

ROSEBURG PUBLIC SCHOOLS

School Board Regular Meeting and Executive Session Via Zoom

1419 NW Valley View Drive
Roseburg, Oregon

Vol 2 No. 10

October 28, 2020

Board Members:

Brandon Bishop	<input type="checkbox"/>
Rodney Cotton	<input type="checkbox"/>
Micki Hall	<input type="checkbox"/>
Rev. Howard Johnson	<input type="checkbox"/>
Rebecca Larson, Chair	<input type="checkbox"/>
Charles F. Lee	<input type="checkbox"/>
Steve Patterson, Vice Chair	<input type="checkbox"/>

Administration:

Jared P. Cordon, Superintendent	<input type="checkbox"/>
Richard Burton, Director of Student Services	<input type="checkbox"/>
Robert Freeman, Director of Human Resources	<input type="checkbox"/>
Michelle Knee, Assistant Superintendent	<input type="checkbox"/>
Cheryl Northam, Chief Operations Officer	<input type="checkbox"/>

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 28, 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 Superintendent Jared Cordon to lead in the pledge of allegiance.

ATTENDANCE: Board and Cabinet members were in attendance via Zoom. Superintendent Cordon, Chair Larson, Assistant Superintendent, Michelle Knee, and Chief Operations Officer, Cheryl Northam were on site. 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, First Student Contract Approval was added.

CONSENT AGENDA:

The Consent Agenda was presented, consisting of Approval of the Consent Agenda, Minutes from the October 14th School Board Meeting, Gifts to the District and the following employment recommendation:

Recommendation for Employment:

- Matt Hill, District Technology Coordinator.

Director Brandon Bishop moved to approve the Consent Agenda as presented. Vice Chair Steve Patterson seconded, and the Motion passed unanimously.

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

DIVISION 22 ASSURANCES

Assistant Superintendent Knee shared that on April 16, 2020, the Oregon Department of Education adopted a rule that, in recognition of the pandemic, the number of standards required to be met had been lowered. Michelle shared that our District is in compliance in all of the areas required. Michelle will be submitting this report to ODE by the due date, November 1, 2020.

Director Lee questioned our compliance regarding the Talented and Gifted program and Assistant Superintendent Knee noted that we have always been in compliance on this, but that we deemed this to be an area that we needed to work on. Director Lee expressed doubt with regard to compliance considering the disruptions pursuant to the Coronavirus. Michelle reassured him that there were changes made, including the addition of Distance Learning for All, and that we have met the requirements for all areas.

POLICY ACB: All Students Belong, for First Reading

Human Resources Director, Robert Freeman explained that this policy was one that was passed by the Oregon State Board of Education and the District is expected to have it adopted by January 1, 2021. Mr. Freeman explained that the Board of Education requested that this policy be adopted as written. Director Lee recommended modifications that simplified the policy to only include the required adopted items.

Director Cotton expressed his concern that other Board members should be reviewing policies. Director Lee acknowledged that there could be more discussion by the committee and/or full Board, but in this particular instance the language, as well as the timeline were both very limited. Director Hall recommended that the documents, including the original policy received from OSBA, the minutes from the meeting and Director Lee’s notes on his recommended changes to the policy be sent to the Board. Chair Larson asked that in the future we send a copy of the agenda, as well as an invitation to attend Policy Committee meetings to all Board members. Chair Larson also asked if policies should be pre-screened by the Board prior to being reviewed by the Policy Committee.

Director Micki Hall moved to approve Policy ACB: All Students Belong, for First Reading. Vice Chair Steve Patterson seconded, and the Motion passed by majority with Director Howard Johnson voting against.

POLICY KJ: COMMERCIAL ADVERTISING, for Second Reading and Adoption

Human Resources Director, Robert Freeman, shared that this policy was reviewed by the Policy Committee on September 18, 2020, and that this policy followed on the heels of Policy FF, adding verbiage to address advertising specific to facilities and mascots.

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

M2-57 Approved Policy KJ: Commercial Advertising, for Second Reading and Adoption

POLICY FF: NAMING FACILITIES, for Second Reading and Adoption

Human Resources Director, Robert Freeman, shared that this policy along with Policy KJ were reviewed by the District Policy Committee on September 18, 2020, addressing the naming of facilities and mascots.

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

M2-58 Approved Policy FF: Naming Facilities, for Second Reading and Adoption

FIRST STUDENT 2021-2026 FIVE YEAR CONTRACT RENEWAL

Chief Operations Officer, Cheryl Northam, shared that she had been contacted by First Student with a proposal that if approved, the new contract would be approved for five consecutive years with addition of a clause that even if the Consumer Price Index (CPI) goes above 3%, the district's rate remain below 3%. The contract language provides for a 3 percent increase for the current year, followed by 2.5 percent increases in the remaining four years. Currently, our transportation costs are approximately \$3.6 million dollars per year and a .5 percent reduction would result in savings of approximately \$180,000.

Director Lee inquired as to whether or not the District's need for bus service will change with the increase in distance learning. Mrs. Northam noted that First Student has been very accommodating to the District's needs throughout these interesting times.

Director Micki Hall moved to approve the five-year renewal addendum with First Student for 2021-26. Director Howard Johnson seconded, and the Motion passed unanimously.

M2-59 Approved the 2021-2026 Five Year Contract Renewal Proposal with First Student, our student transportation provider.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Superintendent Cordon shared a series of videos 'Bright Spots at Roseburg Public Schools', highlighting the great work staff is doing despite the fact that their students are not necessarily on-site with them. Additionally, Superintendent Cordon shared some of the high points for the school year-to-date, including: the distribution of nearly 4,400 devices and over 300 hot spots to families who need them, over 50,000 meals provided to students and the approximately 700 Coho salmon juveniles that are being housed at the Eastwood Elementary hatchery following the damage that was sustained by the Rock Creek Hatchery during the recent catastrophic wildfires.

INDIVIDUAL REPORTS BY DIRECTORS

Director Johnson shared that his health has greatly improved, he is home from the hospital and rehabilitation center and has been released from dialysis. Director Johnson's fellow Board members expressed their pleasure in "seeing" him back at the meetings.

Chair Larson inquired about the status of the previously ordered Chromebooks. Assistant Superintendent Knee let her know that at this time part of our order is in transit and is awaiting clearance by Customs. A second shipment is expected in mid-November. Chair Larson asked if any outstanding requests remain to be filled. Assistant Superintendent Knee responded that currently all requests have been filled. Chair Larson noted that staff have reached their limits, but they are ultimately discovering ways to make the best of a difficult situation.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION:

Chair Larson inquired if there was anyone who wished to address the Board:

- Mr. McCurry, a middle school parent, expressed his concern about a book being used in 8th grade English at Joseph Lane Middle School. Chair Larson explained the District’s protocol for addressing situations in school: 1) to address the situation with the teacher; and if not resolved, 2) speak to the Principal. Mr. McCurry noted that his conversations with the teacher and Vice Principal were to no avail. Chair Larson recommended that Mr. McCurry contact Superintendent Cordon or Assistant Superintendent Knee. Assistant Superintendent Knee let Mr. McCurry know that she would be providing her email address in the chat area for him to send her an email regarding the situation and she would assist him. Chair Larson explained that the Board may hear complaints during the Public Participation portion of meetings, but may not respond.

ADJOURNMENT: With the regular business before the Board concluded, Chair Larson recessed the regular meeting at 6:45 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 6:46 p.m. in accordance with ORS 192.660(2)(i). Attendance included the School Board and Superintendent Cordon. The Board and Superintendent discussed the Superintendent’s goals for 2020-21.

Chair Larson adjourned the Executive Session at 7:29 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; there were no individuals.

Chair Larson thanked everyone for their participation.

ADJOURNMENT: With all business before the Board concluded, Chair Larson adjourned the regular meeting at 7:30 p.m.

Jared P. Cordon, Superintendent
JPC/sdt

Next Meeting: November 18, 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.