

ROSEBURG PUBLIC SCHOOLS

School Board Regular Meeting

Via Zoom

1419 NW Valley View Drive
Roseburg, Oregon

Vol 2 No. 11

November 18, 2020

Board Members:

Brandon Bishop
Rodney Cotton
Micki Hall
Rev. Howard Johnson
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, November 18, 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 Director Rod Cotton to lead in the pledge of allegiance.

ATTENDANCE: Board and Cabinet members were in attendance via Zoom. Superintendent Cordon, Chair Larson 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 there were no changes to the published agenda.

CONSENT AGENDA:

The Consent Agenda was presented, consisting of Approval of the Consent Agenda, Minutes from the October 28th School Board Meeting, Gifts to the District and Surplus Items and the following employment recommendations:

Recommendations for Employment:

- Andrea Stanley, Fullerton IV Elementary School Music Teacher, a temporary position for the 2020-21 school year; and
- Jennifer Fischer, Teaching and Learning Support Specialist, Joseph Lane Middle School, a PERS working retiree. This will be a temporary contract for the 2020-21 school year.

Notice of Resignation:

- Jennifer Fischer, Teaching and Learning Support Specialist, Joseph Lane Middle School, who is retiring for PERS purposes following 30 years in the district;
- Amy Smith, 3rd Grade Distance Learning Teacher, resigning after one year in the district to stay home with family; and
- Jeffrey Fisher, Music Teacher at Fullerton IV, resigning after three years in the district due to licensure issues.

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

M2-60 Approved the Consent Agenda

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

LICENSED STAFF REPRESENTATIVE REPORT

Camron Pope, Roseburg Education Association (REA) Representative and 5th Grade Teacher at Eastwood Elementary School, David Morrocco 8th Grade Teacher at Joseph Lane Middle School and Katherine Mahoney 1st Grade Teacher at Green Elementary School, spoke about how grateful they are that district is taking into consideration the well-being of staff, as well as students and the negative impacts for all with the back and forth of on-site and distance learning. Mr. Pope expressed, on behalf of the Association, thankfulness for participating in the delay, noting that it is the right thing to do.

Director Lee conveyed his appreciation of the staff and their presentations and pointed out that getting kids back to school is not the same as returning to “normal” and that the numbers require a balancing act. Charles inquired if the teachers are pleased with the outcomes of their input to the state. Mr. Pope acknowledged that the tools that teachers were previously pulling from their toolboxes have changed and there has been a great learning curve, but the growth has been amazing. As far as suggestions passed along to ODE there probably was not a whole lot influence, but most certainly there has been with the District.

SUPERINTENDENT & BOARD GOALS FOR 2020-2021

Superintendent Cordon noted that the main thing at the forefront of everyone’s mind is getting kids and staff back to school safely. The Strategic Plan and goals presented do a great job of striking a balance of prioritizing both the important and the urgent. The safety of students and staff are a responsibility and a moral obligation. We also need to invest time and energy in moving forward to support our students, staff and community with the Strategic Plan. As Mr. Cordon pointed out, the success of our district, now and in the future, is dependent upon our Superintendent giving equally what he expects of staff.

Director Patterson expressed his appreciation of the plan and the fact that all the work being done is focused toward the goals. Director Hall noted that she too likes this plan.

Director Micki Hall moved to approve the 2020-2021 Superintendent & Board Goals as presented. Director Brandon Bishop seconded, and the Motion passed unanimously.

M2-61 Approved the Superintendent/Board Goals for 2020-21

APPROVE 2021 BUDGET CALENDAR

Chief Operations Officer, Cheryl Northam, presented the proposed 2021 Budget Calendar. The first committee meeting is scheduled for April 21, 2021 and the calendar meets all statutory requirements.

Vice Chair Patterson moved to approve the proposed 2021 Budget Calendar as presented. Director Micki Hall seconded, and the Motion passed unanimously.

M2-62 Approved the 2021 Budget Calendar

OREGON SCHOOL BOARD ASSOCIATION RESOLUTIONS:

Support OSBA Board of Directors Position No. 9

Chair Larson explained that this is an action that individual Board Members may take, but it is not one that the entire Board is required to take. This information on this candidate can be found on pages 13-19 in the Board Packet.

No motion or vote was taken on this Action item.

Adopt proposed 2021-22 OSBA Legislative Priorities and Policies:

Director Charles Lee moved to adopt the 2021-22 OSBA Legislative Priorities and Policies. Director Micki Hall seconded, and the Motion passed by a majority with Director Rod Cotton voting against. Director Cotton explained his preference that the resolution be more specific.

M2-63 Adopted proposed 2021-22 OSBA Legislative Priorities and Policies

POLICY ACB: All Students Belong, for Second Reading and Adoption

Human Resources Director, Robert Freeman introduced the title of the policy and deferred any questions to Director Lee. There were no questions.

Director Brandon Bishop moved to approve Policy ACB: All Students Belong, for Second Reading and Adoption. Director Charles Lee seconded, and the Motion passed by majority with Director Howard Johnson voting against.

Director Johnson noted that this policy should not be approved while we still have a mascot that does not, in his opinion, represent all students; particularly leaving out Native Americans. Chair Larson noted that this policy lays the groundwork for moving in the direction toward a change in the mascot. Director Hall explained that the adoption of this policy was directed by the state and that while change of mascot will could be addressed by a different policy; one cannot essentially exist without the other.

M2-64 Approved Policy ACB: All Students
Belong, for Second Reading and Adoption

SUPERINTENDENT’S REPORT

Superintendent Cordon’s agenda this evening included two items: a COVID-19 update and the State of Oregon Revenue Forecast. First up, Superintendent Cordon shared that the current trends of increased case numbers and test positivity are troubling as we consider bringing our kids and staff back in the classrooms. Based on the numbers, our district will be “pivoting” to Comprehensive Distance Learning for all grades beginning Monday, November 23, 2020. Jared noted that he was pleased with the work that has been done district-wide to prepare for this. Jared also expressed his gratitude for staff who are leaning into this work and adapting and hopes they are feeling supported. Secondly, in the revenue forecast released on November 18, 2020, the two major takeaways are: statewide revenue is currently stable and the state appears to be on a slow and steady track for recovery, exhibited by the fact that unemployment rates have dropped to 6.9% from double-digits earlier in the year. Jared noted that for the 2019-2021 biennium, the revenues have increased from September and the General Fund and lottery resource numbers are just under \$100 million and the Corporate Activity Tax (CAT) is at \$21 million. The good news about these numbers is that we foresee that funding for the second half of this biennium will remain stable. Additionally, the state has ample funds in their reserves and the CAT tax, which funds the Student Success Act, is projected to gross just over \$2 billion. For our district this means roughly \$750 million over the 2021-2023 biennium. Some items to watch for on the horizon include the state projecting \$3.1 billion in reserve funds, along with a call for a December Special Session of the legislature. Locally, we have seen a decrease in our enrollment numbers of approximately 500 students compared to this time last school year. There is also a potential for flat funding for the next two biennia.

INDIVIDUAL REPORTS BY DIRECTORS

Director Hall requested a Board Work Session (preferably in person) in December, to discuss COVID-19 and instruction, as well as a Bond Measure. Director Hall expressed her gratitude for all the staff and noted that we all need to remember that patience and grace are what will get us through this.

Director Cotton agreed with Director Hall’s request for a work session and suggested we wait and see how the case numbers look before deciding the meeting format. Director Cotton thanked the staff and parents and encouraged everyone to follow the prescribed guidelines.

Vice Chair Patterson echoed Director Cotton’s sentiments on a work session. He added his thanks to all staff and noted that right now there is no other profession, in his opinion, that is more essential than teachers.

Director Johnson encouraged his colleagues to handle all issues in a professional manner, thereby earning the trust of the community, and allowing us to move onward and upward.

Director Lee noted that education has never been simple and he admires the efforts being made to continue moving forward.

Director Bishop echoed the words of his fellow Board Members and acknowledged his optimism for the future. Director Bishop expressed that we must have patience and grace with ourselves, as well as those around us.

Chair Larson noted that her feelings also echo those of the other Board Members and agreed with Director Cotton about following and encouraging those around us to follow the state guidances. Rebecca also spoke about her recent participation in conferences for her children (with a total of 13 teachers) and expressed her gratitude for the fact that teachers have all taken the time to get to know their students. She considers them heroes.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION:

Chair Larson inquired if there was anyone who wished to address the Board and there were two community members who asked to speak:

- Matt Stark, local healthcare provider, voiced his concern over the number of students that are struggling with online learning;
- Karen Conner, grandparent providing care for grandchildren and they are fighting to learn; Mrs. Conner expressed her dislike for Zoom learning.

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.