

# ROSEBURG PUBLIC SCHOOLS

**School Board Regular Meeting  
and Executive Session  
Via Zoom**

1419 NW Valley View Drive  
Roseburg, Oregon

Vol 2 No. 9

October 14, 2020

**Board Members:**

- Brandon Bishop
- Rodney Cotton
- Micki Hall
- Rev. Howard Johnson Exc
- Rebecca Larson, Chair
- Charles F. Lee
- Steve Patterson, Vice 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, October 14, 2020 in the Administrative Office Board Room, located at 1419 NW Valley View Drive in Roseburg, Oregon, electronically via Zoom link and immediately followed by an Executive Session.

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

**ATTENDANCE:** Board and Cabinet members were in attendance via Zoom, with Director Rodney Cotton, Director Howard Johnson excused. Chair Larson, Assistant Superintendent, Michelle Knee, and Chief Operations Officer, Cheryl Northam were on site, with Superintendent Cordon joining in from Utah. The Superintendent shared that Director Johnson continues to improve. Education reporter, Sanne Godfrey, and Roseburg High School Leadership student, Marin Gray, joined the meeting via Zoom.

### COMMUNICATIONS TO THE BOARD / REVIEW OF AGENDA

Superintendent Cordon announced that Agenda Item No. 5, Policy KJ, and No. 6, Policy FF had been added to the agenda for first reading. Chair Larson announced that Superintendent Cordon is a newly-minted grandfather, and added that we can now call him “gramps”.

### CONSENT AGENDA:

The Consent Agenda was presented, consisting of Approval of the Consent Agenda, Minutes from the September 23rd School Board Meeting, Gifts to the District and the following employment recommendation:

**Recommendation for Employment:**

- Sean Shea, Music Teacher at Melrose and Winchester Elementary Schools, a temporary position for the 2020-21 school year.

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

M2-48 Approved the Consent Agenda
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**PUBLIC PARTICIPATION:** Chair Larson asked if there was anyone wishing to address the Board, and there were none.

**PHOENIX CHARTER SCHOOL SPONSORSHIP AGREEMENT**

Chair Larson invited the Superintendent to present the proposed agreement, acknowledging that she had attended some of the meetings as well. Superintendent Cordon announced that the District and Phoenix have reached a tentative agreement that now required Board approval. The successor agreement contains several language changes to achieve clarity. The effort required considerable lift on the part of Student Services Director, Rick Burton, and we appreciate the time and expertise that this required.

Director Lee reflected his interest in hearing about the measurement standards to determine if Phoenix is succeeding or not. Mr. Burton explained that the ORS and OARs from the prior agreement needed to be brought up to date, along with contract language. Rick referenced the three appendices within the agreement, noting that Phoenix is already showing improvement in student participation. Thomas McGregor and Brandy Osborn began working with teams in looking at student enrichment opportunities for returning students.

Both organizations prioritized SpEd services for students and Phoenix has hired a SpEd teacher to provide SDI. Phoenix is also integrating student assessments to improve outcomes for the four-year cohort. Chair Larson added that the prior agreement was not in compliance with current law and this agreement corrects that. The agreement provides for quarterly progress reviews to evaluate if standards are being met annually. The agreement is a huge improvement in outlining expectations for student performance, graduation rates, attendance, etc.

Director Hall inquired about the cost of legal fees specific to this agreement and was informed that currently they have been \$12,500 with an additional billing expected. Cheryl Northam will provide an estimate of what expected annual costs will be related to the new agreement. Director Hall questioned voting for the agreement due to academic standards not having been met over the previous five years.

Mr. Burton responded that this agreement was designed to improve accountability, focusing on attendance, graduation rates and improvements in standardized tests and increased involvement of both Boards. Phoenix has a renewed commitment to academic performance and participation in District Teaching and Learning opportunities. Director Hall also requested clarification of the Phoenix Code of Conduct and any provision for drug testing, explaining that a previous response to an earlier inquiry was inadequate. Mr. Burton also explained that Phoenix has implemented professional learning teams; is reviewing formative grading practices and grade level testing to catch students where they are at, along with increasing academic rigor.

Director Charles Lee speculated that with COVID and distance learning, assessment and engagement will be challenging. Mr. Burton acknowledged that the plan is not a COVID plan but rather for in-person and hybrid models.

Director Hall also expressed concern with regard to academic objectives and standards, noting that the student attendance rate is under 70%, extremely low by any measure. Mr. Burton responded that the initial expectations are progressive and not what we are wanting, but rather hoping that students will far exceed if we follow the goals, communicate effectively and work collaboratively in this partnership.

Director Patterson moved to approve the sponsorship agreement. Director Charles Lee seconded.

Director Hall shared for the record that Phoenix performance standards are abysmally low, and the expected success rate should be commensurate with traditional schools. Research shows that unless goals are set higher, students will continue to drown in a lack of expectations, and she feels this is the wrong way to go about making improvements.

The Motion passed by majority, with Director Micki Hall voting against.

M2-49 Approved the sponsorship agreement between the District and Phoenix Charter School, effective July 1, 2020 through June 30, 2025 to provide instruction to students in grades 8-12.

#### **FIRST STUDENT 2021-2022 ONE YEAR RENEWAL ADDENDUM**

Chief Operations Officer, Cheryl Northam, shared that we are in the final year of a five-year contract with First Student for student transportation. Our existing agreement may be extended by mutual agreement for five additional one-year periods. Agreement extensions must be approved for the following year by November 1<sup>st</sup> of the preceding school year. Any price increases will be guided via CPI all consumer groups to be determined in March of 2021. The District is asking for approval to extend for the 2021-22 school year, adding that we have appreciated the partnership with First Student as they assisted with the delivery of meals and devices to our students during the pandemic.

Director Micki Hall moved to approve the one-year renewal addendum with First Student for 2021-22. Director Brandon Bishop seconded, and the Motion passed unanimously.

M2-50 Approved the 2021-2022 One Year Renewal Addendum with First Student, our student transportation provider.

#### **STUDENT SUCCESS ACT – STUDENT INVESTMENT ACCOUNT: GRANT No. 13626**

Assistant Superintendent, Michelle Knee, presented her proposal to approve Grant No. 13626, pursuant to the Student Success Act – Student Investment Account, providing \$1,471,801.13 in funding to support student mental or behavioral health needs; increasing academic achievement; reducing academic disparities for students from racial or ethnic groups that have historically experienced academic disparities; students with

disabilities; English Language Learners; economically disadvantaged students; students who are homeless and students who are foster children. Michelle advised that the funding represents only one-third of the originally anticipated funding pursuant to SIA funding reductions.

Director Micki Hall moved to approve Grant No. 13626 in the final award amount of \$1,471,801.13. Director Steve Patterson seconded, and the Motion passed unanimously.

M2-51 Approved Student Investment Account  
Grant No. 13626 for \$1,471,801.13

### **APPROVE NOTICE OF INTENT TO AWARD ENGINEERING SERVICES FOR FREMONT MIDDLE SCHOOL SEISMIC REHABILITATION**

Purchasing Supervisor, Denny Austin, announced that RFP 20-588 Engineering Services – Fremont Seismic Upgrade, was published on September 10, 2020. Of the 50 firms interested in the posting, only three firms submitted responses. On October 2<sup>nd</sup>, the evaluation team of Cheryl Northam, Tracy Grauf, Fremont Principal Ben Bentea and Denny Austin evaluated and scored the submissions. The highest scored responses moved into the second phase of reference checks.

The team has recommended that the District notify all proposers of the intent to award Engineering Services for Fremont Middle School Seismic Rehabilitation to ZCS Engineering.

Director Micki Hall moved to direct the District to offer a contract to ZCS Engineering and notify all proposers of the intent to award Engineering Services as recommended by the evaluation team. Director Steve Patterson seconded, and the Motion passed unanimously.

M2-52 Directed administration to offer a contract and notify all proposers of the intent to award Engineering Services for Fremont Middle School Seismic Rehabilitation project to ZCS Engineering

### **POLICY KJ: COMMERCIAL ADVERTISING, for First Reading**

Human Resources Director, Robert Freeman, explained that during conversations regarding the mascot, it was apparent that we lacked an avenue to discuss a mascot through policy. After researching the matter, it was determined that Policy FF appears to be the best fit. There is also an impact on Policy KJ, and that is the purpose for reviewing these policies to better align practices.

Director Micki Hall moved to approve Policy KJ: Commercial Advertising, for First Reading. Director Charles Lee seconded, and the Motion passed unanimously.

M2-53 Approved Policy KJ: Commercial Advertising, for First Reading

### **POLICY FF: NAMING FACILITIES, for First Reading**

Human Resources Director, Robert Freeman, explained that we are recommending that mascots be incorporated into this existing policy. Both Policy FF and KJ were reviewed by the District Policy Committee on September 18, 2020 and referred on to the Board for First Reading.

Director Charles Lee moved to approve Policy FF: Naming Facilities, for First Reading. Director Brandon Bishop seconded, and the Motion passed unanimously.

M2-54 Approved Policy FF: Naming Facilities, for First Reading
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### **SUPERINTENDENT’S REPORT**

Superintendent Cordon thanked the Board for their trust in allowing he and his wife to enjoy their trip to greet their new grandchild. He reflected that the experienced has reinforced his belief that all children are miracles, and we are blessed to serve over 6,000 of those miracles every day. Our District has great, dedicated professionals who do amazing work with kids and Jared is thankful for all staff, regardless of what they do to serve kids. In continuing efforts to listen to our stakeholders, surveys are going out to kids and staff to reinforce that we are serious about supporting what we expect. We need to hear how they are doing and the challenges they face.

In attempting to strike a balance between keeping kids, staff and the community safe, Jared pointed out that the latest metrics don’t support our plan to bring kids back November 2<sup>nd</sup>. Across the state, we have seen increases each week. He pointed out that we are hearing that the health metrics may be adjusted, and the state suspended the state rate in October. Since we may not see rates below 5 percent for some time, we need more information of how remote learning is working, and the challenges and successes of students are experiencing. A communication will be shared with parents and staff soon to begin working on a new marker date. Our District needs to see three consecutive weeks of less than ten cases per 100,000.

### **INDIVIDUAL REPORTS BY DIRECTORS**

Director Charles Lee reported receiving reports from parents having mixed experiences and shared his belief that it would be good to get kids back in school safely. We are deferring to state government, and he wishes local districts had more control.

Director Brandon Bishop shared that he has four children in the system, with one attending in person and the other three remote. The in-person child is excited every day, along with one of the remote learners. The other two are really struggling. Director Bishop thanked teachers for their efforts in dealing with the challenges of children who are struggling to grasp concepts.

Director Steve Patterson reported that he would love to have kids back in brick and mortar schools, face to face with teachers, but understands we have to follow the metrics to do so as safely as possible. Some of those are out of our control. He suggested communicating via a dashboard on the District website since people are not necessarily understanding. The state may modify the metrics and need to communicate often in order not to appear to have a knee-jerk reaction. He echoed Director Bishop’s thoughts that this is not easy for anyone, especially the teachers. He added his appreciation for everyone’s efforts to do our best with what we have.

Director Micki Hall thanked Superintendent Cordon, Chair Larson and Director Burton for working with her on the Phoenix renewal. She also thanked Phoenix for being patient with her. She added a shout out for District Office administration and staff for the K-3 reopening. She has observed nothing but excitement. She also gave a shout out to teachers in the trenches, and parents in the trenches. The learning curve for everyone involved is huge. All stakeholders deserve a pat on the back.

Chair Rebecca Larson reflected that her colleagues are expressing what she is feeling as well. Her first grader is

very happy to be back at school, and apparently they were visited by rock stars today. As Director Lee noted, we have very little control over the metrics and need to determine the best response. She is excited to learn what our staff and families are thinking about how we can improve. It has been a privilege to hear teachers interact with her children every day and has increased her appreciation and admiration – we have an amazing staff. Rebecca thanked everyone for showing up every day and doing their best in these difficult times.

**PUBLIC PARTICIPATION:**

Chair Larson inquired if there was anyone who wished to address the Board, and there were none.

**ADJOURNMENT:** With regular business before the Board concluded, Chair Larson recessed the regular meeting at 7:56 p.m. to convene an Executive Session. Participants in the Zoom session were informed that they could remain in the “waiting room” if they wished to address the Board during Public Participation following the conclusion of the Executive Session.

**BOARD EXECUTIVE SESSION**

**CALL TO ORDER:** Chair Rebecca Larson brought the Board Executive Session to order at 7:58 in accordance with ORS 192.660(2)(i). Attendance included the School Board and Superintendent Cordon, with Director Johnson joining the Zoom session. The Board and Superintendent discussed goals for 2020-21 and suggested meeting again immediately following the October 28<sup>th</sup> meeting to formalize the goals so that Superintendent Cordon can begin developing the rubric the Board can utilize in their annual assessment.

Board Chair Larson recessed the Executive Session at 8:53 p.m. and reconvened the regular meeting.

**PUBLIC PARTICIPATION:**

Chair Larson inquired if there was anyone remaining in the waiting room who wished to address the Board. Education Reporter, Sanne Godfrey, congratulated Superintendent Cordon on becoming a grandparent, adding that there are some moments in life you just can't get back.

Chair Larson thanked everyone for their participation.

**ADJOURNMENT:** With all business before the Board concluded, Chair Larson adjourned the regular meeting at 8:56 p.m.

**Jared P. Cordon, Superintendent**

JPC/jlk

**Next Meeting:** October 28, 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.