

ROSEBURG PUBLIC SCHOOLS

School Board Regular Meeting
Roseburg High School – The Rose Theatre
400 West Harvard Avenue in Roseburg, Oregon

Vol 2 No. 16

February 10, 2021

Board Members:

Dr. 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, February 10, 2021, in The Rose Theatre on the campus of Roseburg High School, located at 400 W. Harvard Avenue in Roseburg, Oregon, in person, accompanied by live streaming.

CALL TO ORDER / PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE: Board Chair Rebecca Larson confirmed that we had live streaming active and called the meeting to order at 6:04 p.m. and welcomed attendees. Director Rod Cotton led the Pledge of Allegiance.

ATTENDANCE: Board and Cabinet members attended in person. Education reporter, Sanne Godfrey and RHS Leadership student, Marin Gray, also attended in person.

COMMUNICATIONS TO THE BOARD / REVIEW OF AGENDA

Superintendent Cordon informed the Board that there were no changes to the agenda this evening.

CONSENT AGENDA:

The Consent Agenda was presented, consisting of Approval of the Consent Agenda, Minutes from the January 27th Board Meeting, along with Gifts to the District. There were no proposed personnel actions. Director Micki Hall moved to approve the Consent Agenda and Director Rodney Cotton seconded. The Motion passed unanimously.

M2-77 Approved the Consent Agenda

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION: Chair Larson opened the Public Participation portion of the meeting, noting that anyone present wishing to address the Board would be alerted by Assistant Superintendent Michelle Knee once the two-minute time limitation approached to allow the speaker to conclude their thoughts. An additional opportunity for public comment will be provided at the end of the regular meeting. No attendees accepted the invitation to address the Board.

ESD RESOLUTION: 2021-22 LOCAL SERVICE PLAN

Chair Larson welcomed Douglas ESD Superintendent, Michael Lasher. Supt. Lasher explained that each year,

the ESD solicits input from our local superintendents during a retreat as to what additions are needed in the upcoming school year. Constraints due to COVID-19 resulted in essentially a roll-over of the existing plan to the coming year. Mr. Lasher assured the Board that this does not mean that conversations are not taking place; i.e., he and Superintendent Cordon are communicating regarding how grants focused on early learning programs can be best utilized. Superintendent Lasher pointed out the expansion of nursing services this past year, which helped not only Roseburg, but neighboring districts as well as we navigated COVID challenges.

Director Micki Hall moved to adopt the ESD Resolution approving the proposed 2021-2022 Local Service Plan. Director Steve Patterson seconded, and the Motion passed unanimously. Chair Larson expressed her appreciation to Superintendent Lasher and his ESD staff for coordinating the vaccination clinic for school staff and the work that went into that.

M2-78 Approved the 2021-2022 ESD Local Service Plan

PHOENIX CHARTER SCHOOL CHECK IN

Phoenix Executive Director, Thomas McGregor and Principal, Brandy Osborn, provided their Annual Review for the 2019-20 school year, outlining the following:

Student enrollment/graduation: 250 students enrolled and attended one or more days. 128 remained enrolled for the full school year.

- 46 Graduated
- 32 Diploma
- 10 GED
- 4 Modified Diploma
- Launch of Blue Zones Student leaders
 - Healthy food options and lifestyle approaches
 - Majority of students consumed USDA NSLP breakfast and lunch onsite daily.
- Douglas CARES Skill Builder and Therapist On-Site Supporting Youth (OHP Funded)
- Transitioned smoothly to Comprehensive Distance Learning (CDL)
 - All students have a Microsoft 365 account.
 - MS Teams is the classroom live session and learning environment (2020-21 incorporated Canvas as well)
 - Computers, Hot Spots, etc., were made available to students during CDL by Phoenix.
 - 92% of students connected in the CDL space in Spring 2020.

Program Development:

- Core Instruction Improvements
 - Project Based Learning (PBL): All faculty certified 'PBL 101'.
 - Phoenix SPED Services: TSPC-licensed ELA and MTH teachers deliver Specially Designed Instruction (SDI)
 - Building the Trades: 'Pre-apprenticeship' readiness coursework to bridge students to regional workforce
- Students as Leaders:
 - Project Blue Zones: Co-mingled school culture work with course offerings in Math, Health and PE
 - Hope Squad: Leadership course for youth champions of self-care, LGBTQ2SIA+ allyship and QPR Suicide Prevention

- ODE Youth Development Division Supported Youth Re-Engagement Initiatives:
 - Bright Futures Leaders: Instructional Assistants provide direct supports via home visits and on-site tutoring.
 - Afternoon GED courses: Virtual learning with live sessions ending in early evening.

Phoenix Flight Plan Introduction

- Phoenix Pathways (Homeroom) Teachers co-create and maintain with students a ‘flight plan’ to highlight student standing as well as post-secondary ‘plan and profile.’
- All students will be designated to determine needs within the following categories:
 - Attendance (Attending 90% or above), Engagement Coaching (89% to 51%), Engagement Support Plan (50% or lower)
 - On-Track to Graduation:
 - On Track to Graduate (Earned 6 credits per Cohort Year).
 - Graduation Coaching (1 to 4 credits behind Cohort Year),
 - Graduation Support Plan (5 or more credits behind)
 - ELA/MTH Proficiency: English Grade Level Located, Math Grade Level Located

On the Horizon:

- 2021-2022 School Plan Outline for RPS Board Review and Input
- Continued Community Outreach for ODE SIA Grant Activities
- Diamond Lake Blvd Campus and Facility Upgrades:
 - Anti-viral HVAC Upgrade: Synexis Dry Hydrogen Peroxide and Ionization Units
 - Outdoor covered gym space
- Sanctuary Model Certification from the Andrus Institute of New York
- Launch Summer 2021 Oregon Youth Corps Program
 - BLM and USFS have both dedicated over \$100,000 toward Summer Employment Program

Director Rod Cotton reminded Thomas and Brandy that RPS Board of Directors would like to receive Phoenix Board Meeting notes. Thomas provided assurance that minutes and Board Clips would be forwarded on a regular basis. Mr. McGregor also responded to Director Micki Hall that hybrid instruction is following RPS guidelines and the engagement coaching is under development. Chair Larson explained that a goal of the Superintendent and Board is that all students receive a year’s worth of growth for a year’s worth of school, and she would like to see data on progress toward goals at the next check in. Mr. McGregor shared that this has been helpful in learning from the Board what is desired at the next quarter update and stated that *“Every journey of 1000 miles starts with a single step”* and they are both happy to be here tonight.

Chair Larson thanked both Thomas and Brandy for joining us tonight and providing their update.

COMMITTEE REPORT – CURRICULUM & INSTRUCTION (February 3, 2021)

Committee Chair, Micki Hall, explained that the committee members learned about new curriculum offerings at the high school, two of which are individual studies for Agriculture and Natural Resources, and the other for Automotive Technology.

APPROVE NEW COURSE RECOMMENDATIONS AT ROSEBURG HIGH SCHOOL

Assistant Superintendent, Michelle Knee, asked for approval of the three new curriculum offerings that included:

- Agriculture Business and Management,
- Agricultural Leadership, and
- Equipment and Diesel Technology

Director Steve Patterson moved to adopt the three new curriculum offerings. Director Micki Hall seconded, and the Motion passed unanimously. Mrs. Hall suggested that instructors Angela Chenowith and Donald Zell should be applauded for bringing these course enhancements forward, along with Principal Jill Weber, for their continued efforts in what was formerly known as Vo-Tech, and now referred to as CTE, increasing opportunities for employments for kids not necessarily college-bound.

M2-79 Approved the three new curriculum offerings for Roseburg High School

COMMITTEE REPORT – MASCOT PHASE ONE (February 2, 2021)

Subcommittee members met on February 2nd to discuss what the Board might find helpful in reaching a decision whether to recommend the respectful retirement of the Roseburg High School Indians mascot. Subcommittee Chair Micki Hall shared that a feedback form will be released to the public and open for responses February 15-22. Patrons will be invited to share their connection with RHS, as it's important to hear from people who are living in our community. The Board welcomes this input and results may be reported during the February 24th School Board Meeting.

Director Charles Lee and Chair Larson suggested the form identify whether respondents are parents, students, or alumni.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Superintendent Cordon shared a favorite quote from Ralph Waldo Emerson, *"He who is not every day conquering some fear has not learned the secret of life."* Jared reflected on his appreciation for belonging to a community that can be reflective and thoughtful while not resulting in paralysis, but instead figuring out how we all can move forward. In Teaching and Learning, our goal remains that our kids deserve high quality, relevant experiences and at least a year's growth for a year's worth of school.

Students in grades K-5 returned to in-person learning five days per week on January 25th with the majority of children participating in person. Those who opted to remain in remote learning have daily synchronous (live) learning opportunities.

Grades 6-12 opened to in-person hybrid instruction on February 1st, so we are now only ten days into this with the expectation that students have an opportunity to participate in at least 30 minutes of synchronous (live) learning each day. Due to ODE cohort guidance, our students are grouped in two cohorts, attending Monday/Thursday or Tuesday/Friday. On remote days, this is paired with connected learning in Canvas. Teachers will use time with in-person cohorts to focus on accelerated learning opportunities. Jared will continue to welcome input from our stakeholders, explaining that we are the first 6A district to open to this model, and we need to pay attention to the complexities involved in making this work. Kids need the opportunity to connect with their most important resource, their teacher, in a daily, predictable fashion. We also need to keep in mind that smaller classes provide the opportunity to dig deeper in subject content and teachers can use time with in-person cohorts to focus on accelerated learning opportunities. In the 2021-22 school year, we will roll out a robust virtual option for secondary students. Jared shared the goals for hybrid and next year's robust remote learning:

- Communication with teachers and administrators continues, and we are making adjustments to the hybrid process based on feedback.
- Progress continues on a robust virtual option for secondary students, to be rolled out next school year.

Jared also shared a flowchart and containment process we are utilizing in the event of positive COVID cases.

INDIVIDUAL REPORTS BY DIRECTORS

Director Brandon Bishop inquired about upcoming changes to hybrid instruction, observing that there is not just one system being implemented at the high school vs. middle schools. Superintendent Cordon pointed out that students need an opportunity to be part of the class every day, but it will not look the same everywhere. There is a need to work with staff to share clear expectations for what this could look like. Teachers, as practitioners, need time to figure it out and are asking for help. Reciprocal accountability means explaining the “here is where we are going; here are the expectations; and here is how you will be supported”. He noted that we are a school district, not a district of schools, and he accepts the responsibility to make sure staff get the support they need to be successful. Director Bishop also quoted Maya Angelo with regard to the mascot discussion.

Director Micki Hall added that she understands Director Bishop’s observation, but explained that instruction at the middle and high school has never looked the same. She finds the term “robust” concerning in terms of being in a pandemic. Superintendent Cordon assured her that the reference to robust change pertains to next school year from a virtual instruction standpoint.

Chair Larson pointed out that for her children, they have 16 different teachers and expectations. However, keep in mind that no one has ever done this before, we are the first large school and it’s going to be different than at a tiny school. You see our principals with binders containing all the guidelines that must be met, and it’s overwhelming and frustrating. We can’t call other schools as there is no research. This is new territory, and she asks for a little grace for our students and teachers as we figure it out together and get through it.

Director Howard Johnson shared his humble gratitude for being a part of the focus group and continues to pray that our community will see the effort in our continued discussion regarding the high school mascot. He also shared that his great granddaughter has shown marked improvement by being back in the classroom, and her confidence and abilities are improving. Kudos to the staff.

Director Lee reflected that he currently has no children in school, so is instead an observer and appreciator of the efforts of others. Instruction is a terribly challenging situation and not the fault of anyone, but rather the virus itself. With regard to the Roseburg Indian question, he expressed curiosity as to how the results of the seeking of community comments will work out.

Director Rod Cotton explained that he employs many parents, and they are telling him how thankful they are that their children can spend some time in school, especially the elementary students. He can see it in their faces when they come to work, and he is grateful for that.

Director Steve Patterson echoed the efforts of our teachers and administrators for tackling this year’s tremendous challenges. He pointed out that we are in uncharted waters and every day is essentially a new day. There is no game plan for dealing with a pandemic. We understand that everyone has frustrations as we use the best information available to move forward as a district. There are no right or wrong answers, and it will take time. He also expressed concern over the increasing COVID cases being reported and expressed hope that people will continue to have patience with the system and local experts. Director Patterson reflected that many Board members have served for a number of years and reminded them that when there is a difficult decision to be made, people need to reach out and sometimes vent. This Board has made many difficult decisions in the past, but never so many in so short a time as over this past year. While we take the best available information to reach the best possible decision, realize that it’s virtually impossible to make everyone happy. Even friends can become very angry with you as they can’t understand everything that must be considered in the process. We will continue to do the very best we can for kids in what’s become a crazy world, as ultimately, it’s their

experience and their education we are talking about.

Chair Larson responded that comments were well said, summarizing that if we are honest with ourselves, we need to acknowledge that this is 'messy'. And it's not because the district office, teachers and parents aren't trying, but because we are all dealing with circumstances that are beyond our control. She offered a plea to others to continue to offer kindness and grace to those around you. Frustrated parents and kids continue to need our support, and many of them need a lot of help right now. Please continue to be kind.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION:

Chair Larson reminded attendees who wished to address the Board that Asst. Superintendent Michelle Knee would let them know once their two-minute time limitation was about to expire.

Katherine Newman, 3114 W Normandy, a second-grade teacher, and parent of 8th and 9th grade students, thanked the Board for listening to the need for more instructional time. She also shared that with an autistic child who cannot participate in remote learning, she wished to advocate for additional days per week in the DLC classrooms.

Michelle Juett, 1954 NW Lamont, is a parent with students in elementary, middle and high school. She noted that the superintendent must have listened to many parents, students, and teachers to have come up with a plan that provides hope. Parents are not feeling hopeful, are feeling out of control, and are advocating that students have information coming from their teachers on all four instructional days.

Dr. Larina Warnock, 181 SW Newton Drive, shared that as an expert in good education, she is concerned with student opportunity and achievement gaps. Some students are choosing not to engage in instructional opportunities provided them, and she feels challenged to provide quality education given the challenges of laboratory materials, etc. Teaching remotely, in break-out rooms and in person is not doable from her perspective.

Dawn Reneau, 1334 Brozio Road, confirmed that she had reached out extensively, and wished to thank Superintendent Cordon for moving forward with a plan to provide instruction every day for kids. Recognizing that everyone's jobs are harder right now, more class time by allowing kids to Zoom in is the right answer. She encouraged the Board to remember that the top goal is to provide an education for kids.

ADJOURNMENT: Chair Larson thanked the audience for attending tonight, and the individuals who shared their experiences and comments. The meeting was adjourned at 7:29 p.m.

Jared P. Cordon, Superintendent

JPC/jlk

Next Meeting: February 24, 2021 at 6:00 p.m. in The Rose Theatre located at Roseburg High School, 400 W. Harvard Avenue, Roseburg, Oregon.