

ROSEBURG PUBLIC SCHOOLS

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

Vol 2 No. 19

April 14, 2021

Board Members:

Dr. Brandon Bishop	<input type="checkbox"/>
Rodney Cotton	<input type="checkbox"/>
Micki Hall	<input type="checkbox"/>
Rev. Howard Johnson, Vice Chair	<input type="checkbox"/>
Rebecca Larson, Chair	<input type="checkbox"/>
Charles F. Lee	<input type="checkbox"/>
Vacant Position	<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	Exc
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, April 14, 2021, in The Rose Theatre on the campus of Roseburg High School, located at 400 W. Harvard Avenue in Roseburg, Oregon, in person and 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 6:00 p.m. and welcomed attendees. Student Services Director, Richard Burton, led in the Pledge of Allegiance.

ATTENDANCE: Board and Cabinet members attended in person, with the exceptions of Board Position No. 7 (no vacant) and Human Resources Director, Robert Freeman, who was excused. Education reporter, Sanne Godfrey and the RHS Leadership students, Amiya Fulton and 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 regular agenda this evening. Mr. Cordon thanked our Technology staff and RHS team for preparing this space for the Board Meeting.

STUDENT RECOGNITION

The Board was extremely pleased to welcome the family of Winchester Fifth Grade Student of the Month, Janasa Kumar. Former teachers remember her as a model student, hard-working with a passion for learning. This bright student always accomplishes what she sets her mind to and has become a quiet leader. A gifted writer and avid reader, she has read nearly 40 books during this school year. With her servant leadership, Janasa brings joy, love, peace, patience and kindness to everyone she encounters. Principal Snyder commended the Kumars for raising a compassionate and driven young lady.

STUDENT LEADERSHIP REPORT

RHS student leaders Amiya Fulton and Marin Gray shared an update of activities from the high school. RHS student athletes are enjoying their seasons, with sports including football, cheer, volleyball, softball, baseball,

track and tennis. The Brain Bowl Trivia virtual competition is taking place today. Students are planning activities to honor staff throughout Staff Appreciation Week, May 3-7, 2021. They are thankful for the resilience and compassion exhibited by staff this year. RHS Student leaders are working with middle school student leaders to prepare them for their RHS experience. They are also looking forward to working with the incoming 2021-22 leadership officers and have planned a luncheon for the new team. The quad was the site of a wrecked vehicle to emphasize the hazards of distracted driving. Lauren Sandfort was awarded Future First Citizen, with Jane Harvey, Camille Dela Cruz, Stephanie Way and Rachel Bober also being honored. Conferences went well and preparations continue for graduation. First Student has again honored this year's graduating class by forming "2021" with the buses, creating an impressive display.

CONSENT AGENDA:

The Consent Agenda was presented, including approval of the Consent Agenda, Minutes from the March 17th School Board Meeting and the following personnel actions:

Hiring Recommendations:

- Gretchen Lake, Hucrest Elementary PE Teacher, a temporary job-share position for 2021-2022;
- Jason Larson, Science Teacher at RHS;
- Marlo O'Connor, a Green Elementary School Kindergarten Teacher, a temporary job-share position for 2021-22; and
- Eric Russell, Fremont Middle School Music-Band Teacher, a temporary position for 2020-2021.

Retirement:

- Sam Moore, Drug & Alcohol /PBIS Specialist, is retiring at the end of the school year following 14 years in the District.

Resignations:

- Lisa Danville, Woodshop Teacher at RHS, resigning at the end of the school year after four years in the District;
- Matthew Dickson, Math & Woodshop Teacher at Rose School, is resigning at the end of the school year after four years in the District;
- Juli Gettys, Math Teacher job share position at Joseph Lane Middle School, resigning after two years at the end of the school year;
- Nichole Hayden, Fremont Language Arts Teacher, is resigning at the end of the school year after two years in the District;
- Anela Plunkett, a School Psychologist, is resigning after five years on May 15th to take a position at the Douglas ESD;
- Stacie Scarboro-Youmans, Fremont Science Teacher, is resigning after two years in the District at the end of this school year; and
- Kristen Wickert, First Grade Teacher at Melrose School, is resigning at the end of the school year after five years in the District.

Director Micki Hall moved to approve the Consent Agenda and Director Brandon Bishop seconded. The Motion passed unanimously.

M2-88 Approved the Consent Agenda

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION: Chair Larson opened the Public Participation portion of the meeting, explaining the two minute time limit and that Asst. Superintendent Michelle Knee would gently remind speakers when their two minutes were up.

Mr. Gerald Barr of Coos Bay thanked the Board for honoring our nation with the Pledge of Allegiance. After living in Reedsport who have the Reedsport Brave, he does not believe the mascot ridicules the Indians, but actually honors them, equating the controversy to that around books such as Dr. Seuss. His daughter is not doing well with virtual school, dropping 80% in productivity, and he believes she needs more interaction with students.

Megan Bentley of Portland, an RHS valedictorian from 2002 reminded the Board that while most natives no longer live on reservations, they have unique cultures that are harmed by pervasive stereotypes. If we value inclusivity and diversity, the mascot should eventually change. She encouraged the Board to review the entire District curriculum.

Mandy Pritchard, no address provided, reminded Board members that native students obtain lower graduation rates than their white peers and the equity lens emphasizes disparities. She acknowledged the student honored here tonight and advocated for an intentional exam of policies and practices and is looking to retire the mascot.

Kalli Albertus, Roseburg, is an RHS 2016 graduate. She encouraged the Board to reach out to natives as they research this issue, noting that it's okay to learn and embrace adaptive change. She thanked the Board for this effort and hearing their voices.

Amiya Fulton – RHS leadership student shared that one of her courses was Native American studies and believes it was one of the most enlightening classes of her academic career where she learned so much. She encouraged more students to learn more about it, as it really impacted her life. She is hoping to speak with the Oregon Dept. of Education as well as OASE and COSA as part of the racial and social equity club with other student leaders throughout Oregon. She believes it is important to educate students on cultures other than their own.

Chair Larson shared with the audience that the Board does not directly respond to questions posed during Public Participation, but that the Board does welcome communication via district email and is dedicated to learning from and with you.

ACCEPT RESIGNATION AND ANNOUNCE VACANCY FOR SCHOOL BOARD POSITION NO. 7

Chair Rebecca Larson shared that we were notified on March 19th that Director Steve Patterson was resigning from his position that is due to expire June 30, 2021. We are extremely grateful to Steve for his service, and he will be missed both now and in the future. With his position now vacant, the Board will accept applications from those interested in serving through June 30th. Priority will be given to the individual successful in the May 19th Special District Election. That person could begin to serve in May instead of waiting until July. If they do not wish to begin in May, the Board could consider appointing an applicant to serve the remainder of the term.

Director Howard Johnson moved to accept the resignation of Steve Patterson. Director Micki Hall seconded, and the Motion passed unanimously.

M2-89 Accepted the resignation of Director and Vice Chair, Steve Patterson.

ACCEPT NOMINATION FOR VICE CHAIR POSITION

Director Rodney Cotton nominated Director Howard Johnson for the newly open position of Vice Chair. Director

Brandon Bishop seconded, and the Motion passed unanimously. Director Johnson thanked his colleagues and stated that it would be his honor to service. Director Cotton reminded the new Vice Chair that his “pay” will remain zero.

M2-90 Appointed Rev. Howard Johnson to serve as Vice Chair on the Board of Directors

OFFICIAL APPROVAL OF ROSEBURG VIRTUAL SCHOOL

Assistant Superintendent Michelle Knee reminded the Board that the Roseburg Virtual School for K-5 students beginning in the 2021-22 school year had been discussed during the January 27th Board Meeting. The Oregon Department of Education has asked for a formal approval of the school in order to receive an institutional identification number for reporting purposes.

Director Micki Hall move to officially approve Roseburg Virtual School. Director Brandon Bishop seconded, and the Motion passed unanimously.

M2-91 Officially approved the Roseburg Virtual School

APPROVE PURCHASE OF WIRELESS ACCESS POINTS AND BATTERY BACKUPS

Technology Coordinator, Matt Hill, shared a proposal for the purchase Cisco Wireless Aironet 3802i Access Points and Cyber Rack Mounted UPS Battery Backups. Mr. Hill explained that this procurement will allow intercom systems to remain operable in the event of loss of power as well as assure increased stability of the network resulting from use of identical equipment models utilized within the system. Pursuant to RFP 21-700, the low-priced responsive-responsible vendor, Cerium Networks is proposed to be the successful bidder and the Board is now requested, as the Local Contract Review Board, to approve the purchase for the anticipated purchase price of \$44,127 expected to be offset by approximately 70% through the USAC E-Rate program.

Director Micki Hall moved to approve the purchase of wireless access points and battery backups as requested. Vice Chair Howard Johnson seconded, and the Motion passed unanimously. Superintendent Cordon thanked Matt for his help on this purchase.

M2-92 Approved the purchase of wireless access points and battery backups from Cerium Networks in the approximate amount of \$44,127

SUPERINTENDENT’S REPORT

The Superintendent stated that he wanted to spend a few minutes this evening sharing appreciation for First Student, who are helping celebrate our 2021 graduates by spelling “2021” with their buses in the RHS parking lot. We appreciate Ms. Godfrey for writing that story in honor of our senior class.

Mr. Cordon pondered what people will say about 2021, reflecting that he is bullish about our future and excited about what is coming up. We are super proud of our kids who continue to do amazing things while showing resilience; democracy and the future of our country are in great hands. We are also very proud of our staff who continue to bend, lean and flex, exhibiting flexibility and amazing professionalism. We should all be proud of

the parents; this past year has been a struggle for them at times.

The Superintendent had the opportunity this year to engage with staff at ODE and the Oregon Health Authority. New guidance was released during Spring Break that is helping increase in-person opportunities while keeping our focus on health and safety. We are working toward a four-day per week return to our middle schools in early May as well as expanding in-person opportunities at RHS. Portions of the cohort guidance shifted closer to CDC guidance, and the 6' social distancing guidance reduced to 3' allowing schools added options.

Robust summer programs to support unfinished learning along with student acceleration are being made possible through a \$250 grant from ODE that will support enrichment opportunities and academic support. Our principals and teachers are joining in the effort to design different ways to engage kids and create the best opportunities for kids everywhere regardless of zip codes. Our kids deserve every opportunity.

Through Student Investment Account funding, we are growing our STEM/STEAM opportunities for students by hiring STEAM teachers and investing in support materials. These investments will provide increased learning opportunities for students while strengthening articulation between and across schools.

Jared extended kudos to Assistant Superintendent Knee, announcing that registration for our new Roseburg Virtual Options begins Friday for Kindergarten – Fifth Grade, along with standard registration. Secondary students can choose a full-time online option available through Jo-Lane, Fremont and RHS.

Our next Capital Improvement Bond Campaign is on the horizon, and it's time to start sharing with our community how exciting this opportunity is for our students and all of Roseburg. The bond will focus on:

- * Providing safe places to teach and learn;
- * Protecting our investments through needed renovation and repair; and
- * Creating high quality learning spaces where teachers can teach and kids can learn.

INDIVIDUAL REPORTS BY DIRECTORS

Director Charles Lee announced that he has not joined the club after also receiving the phishing email that others had received earlier in the day.

Chair Rebecca Larson thanked everyone for attending and explained that the Board would take a recess prior to entering into a Board Work Session.

RECESS: At 6:50 p.m., Chair Larson stated that the regular session was concluded and the Board would take a short recess at before entering into a Board Work Session.

BOARD WORK SESSION

Chair Larson convened a Board Work Session at 6:57 p.m. and asked Superintendent Cordon to share some thoughts prior to the Board embarking on their discussion regarding the RHS mascot. He took a moment to thank the Board for their many hours of conversation, comments, research, etc. He acknowledged that they have read through thousands of comments and spent sleepless nights as they wrestled and rumbled with this issue as they thought deeply, all during the midst of a pandemic when there has been much to discuss. The

topic of the mascot is complex as it represents different things to different people.

Jared suggested that the discussion is not intended to be a debate, but rather a chance to better understand perspectives and gather further insights that deserve Board discussion and consideration. Cabinet members, along with RHS Principal, Jill Weber, and Athletic Director, Russ Bolin remained available in the audience to answer any questions from the Board.

Chair Rebecca Larson added that the Board has invested much time and energy. The purpose of this Work Session is to assure every Board member has what they need to have a vote and make a decision after thoughtful discussion and consideration. She expressed her belief that this issue is something the Board needs to act on in order to move on with addressing the needs of our kids as we move toward the future.

Members of the Board of Education participated in a lengthy shared discussion of both the pros and cons of changing the RHS mascot. Differing perspectives were respectfully shared. Board members did not request any additional information needed in order to reach a decision.

RECESS BOARD WORK SESSION: With discussion concluded, Chair Larson recessed the Work Session at 7:57 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT: With all business concluded, Chair Larson adjourned the meetings at 7:58 p.m. She reminded the Board of the exciting Budget Committee Meeting scheduled for next Wednesday, April 21, 2021.

Jared P. Cordon, Superintendent

JPC/jlk

Next Meeting: April 28, 2021 at 6:00 p.m. in The Rose Theatre located at Roseburg High School, 400 W. Harvard Avenue, Roseburg, Oregon.