

ROSEBURG PUBLIC SCHOOLS

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

Vol 2 No. 22

May 26, 2021

Board Members:

Dr. Brandon Bishop
Rodney Cotton
Micki Hall
Rev. Howard Johnson, Vice Chair
Rebecca Larson, Chair
Charles F. Lee
Vacant Position



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, May 26, 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. Dr. Brandon Bishop led in the Pledge of Allegiance.

ATTENDANCE: Board and Cabinet members attended in person. Board Position No. 7 is vacant. RHS Leadership students, Amiya Fulton and Noelle Robison also attended in person. Reporter Sanne Godfrey was present.

COMMUNICATIONS TO THE BOARD / REVIEW OF AGENDA

Superintendent Cordon informed the Board that since initial publication, the Board will consider additional recommendations for hire within the Consent Agenda. Superintendent Cordon celebrated the democratic process our nation enjoys, expressing appreciation for those members of the Board who participated in the May Special Election, and thanked Director Micki Hall's dedication to the District through the end of her term on June 30th, expressing appreciation for Director Steve Patterson as well. Jared offered congratulations to newly elected Board members, Ann Krimetz and Andrew Shirtcliff who begin terms July 1. Directors Brandon Bishop and Howard Johnson will be maintaining their seats. All of our Board of Education members are volunteers who devote countless hours of service in support of all the students under our care.

STUDENT RECOGNITION

The Board was very pleased to welcome the family of Fifth Grade outstanding Student, Thalia Alcock. Fir Grove Elementary Principal, Lisa Dickover, had the honor of introducing Thalia and her family, and read a letter sharing accolades from teachers, along with an Award Certificate and gift card from McDonalds.

Principal Dickover read messages from teachers who shared that this exemplary student arrives at school each day ready to learn, embodying all aspects every educator hopes for in a student. Her quiet leadership, gentle wisdom and artistic flair, and her love of science and math will serve her well in her future aspirations. Board members had the opportunity to see some of Thalia's most recent artwork and responded that her artistic

talents are obvious. Congratulations, Thalia for all you have done and have yet to accomplish in your academic career!

STUDENT LEADERSHIP REPORT

RHS leadership students, Amiya Fulton and Noelle Robison shared current activities at the school, including the most recent spring sports results. Wrestling, swimming, basketball & bowling are currently underway. Amiya shared excitement for an in-person graduation ceremony scheduled for Saturday, June 5, 2021. Names of seniors will be posted in the quad during the ceremony in honor of these resilient students. The community will also have a chance to celebrate students during a graduation parade that is again being conducted this year.

The annual Evening of Excellence was not possible this year, but certificates for students earning recognition are instead being delivered via mail this year. In her last Board meeting as an RHS student representative, Amiya expressed her appreciation for the education, memories and personal growth offered to her through RHS. She is planning to attend the University of Oregon as an honor student this fall and feels honored to have served Roseburg High School as both a leader and a student. On behalf of the Leadership Class, Noelle also shared her appreciation, admiration, and congratulations to the RHS senior class of 2021.

CONSENT AGENDA:

The Consent Agenda was presented, including approval of the Consent Agenda, Minutes from the May 12 School Board Meeting, Gifts to the District and the following personnel actions:

Hiring Recommendations:

Licensed Staff:

- Michelle Altermatt, Fifth Grade Teacher at Green Elementary School;
- Emilie Cochran, Choir Teacher at Joseph Lane Middle School;
- Hailey Collins, Language Arts Teacher at Roseburg High School;
- Laura Dowdy, Teaching and Learning Support Specialist at Eastwood and Winchester Elementary Schools;
- Christine Fisher, Third Grade Teacher at Winchester Elementary;
- Camille Harrison, Second Grade Teacher at Fullerton IV Elementary;
- Jeremy Krull, Language Arts Teacher at Joseph Lane Middle School;
- Jacqueline Oglesby, Fifth Grade Teacher at Eastwood Elementary School;
- Jamie Rauchwarger, Fourth Grade Teacher at Green Elementary School;
- Jessica Sexton, Second Grade Teacher at Green Elementary School; and
- Alexandria Snow, Science Teacher at Joseph Lane Middle School.

Resignation:

- Annette McFadzen, Language Arts Teacher at Rose School.

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

M2-103 Approved the Consent Agenda

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION: Superintendent Cordon took an opportunity to talk about expectations around

decorum, emphasizing that this Board values and welcomes civil discourse and community participation, encouraging them to become acquainted with our work. However, all individuals must be allowed to share their opinions without experiencing intimidation, harassment or personal attacks. The Board appreciates thoughtful comments as they wrestle with challenging topics, and recognize that input is valid, and is heard, but our expectation is that speakers will remain considerate and respectful during this forum. Mr. Cordon also pointed out that patrons are invited to share their opinions with members of the Board of Directors via the District email.

Chair Larson then opened the Public Participation portion of the meeting, explaining that the 20 minutes allowed is limited to two-minutes per person, and that Assistant Superintendent Michelle Knee would let speakers know once their two minutes was up.

Jennifer Singleton, RHS graduate and parent of three children, expressed appreciation for the Board, principals and staff for caring about all children, regardless of ethnicity. She also thanked Director Charles Lee, sharing that while some call him one man, he spoke for this community and we are behind him 100%. Mrs. Singleton respectfully asked that the Board be allowed to move on, suggesting that the community is not racist, but instead are caring, hard-working, good people. She apologized for the need to leave the meeting early due to her two eldest sons competing as varsity wrestlers tonight, and thanked the Board for what they do.

Mandie Pritchard, no address provided, stated that her training topic tonight focused on micro aggression. She stated that she and other individuals have shared their personal experiences, and not all Board members agree that the word Indian has a harmful impact on students, she feels is an example of micro insult. She hopes the Superintendent uses his influence to move forward and create a safe environment for all students, particularly those who have been marginalized.

Linda Snyder, local resident with grandchildren attending Fir Grove again expressed concern regarding students wearing masks, creating oxygen restriction, a breeding ground for germs and increasing risks of child trafficking. She also believes masks create sensory issues, allergy issues, increase panic attacks and anxiety. We don't wear masks for flu season, so why would we do so with COVID?

Melanie Six, Roseburg resident, expressed concern that during the April 28th Board meeting when the mascot issue was discussed, voted on and finalized, two Board members supported the statement that our community and high school are systemically racist, a serious accusation. Racism is an individual choice. Accusing this community and high school is irresponsible and offensive, especially in the absence of evidence to support such a serious and hurtful accusation. If this was based on personal opinion or hearsay, accusations directed at administration and teachers who work hard every day to make sure all students, faculty and staff member feel welcome, are owed an apology from those Board members.

Megan Bentley, no address provided, a 2002 graduate of RHS, directed her comments to Director Charles Lee, stated that he is unconvinced by testimony and encouraged him to use the same standards of proof for both sides. Hundreds of communities have made this change. A school board has a duty to provide a learning environment as free as possible from discrimination. Protecting alumni from emotional harm should not be a determining factor in doing what is right for current students.

Kalli Albertus, local resident and member of the class of 2016 and has previously addressed the Board. She intends to ensure momentum around this movement continues and voices are heard, indicating that the issue is as important today as it was in the 1960's. Becoming a long-term substitute at Joseph Lane Middle School has been a learning experience while skyrocketing her appreciation for educators. She is concerned for native students in the classroom, sharing that it is impact, not intent that is important. She thanked those who voted

in favor of a change, hopes to continue to partner in making this change, and prays others will see the light. Change is inevitable and she is excited to be a part of it.

Criset Palenshus, no address provided, asked the Board to understand that anger comes from love and responsibility to youth requires ferocity. She expressed that she is not here to make people harming children feel good about themselves. Stop centering your own white feelings. Your middle schools are named after Indian killers and it doesn't make sense to celebrate an Indian mascot. She indicated she had sent emails to Director Lee, with no response. She directed her comment to Director Lee, stating that if he chooses to continue to uphold white supremacy, he needs to step down. Every day you have the chance to do the right thing.

Mr. Roy Harvey, long-time Roseburg resident, thanked Director Charles Lee for his one vote representing thousands of people in this community, and standing up to the "bullies" from out of the area. We have been told, and you can read their sign; to sit down, shut up, do as they say, or else. They pledge to keep coming back. The Board has made their decision and it's time to move on. The Roseburg mascot is not racist, nor is this community and we need to move on. He asked the Board not to let others decide their topics. Mr. Harvey also asked to take the masks off the children. Follow the science.

Dawn Reneau, local resident, stated that the mascot decision is done. She is advocating to bring kids back five days a week full time in the fall, and not discriminate based on vaccine status.

Camron Pope, licensed staff union president, reported on the Eastwood Fifth Grade Camp. He shared that Director Bishop came out today and observed what teachers do on a daily basis. He will continue to invite the Board to come and see them any time.

Chair Larson thanked those who have shared their insights with the Board. She noted that Superintendent Cordon would address face mask guidance in his report.

Chair Larson also stated on behalf of her Board members, that this is a volunteer position requiring many hours and it is scary to open emails due to the mean comments from people. We also want things back to normal, but those decisions are not made at the district level. Patrons can express feelings, and we are listening, but we are not in charge of those decisions that are made at the state level.

PHOENIX CHARTER SCHOOL UPDATE

Phoenix Executive Director Thomas McGregor and Principal Brandy Osborn shared that on June 8th Phoenix will hold a recognition and commencement event for the class of 2020 and class of 2021 and thanked the Board for their role in making that happen.

Brandy updated the Board that the organization's scope of work for the upcoming school year would not undergo fundamental changes. They will be rolling out the 5D instructional model to building educators. They are working on engaging students through project based learning opportunities, and offering summer programs such as Earth Connect, trades and CTE. They are working hard on goals specific to ELA, math, graduation and attendance.

Their goals for the upcoming 2021-22 school year include:

- **Appropriate and Timely Instruction**
- **Systems Development**

- **Leadership Development**
- **Effective Operations**
- **Safe & Inclusive**

The Board expressed concern with regard to lack of information being provided specific to student progress within the three areas of agreed upon performance measurements as specified in the charter agreement including:

1. Phoenix Charter School will maintain supports and systems with a goal of demonstrating post-secondary readiness of students via the school increasing the student attendance rates of those not attending at 90% or more.
2. Phoenix Charter Schools’ education plan will increase completion rates for students earning “High School Success” via a Diploma, a Modified Diploma, or GED option.
3. Phoenix Charter School’s curriculum and instructional supports will increase and improve student growth in academic ability with positively trending grade-level interim assessment report scores for English Language Arts and Mathematics annually for all charter students.

Mrs. Hall noted that most goals involved what the adults are doing, as opposed to students, while adding staff. She asked how this will help the students. Specifically, she would like to know the increases in measurements and how they were determined. How many students are receiving diplomas and GEDs? All three goals have categories and we would like to know if Phoenix meets, exceeds or is not meeting the goals.

Principal Osborn responded that they typically report after the state report card is received. Chair Larson asked if they have the attendance numbers and percentage of students in completion as that would be helpful. When the Board renewed the agreement and goals, that is the benchmark information we find helpful. Director Hall added that the money spent on Phoenix needs to be applied so that the success of the students is the most important goal. She explained that the Board would like to see a measurement of growth just as we expect from each of the schools within our district. Director Rod Cotton suggested that the Board review future data upon receipt in order to verify that requested information has been provided. Chair Larson thanked Thomas and Brandy for attending and shared that the Board wants to make sure that resources are directed to support kids in order to help them to be successful.

LIST OF APPROVED SUMMER PROJECTS THAT EXCEED \$50,000 SPENDING THRESHHOLD

Chief Operations Officer, Cheryl Northam, presented a listing of identified summer maintenance projects, including roofing and installation of new wireless clock and inter-communication systems, and completion of the agriculture building at RHS. Cheryl also explained that as supply chain issues improve nationally, the District will request approval to initiate replacement of the dust collection system in the RHS woodshop area.

Director Micki Hall moved to approve the proposed summer projects. Director Rodney Cotton seconded, and the Motion passed unanimously. Director Hall acknowledged the work Cheryl does in not only crunching numbers but in identifying essential projects. Director Johnson is also interested in information specific to recycling dust from the dust collection system, similar to what is done within the wood products industry

M2-104 Approved proposed listing of Summer Maintenance Projects

SERVICE PROVIDER AGREEMENT WITH UMPQUA COMMUNITY C

Student Services Director, Rick Burton, shared the proposed annual agreement renewal in partnership with UCC to provide GED and Adult Basic Education. Sixteen Roseburg students were served in the 2020-21 school year

through the Wooley Center, with the District picking up the fees.

Director Micki Hall moved to approve the 2021-2022 Service Provider Agreement with Umpqua Community College for GED and Adult Basic Education. Director Howard Johnson seconded, and the Motion passed unanimously.

M2-105 Approved 2021-22 annual service provider agreement with UCC

RESOLUTION 20-21-16: GRANTING SIGNATURE AUTHORITY FOR PREVIOUSLY APPROVED REAL ESTATE PURCHASE

Chief Operations Officer, Cheryl Northam, shared that the Board approved the purchase of a home located at 344 W. Selmar during the May 12th Board meeting. The title company has requested official authorization by the Board for a representative of the District to complete this legal transaction.

Director Charles Lee moved to adopt Resolution 20-21-16 granting signature authority for Cheryl Northam to represent the District in completing the closing process for the previously approved purchase of 344 W. Selmar. Director Micki Hall seconded, and the Motion passed unanimously.

M2-106 Approved authorization of signature authority to complete purchase of property located at 344 W. Selmar

MAY 2022 BOND CONSULTING PROPOSAL

Superintendent Cordon presented a proposal from Wright Public Affairs for bond consulting services. Over the past six years, this firm successfully passed \$4.88 billion in operating levies and general obligation bonds for local school districts within the state of Oregon. The District is requesting authorization to proceed with contract negotiations, with the initial expected cost of \$70,500. Mr. Cordon noted that various option decisions can be made as we move along the process but noted that the firm emphasizes a community-driven process.

Director Micki Hall moved to approve the May 2022 Bond Consulting proposal from Wright Public Affairs and to proceed with contract negotiations. Director Howard Johnson seconded, and the Motion passed unanimously. The Board emphasized that the 2022 Bond effort will be conducted in partnership with the Roseburg community. Director Micki Hall reflected that the firm appears to be quite impressive but shared several questions regarding the process. The Superintendent assured the Board that the team at Wright will consider prior polling data within the context that our world has changed, and we will need to assure that we have the right information consistent with what members of our community value.

M2-107 Authorized the District to proceed with contract negotiations with Wright Public Affairs for bond consulting services, with an initial cost of \$70,500

COMMITTEE REPORT – CLASSIFIED BARGAINING

Director Howard Johnson shared that the committee met last night to establish ground rules and exchange proposed changes to the existing contract. The committee agreed to meet again on June 8 to review proposals, changes, and move positively toward closure and it's his prayer to give a report at the June 9th meeting.

Recess: The Board took a short break and 7:12 and reconvened at 7:15 p.m.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

OHA Face Mask Guidance - Superintendent Cordon shared the most recent OHA face mask guidance, and there will not be a requirement for face masks outdoors for students and staff. Districts are charged with verifying student-athlete vaccination status and he acknowledged the resulting frustration within our district and community. We have been diligent in following the guidance. Safety protocols appear to be working and there is no evidence of spread in our schools. Jared is working with OHA, ODE and local representatives and legislators in Salem to encourage legislative action for solutions and encouraged this community to join in advocating with state legislators and the Governor's Office as well. He reminded everyone that it is not in the school district's purview to create health policies; rather it is our job to administer the policies we are given. Our schools have no desire to put kids, families and our community at odds with one another and having to check vaccination cards. He pledged to continue contacting legislators to improve the language, intent and process of these mandates. Regulations need to be vetted with districts, and we are committed to being part of the solution. Representative Leif has been extremely responsive in trying to improve this situation.

It's important that patrons understand that our liability coverage, our taxpayer dollars and subsequent ability to serve our students, is tied directly to following these regulations. When Chair Larson says we don't have a choice, this is what we mean. It's our responsibility to be good stewards of our dollars and to prioritize student health and safety.

2022 Bond Measure Process

"The future belongs to those who believe in the beauty of their dreams." -- Eleanor Roosevelt

The Superintendent, in response to a directive from the Board, has developed a process relative to the May 2022 bond that involves a community-driven lens. We remain committed to keeping our kids safe. Health and safety needs to be part of this bond and it's our community responsibility to rally around our students to assure they have safe places to learn and we have great places to teach.

Talk About Why –

- Our schools belong to our community. The community should:
 - Understand District needs, District understand our community needs, hopes and dreams.
 - Know available options.
 - Understand how process works.

Our most important asset in our community is our children. The most valuable thing we export from our community is our children. Their success demands a community-driven process to understand connection between the success of the community and having highly skilled children that benefit our community.

Step 1: Community-driven bond process

- How: Establish formal group that becomes CDP team, between 20-30 widely diverse group representing parents, students, business owners, board members, staff, retirees, representatives of underserved communities, etc. Make sure we have people who don't have kids in school.
- Determine process to solicit applicants.
- Goals:
 - Take a look at long-range facilities plan developed a few years ago
 - Report out to community and collect feedback
 - Determine top priorities that best meet the needs of the district and the community

- Present recommendations to the School Board

The Plan:

- 1. Hold introductory meeting and information-sharing session
 - Community meetings
 - Facebook Live sessions
 - Facilities tours
- 2. Hold Review meeting
 - Review data and community input
 - Determine top priorities to recommend
- 3. Present recommendations to School Board

The idea is to have a wide range of community involvement opportunities and other forums to ask questions. Mine this down into a group that will drive the information and wrangle with feedback and move toward a report to the Board of Directors that would inform the campaign.

Timeline: Establish process for community-driven process team

- August / September 2021
 - Schedule community outreach events process
- September / October 2021
 - Hold community outreach events (town halls, Facebook Live, present to community groups, etc.)
- October / November 2021
 - CDP Team Review Meeting
 - Team presents recommendations to School Board
 - District conducts final polling / outreach of community
- November / December 2021
 - Report back to community on outreach results
 - Board finalizes projects, rate, total costs
- December 2021 / January 2022
 - Bond language finalized
 - Apply for matching grants
- February 2022
 - Establish PAC
- March – May 2022
 - Information-sharing campaign: Educate, motivate and inspire

Comments:

Director Rodney Cotton responded that Superintendent Cordon did a great job with this outline. It's very similar to what we did 23 years ago on the previous bond that was recently retired. It worked really well and he doesn't anticipate any problem getting a great cross-section of individuals involved in this process.

Jared also provided an update of the state economic forecast specific to the current two-year budget cycle, the 2021-23 biennium and the Corporate Activity Tax and Student Success Act.

INDIVIDUAL REPORTS BY DIRECTORS

Director Howard Johnson had nothing to report for kids. He was, however, excited to share that his wife's vision

is improving and she is on the road to recovery. He thanked everyone for their prayers.

Director Charles Lee apologized for missing the Bargaining Committee Meeting, asking for grace due to his daughter's recent marriage at Mount Hood and having to travel to Minnesota for a celebration of life for his younger brother.

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

Jared P. Cordon, Superintendent

JPC/jlk

Next Meeting: June 9, 2021 at 6:00 p.m. in The Rose Theatre located at Roseburg High School, 400 W. Harvard Avenue, Roseburg, Oregon.