Mendoza asked the Board to reconsider the high school mascot, stating that she wants her children to see native and indigenous people in roles that they aspire to such as teachers and firefighters or contestants on American Ninja Warrior, or whatever they are interested in. She would rather see them in those roles than seeing their ethnicity placed on a football field or a letterman jacket.

Chair Larson thanked Ms. Mendoza for sharing her comments.

ADJOURNMENT: With all business before the Board concluded, Chair Larson adjourned the meeting at 7:03 p.m.

Jared P. Cordon, Superintendent
JPC/jlk

Next Meeting: August 26, 2020 at 6:00 p.m. in the Administrative Office Board Room, located at 1419 NW Valley View Drive in Roseburg Oregon via Zoom link.