

# ROSEBURG PUBLIC SCHOOLS

## School Board Regular Meeting and Board Work Session

### Via Zoom

1419 NW Valley View Drive  
Roseburg, Oregon

Vol 2 No. 4

August 6, 2020

#### Board Members:

Brandon Bishop   
Rodney Cotton   
Micki Hall   
Rev. Howard Johnson   
Rebecca Larson, Chair   
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, 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 3:00 p.m. on Thursday, August 6, 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 Assistant Superintendent, Michelle Knee, to lead in the pledge of allegiance.

**ATTENDANCE:** All Board and Cabinet members were in attendance via Zoom. 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 reminded attendees that a regular meeting was added to the Work Session earlier in the week. There were no changes to the agenda.

Chair Larson took a moment prior to Public Participation to share the following brief message:

“I would like to take a moment to acknowledge the messages our School Board and district staff have received over the past several weeks regarding the names of some of our school buildings as well as renewed interest in our high school mascot. We have heard from patrons who have expressed opinions on both sides of the matter and want you to know that we appreciate that our community members are reaching out with their thoughts, suggestions, and concerns.

The Board would like to assure our patrons that all community input will be taken into account as we begin the process of addressing school and mascot names.

Roseburg Public Schools’ strategic plan is rooted in equity with the goal of providing safe and inclusive environments for all students, staff and families. The Board shares and is committed to upholding these

values. That being said, we want to address this process in a manner that we can give it our attention and the time it needs to do it correctly.

As we begin a process to address school and mascot names, these values will help guide and inform our work. Right now, as we are focused on equity and education of our students, we really have directed our attention on our reopening plan and how we can best serve our students, right now. There's some immediacy to the attention that we need to give the reopening.

Again, I would like to thank everyone who has shared their thoughts on these matters and we look forward to sharing more about our process, as it is developed and refined."

**PUBLIC PARTICIPATION:** Chair Larson noted that this is her inaugural meeting as Board Chair, reminded the audience who wish to share during Public Participation to keep comments brief and explained that Board members would not be replying to public comments. There was no one wishing to address the Board.

**APPROVE 2020-21 BACK TO SCHOOL PLAN:**

Superintendent Cordon welcomed participants, acknowledging the impact the pandemic has had on us, and reminding everyone of the need to focus on care and connection as we consider returning to school.

Jared shared the "Start Strong, Stay Strong" slide presentation, including:

- What does a Strong Start look like?
- Why do we need a Strong Start?
- Mandated Metrics
- Additional Considerations
- How will we ensure a Strong Start?
- PD Schedule – August 31 – September 8
- Key Dates: 1) October 5 2) November 2
- Stay Strong
- Yearlong Comprehensive Remote Learning Option

The Superintendent emphasized that the insurance provider in Oregon for most school districts, PACE, is no longer providing liability insurance for communicable disease, including COVID 19. This is a significant consideration for school boards as we consider reopening plans.

Our Start Strong, Stay Strong plan being proposed today includes:

- School year to begin as planned on August 31<sup>st</sup>
- Begin meal delivery that day
- Adjust first day of school to September 8
- Assure staff/students/families are ready for a strong start
- Heavy dose of professional development
- Supports to families
- Look at delayed start

The State Board of Education adjusted Division 22 requirements to allow time spent on activities preparing students and parents to ensure a smooth start to be counted as instructional hours. No extension of the school calendar will be required.

Even though there are exceptions to allow K-3 to start sooner, we are recommending that remote

comprehensive learning begin September 8<sup>th</sup> transitioning to in person instruction on October 5<sup>th</sup> at the earliest. Grades 4-12 are to remain in comprehensive remote learning through November 2<sup>nd</sup> allowing secondary students to get .5 credit.

By setting dates in advance, we are assuring predictability and consistency for students and families.

We have developed the District's Operational Blueprint for School Reentry 2020-21, and many things must be done to operationalize in order for processes and practices in the buildings to be practiced and routine in the event we experience an active case in a building. In valuing parents and honoring their decisions whether to have their student return to school full time, those wishing to remain in remote learning will have the option to do so with assistance from our licensed and qualified teachers.

Board members voiced many questions specific to the reopening dates and acknowledged that there are multiple unknowns in whether the metrics will be met. Director Hall agreed with Director Bishop that children are best served in person but advised caution in the transition. Chair Larson reported that after meeting with the Superintendent and Assistant Superintendent, she was assured that we will be following school schedules and instruction will be delivered consistently at the same time, an improvement over last Spring. She expressed concern that some of our children are not getting adequate food and care. Director Rod Cotton shared that parents he has heard from wants kids back in school, safely. He trusts our school officials to handle those decisions and if circumstances warrant, we can still opt for distance learning. Director Charles Lee pointed out that no plan can make everyone happy. It's unknown whether distance learning can be as effective as being in front of teachers but getting kids back to class is probably better.

Director Micki Hall moved to approve the 2020-21 Back to School Plan. Director Brandon Bishop seconded, and the Motion passed unanimously.

M2-17 Approved the 2020-21 Back to School Plan
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**RECESS TO ENTER INTO BOARD WORK SESSION:** With scheduled business before the Board concluded, Chair Larson recessed the regular session to convene a Board Work Session at approximately 3:35 p.m.

### **BOARD WORK SESSION**

#### **CAPITAL BOND MEASURE RECAP – BOARD INPUT**

Superintendent Cordon invited feedback from the Board regarding this year's bond measure. Director Charles Lee shared that considering circumstances resulting in the inability to pursue activities this spring, he felt that the results were positive. He was interested in how distance learning might affect physical plant needs in the future.

Director Rod Cotton expressed that nothing has changed; we still have buildings that are a safety risk with poor air movement, etc., including a building on the high school campus that needs tearing down or major remodeling. Director Cotton advocated to come back with a proposal in a like amount next year to address safety, security and air quality.

Director Micki Hall concurred with Mr. Cotton, adding that after five months dealing with COVID, air quality is even more important, along with safety, security and infrastructure to support a robust technology program.

Board members are elected to take care of our students. Mrs. Hall noted that a good job was done in light of the resulting communication challenges and this community not having a strong history of passing bonds. Not every voter looks at all the issues on a ballot, especially when a measure is located on the back side. Director Johnson expressed several insights, including people being out of work and some voters decline to vote on issues that they have no interest in, or may not understand a Yes/No question. Director Brandon Bishop, new to the Board this July, shared hearing more negative comments from the older population. He suggested efforts to educate the public regarding the benefits of a bond, including increased medical care and professionals attracted to our community. Chair Larson indicated her interest in again moving forward in November 2021.

Superintendent Cordon suggested the Board consider a future Work Session to further explore potential avenues. Director Micki Hall shared that PAC members Alex Palm and Steve Loosley and others have expressed willingness to continue in that capacity to help improve the District. Superintendent Cordon agreed that we have professional capital willing to continue the work that would be essential in a future effort.

### **PHOENIX CHARTER SCHOOL DRAFT AGREEMENT**

Superintendent Cordon thanked Student Services Director, Rick Burton, for working with Phoenix on the charter sponsorship agreement. He requested that the Board review the draft and forward any suggestions prior to the next Board Meeting. Oregon Statute requires the agreement to be finalized by September 8<sup>th</sup>, but the intent is to complete the necessary work by August 15<sup>th</sup>. Director Micki Hall shared that she is proud of the work Mr. Burton has done so far on the draft agreement. Director Charles Lee referenced the attachments and stated that the new agreement will be much clearer. Chair Larson echoed the comments of her colleagues and shared that the simplified metrics and goals will be useful for both organizations in understanding expectations.

### **PUBLIC PARTICIPATION:**

Sunnyslope Teacher, Pam Menzies, shared that the health of teachers is important to her and would like to see the safeguards put in place for K-3 be the same for all grades. She expressed concern over distance spacing on school buses and thanked Superintendent Cordon for providing consistency, clarity and predictability for school families who appreciate all the hard work.

Beaverton resident and Klamath Tribe member, Jessica Bascom, a 2002 RHS graduate, addressed the Board following up on her online petition to change the name of the RHS mascot, alleging that the pandemic of racism in our country is as deadly as COVID and expressed her opinion that a delay in responding to removing something she considers harmful to native youth was unacceptable.

Chair Larson thanked both participants for their comments.

**ADJOURNMENT:** With all business before the Board concluded, Chair Larson adjourned the meetings at 4:04 p.m.

**Jared P. Cordon, Superintendent**  
JPC/jlk

**Next Meeting:** August 12, 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.