

# ROSEBURG PUBLIC SCHOOLS

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

Vol 2 No. 23

June 9, 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



**BUDGET HEARING**  
**Pursuant to ORS 294.453**

A Budget Hearing was held on Wednesday, June 9, 2021 in the Rose Theatre on the campus of Roseburg High School, located at 400 W. Harvard Avenue in Roseburg, and brought to order by Chair Rebecca Larson at 6:00 p.m. pursuant to ORS 294.453. Chief Operations Officer, Cheryl Northam, presented the proposed 2021-22 Budget, noting that the Budget Committee approved a General Fund Budget amount of \$108,499,266 on May 5, 2021. The proposed Budget as approved by the committee was duly published in The News Review on June 4, 2021. This Budget Hearing provides a final opportunity for individuals to ask any questions regarding the Budget prior to consideration of adoption by the Douglas County School District 4 Board of Education. The document includes appropriations for expenditures in the 2021-22 Budget. Once approved, the Board hereby levies taxes provided for in the adopted budget at the rate of \$4.0327 per \$1,000 of assessed value for operations from all taxable property within the district.

**PUBLIC PARTICIPATION:** Chair Larson opened the floor for public input specific to the proposed Budget. Mr. Keith Cubic, speaking as a member of the Budget Committee and citizen of Roseburg and resident of the District, shared his support of the adoption of the 2021-22 Budget and associated transfers and grants. He explained that the Budget Committee approved the Budget on May 5th after having met twice. Mr. Cubic acknowledged the high quality of the Budget document presented this year that focuses on the District’s Strategic Plan and is reflective of the continuing educational success of this district and centered on student success and programs.

Director Micki Hall publicly thanked Mr. Cubic for chairing the Budget Committee, as well as the other public members, all volunteers, of the 2021-22 Budget Committee.

**ADJOURNMENT:** With no additional members of the public wishing to comment on the proposed Budget, Chair Larson adjourned the Budget Hearing at 6:03 p.m.

**REGULAR SESSION - SCHOOL BOARD MEETING**

**TIME/PLACE:** A regular meeting of the Douglas County School District No. 4 Board of Directors was convened at 6:04 p.m. on Wednesday, June 9, 2021, immediately following the Budget Hearing, 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 live streaming was active and called the meeting to order at 6:04 p.m. and welcomed attendees. Assistant Superintendent, Michelle Knee led in the Pledge of Allegiance.

**ATTENDANCE:** Board and Cabinet members attended in person. Board Position No. 7 is vacant. RHS Leadership student Marin Gray also attended in person.

### **COMMUNICATIONS TO THE BOARD / REVIEW OF AGENDA**

Superintendent Cordon informed the Board that since initial publication, the Board has additional Surplus Items for consideration within the Consent Agenda. Chief Operations Officer, Cheryl Northam’s report regarding the PERS obligation bonds was moved from the superintendent’s report to a discussion item to allow for a more robust discussion.

### **STUDENT RECOGNITION**

The Board was very pleased to welcome the family of Eighth Grade Student, AJ Baker. Jo Lane Asst. Principal, Darin Lomica, had the honor of introducing AJ and his family, sharing a letter celebrating AJ’s successes during his career at Jo Lane, along with presenting an Award Certificate and gift card from McDonalds. AJ enjoys PE, science and social studies, along with football, basketball and is a member of the leadership program and Douglas High School’s trap shooting club, always demonstrating a great attitude and work ethic. Teachers add that AJ’s sense of humor, honesty and willingness to help fellow students makes teaching fun. Mr. Lomica thanked that Bakers for raising an amazing son, who inspires others to be their “best selves”.

The Board also welcomed the family of Sylvia Eckman, again introduced by Jo Lane Asst. Principal, Darin Lomica, who celebrated her contributions to our school community. Completing her eighth-grade year via remote learning, Sylvia still managed to impact the building with her positive attitude. Small, but mighty, Sylvia took on helping to create the yearbook and proved herself to be a leader and mentor to her peers. Teachers describe her as delightful, artistic and devoted. Favorite subjects and activities include math and yearbook, running, hiking and growing plants. Congratulations to the Eckman family for raising such an amazing daughter!

Chair Larson encouraged District staff members present to stand for recognition and conveyed her personal thanks to each of them. She shared that as she watched this year’s graduates walk across the stage, she reflected that the graduation ceremony is a cumulative result of all the years of efforts of our employees in serving meals, checking library books, driving students to school, tending to buildings, all the things that bring students such a wonderful pay day not only for kids but for those who support their efforts as well. In addition to our excellent students, we have excellent staff who continue to make all the difference in our students’ lives.

### **STUDENT LEADERSHIP REPORT**

RHS leadership student, and soon to be RHS senior and ASB co-president, Marin Gray shared all the current activities at the school, noting that many sports competitions will continue through the month of June. RHS is also gearing up for the summer football camp that will be held in August. Marin noted that graduation felt more “normal” this year and students appreciated being back on Finlay Field for the ceremony. A total of 233 students were presented with awards traditionally presented during the annual Evening of Excellence. Leadership students completed a project in appreciation for the school’s custodial staff members, including posters and gift

baskets. The group is looking forward to meeting in August to begin planning for the 2021-22 school year, an opportunity to build back after a year of disruption.

**CONSENT AGENDA:**

The Consent Agenda was presented, including approval of the Consent Agenda, Minutes from the May 26 School Board Meeting; contract extensions for district administrators, the Superintendent, Assistant Superintendent, Chief Operations Officer and Confidential Employees; licensed recommendations for employment and notice of resignations; Gifts to the District, and an extensive surplus items listing. Personnel actions included:

Hiring Recommendations:

Licensed Staff:

- Caroline Bauders, Kindergarten Teacher at Fir Grove Elementary School;
- Heather Bolin, Child Development Specialist at Green Elementary School; and
- Elisa Thomas, Second Grade Teacher at Fullerton IV Elementary School.

Resignations:

Administrative staff:

- Richard Burton, Student Services Director, has submitted his resignation effective June 30, 2021 after six years in the District, to accept a position in another district.

Licensed staff:

- Melissa Houston, Special Education Teacher at Winchester Elementary, has accepted a position out of state after five years in the District;
- Dani McClendon, Second Grade Teacher at Fir Grove Elementary, is taking a position in another district after five years in the District; and
- Kristin Miller, Child Development Specialist at Hucrest Elementary, is taking a position in a private school after 20 years in the District.

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

M2-108 Approved the Consent Agenda
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**PUBLIC PARTICIPATION:**

Chair Larson invited Public Participation, explaining that the 20 minutes allowed is limited to two-minutes per person, and that Assistant Superintendent Michelle Knee would let speakers know when two minutes was up.

Dawn Reneau, local resident, stated that she has five children in Roseburg schools and has addressed the Board on occasion this past year. She believes she represents the views of many parents and asked the Board to request that ODE and RSSL support returning to in person five days a week school without limitations of masking/cohorts/distancing/vaccines or quarantining for students.

Kate Newman, a second-grade teacher with children who are members of the classes of 2025 and 2023 added her voice to those advocating for students returning to school five days a week.

Linda Snyder, grandparent of Fir Grove students, expressed continued concern for students wearing masks, and decisions being made by ODE and teachers' unions. Due to state mandates and critical race theory, she advocates for homeschooling children.

Rachel Jackson, a teacher at Roseburg High School, shared her appreciation for school board members who spend countless hours in service to children and this community. As a community member, she extended her thanks to Director Micki Hall who spoke with courage when her voice was not always popular, and never shied away from the real work and her enduring advocacy of our youth.

Kim Smith, 30-year Roseburg resident and Fir Grove Elementary DLC staff member, expressed concern over social distancing restrictions as they impact social/emotional supports for children on IEP's.

Chair Larson thanked those individuals for sharing their insights with the Board.

**RESOLUTION 20-21-17: ADOPTING THE 2021-22 BUDGET, MAKING APPROPRIATIONS AND LEVYING AD VALOREM TAXES**

Chief Operations Officer, Cheryl Northam, presented the proposed 2021-22 Budget as approved by the District's Budget Committee on May 5, 2021.

Director Micki Hall moved to approve Resolution 20-21-17 to adopt the 2021-22 Budget, make appropriations and levy ad valorem taxes. Director Howard Johnson seconded, and the Motion passed unanimously.

M2-109 Approved Resolution 20-21-17  
Adopting the 2021-22 Budget, Making  
Appropriations and Levying Ad Valorem  
Taxes

**RESOLUTION 20-21-18: AUTHORIZING BUDGET APPROPRIATION TRANSFER FOR 2020-2021**

Chief Operations Officer, Cheryl Northam, shared that Oregon Revised Statutes allow for re-appropriation of funds after budget adoption by resolution of the Board.

Director Micki Hall moved to approve Resolution 20-21-18 to authorize budget appropriation transfer for the 2020-2021 school year. Director Howard Johnson seconded, and the Motion passed unanimously.

M2-110 Approved Resolution 20-21-18  
authorizing budget appropriation transfer  
for the 2020-21 school year

**RESOLUTION 20-21-19: ACCEPTING AND APPROPRIATING ESSER II GRANT**

As allowed by Oregon Revised Statutes, Chief Operations Officer, Cheryl Northam, requested the Board consider approval of re-appropriation of funds after budget adoption by resolution of the Board for 2020-21 for an ESSER II grant.

Director Micki Hall Lee moved to adopt Resolution 20-21-19 Accepting and Appropriating an ESSER II Grant as proposed. Director Howard Johnson seconded, and the Motion passed unanimously.

M2-111 Adopted Resolution 20-21-19  
Accepting & Appropriating ESSER II Grant

## **APPROVE BOARD MEETING CALENDAR FOR 2021-22**

Chair Rebecca Larson presented the proposed School Board Meeting calendar for 2021-22.

Director Charles Lee moved to approve the 2021-2022 School Board Meeting calendar as proposed. Director Howard Johnson seconded, and the Motion passed unanimously.

M2-112 Approved 2021-2022 School Board Meeting calendar
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## **PERS BOND UPDATE**

Chief Operations Officer, Cheryl Northam, provided a brief PERS Obligation Bond update. She shared that RPS, along with 22 other districts, is pursuing this effort to offset our unfunded actuarial liability. These districts are now working on their preliminary bond statements. RPS is partnering with Piper Sandler and the statement should be available for the Board's review on June 21<sup>st</sup>. Cheryl and the superintendent are scheduled to meet with Piper Sandler on June 18<sup>th</sup>. The Board previously approved a top interest rate for the bonds of 4.5% and we are anticipating that the rate will be within that limitation. Cheryl requested that Board members notify her in advance of the July 6<sup>th</sup> deadline if they have any concerns with moving forward with this endeavor.

## **COMMITTEE REPORT – CLASSIFIED BARGAINING**

Director Charles Lee reported that the Classified Bargaining Committee met with union representatives yesterday to discuss the district's monetary offer, similar to that agreed upon with other employee groups, as well as other adjustments in an effort to reach a settlement before summer break. The union desires to address additional issues and a representative from OSBA has been requested.

## **SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT**

Superintendent Cordon responded to earlier public comments concerning "Ready Schools – Safe Learners" by sharing that has been in touch with ODE weekly, providing feedback and expressing district frustrations. Since the onset of the pandemic, we have advocated for the return of kids to five days per week, and that is in the RSSL guidance. Rather than being put in the position of being the vaccine police, our priority is that our kids stay safe. School districts are not in a position to say masks are safe or unsafe, and our kids seem to be navigating this better than the adults.

Adding to comments from Chair Larson, Jared expressed pride in this community and the wonderful people who support children and help them be successful. He is especially proud of our kids as he watched 309 kids graduate from RHS last Saturday, attaining the highest ever RHS graduation rate of 86%. Our Rose alternative school, which will integrate with RHS next year, graduated 25 students (54%), with 15 earning diplomas and 10 earning their GED. The ceremony was held at Wildlife Safari, accompanied by a Cheetah! The Horizons Program, located in the former Rose School, graduated three students this morning. This program is the result of a partnership with Douglas ESD, Douglas County Juvenile Services, DHS, etc., in serving children far from opportunity, and who in some cases had never regularly attended school. These partnerships serving kids are reason for celebration.

Superintendent Cordon confirmed that RPS has been open to full-time in-person learning for K-5 students since January. Secondary students returned to in-person learning in February and four days a week in May. We are planning for a full return to in-person learning this fall. He again expressed gratitude to everyone who endured this journey with us in keeping kids safe. Roseburg Public Schools is enrolling full-time virtual options as can be seen by the banners posted around the community. He thanked Communications Analyst, Chelsea Duncan for her work in this area.

We have exciting opportunities this year for summer school. Hundreds of students will be taking advantage of the enrichment/enjoyment and learning being made available. Many thanks to our staff for providing these expanded opportunities for kids.

The Fremont Middle School Seismic project made possible by a grant through ODE, has been disrupted, like so many things, by supply chain and labor issues. While delayed, it will be happening next school year and we are hopeful that some work may be completed over Christmas break. We are also very excited to be having conversations with our community regarding the 2022 bond measure process.

And finally, a special thanks to Director Micki Hall for her service and commitment to staff. Jared expressed appreciation for their many conversations. He thanked former Director Steve Patterson as well for his many years of service. Jared then welcomed new board members, Andrew Shirtcliff and Ann Krimetz, noting that we are grateful for their commitment to serve our community. We need to be forward thinking and believe that our best days are ahead of us.

### **INDIVIDUAL REPORTS BY DIRECTORS**

Director Howard Johnson introduced his great-granddaughter, sharing that she is finishing her sixth grade year at Fremont Middle School. She was excited to accompany him tonight as she is interested in learning what happens in public meetings.

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.

Director Micki Hall read a statement to her fellow Board members reflecting on her three years on the Board. Her colleagues have dealt with tough issues and she is sad to be leaving. She encouraged the community to step up and support the capital improvement bond needed to address our aging facility issues. Director Hall shared that the District's Strategic Plan and Equity Lens is not just about a mascot, but how we carry out our stated goals. Having lived in the Roseburg community for 44 years, serving on the board has been her way of giving back, and she challenged her colleagues to have the courage to do the hard work of learning and listening, noting that schools are the place for the beginning of hope and mind opening, being the windows of prosperity and joy.

Chair Rebecca Larson presented a "super work" award to outgoing Student Services Director, Richard Burton in honor of his patience and problem-solving abilities. He attends complicated meetings all the time, exhibits patience and grace and never loses his cool. In addition, she presented Director Micki Hall with a gift card in honor of always doing her homework and completing every bit of research the Board is tasked with, along with Altoids mints, noting that, like Micki, they are curiously strong. Mrs. Larson shared her gratitude for what each of these individuals has done for our district.

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

**Jared P. Cordon, Superintendent**

JPC/jlk

**Next Meeting:** July 14, 2021 at 6:00 p.m. in a location to be announced