

ROSEBURG PUBLIC SCHOOLS

School Board Meeting

1419 NW Valley View Drive
Roseburg, Oregon

Vol 3 No. 1

July 14, 2021

Board Members:

Dr. Brandon Bishop
Rodney Cotton
Rev. Howard Johnson, Vice Chair
Ann Krimetz
Rebecca Larson, Chair
Charles F. Lee
Andrew Shirtcliff

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

REGULAR SESSION - SCHOOL BOARD MEETING

TIME/PLACE: A regular meeting of the Douglas County School District No. 4 Board of Directors was convened in person at 6:00 p.m. on Wednesday, July 14, 2021, in the administrative office Board Room located at 1419 NW Valley View Drive in Roseburg, Oregon.

CALL TO ORDER / PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE: Board Chair Rebecca Larson called the meeting to order promptly at 6:00 p.m. and welcomed attendees. Student Services Administrative Coordinator, Melissa Roberts, led in the Pledge of Allegiance.

ATTENDANCE: Board and Cabinet members attended in person with the exception of Director Cotton, who was excused. Reporter Kyle Bailey was also present.

COMMUNICATIONS TO THE BOARD / REVIEW OF AGENDA

The Superintendent acknowledged the contributions made by outgoing Student Services Director, Rick Burton, who has mentored incoming director, Melissa Roberts, who is joining us tonight. Jared also congratulated Director Howard Johnson, who has recently retired as corporate controller for DR Johnson Lumber Company. Superintendent Cordon announced that Director Rodney Cotton was excused this evening. Since initial publication, the Board has an additional recommendation for hire within the Consent Agenda. Human Resources Director, Robert Freeman, shared that the District has embarked on “grow your own” philosophy in encouraging career opportunities for employees. He was very pleased to announce that this year we have 8 individuals who took advantage of this with two staff members advancing to associate librarians and six who will be teachers.

CONSENT AGENDA:

The Consent Agenda was presented, including approval of the Consent Agenda, Minutes from the June 9 School Board Meeting and Budget Hearing; recommendations for employment and notice of resignations and gifts to the District. Personnel actions included:

Hiring Recommendations:

Administrative Staff:

- Deborah Price, Fullerton IV Principal; and
- Melissa Roberts, Transfer from Student Services Administrative Coordinator to Director.

Licensed Staff:

- Department of Student Services
 - Dani Schroeder, School Psychologist
- Fir Grove Elementary
 - Joanne Callaway, Second Grade Teacher
 - Michelle Hammond, Second Grade Teacher
- Fremont Middle School
 - Jeffrey Meeds, Mathematics Teacher
- Fullerton IV Elementary
 - Jenny Harris, Teaching & Learning Support Specialist
- Green Elementary
 - Nicolina Hansen-Neff, Fourth Grade Teacher; and
 - Joshua Hanshaw, Fifth Grade Teacher
- Hucrest Elementary
 - Kristin Miller, Child Development Specialist
- Joseph Lane Middle School
 - Kira van Dyk, Mathematics Teacher
- Roseburg High School
 - Christopher Cockman, Language Arts Teacher; and
 - Connor Yegge, Health & PE Teacher
 - Deborah Lander, Spanish Teacher (temporary for 2021-22)
- Sunnyslope Elementary
 - Karen Bratcher, Teaching & Learning Support Specialist (temporary for 2021-22)
- Winchester Elementary
 - Hope Watts, Music Teacher

Resignations

Licensed Resignations for PERS Purposes

(These staff members wish to continue teaching and their positions will become temporary for the 2021-2022 school year)

- Nancy Backen, Health & PE Teacher at Jo Lane Middle School after 32 years;
- Michael Hoque, Fremont MS Social Studies Teacher after 21 years; and
- Michele Weaver, Fourth Grade Teacher at Hucrest after 32 years.

Other Resignations:

Licensed staff:

- Shoshana Brice, Fifth Grade Teacher at Fir Grove Elementary, after three years;
- Ashley Painter, Language Arts Teacher at Roseburg High School, after three years;
- Karen Sinclair, Fifth Grade Teacher at Green Elementary, after four years; and
- Mark Vinciguerra, Science Teacher at Roseburg High School, after one year with the District.

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

M3-1 Approved the Consent Agenda

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.

Mr. Randy Webb, a former minister, first shared his respect for members of the Board. He asked their opinion on critical race theory. After consulting with Chair Larson, Superintendent Cordon responded that critical race theory is not included within our standards/curriculum, and is not taught at Roseburg Public Schools. Jared assured Mr. Webb that anything that would demean or be harmful to students has no place in our schools. Former Pastor Webb and new Pastor Travis Atterberry stated their intention to share this information with their church members as well as other area churches. Chair Larson thanked those individuals for sharing their insights with the Board.

ADMINISTRATION OF OATH OF OFFICE FOR SCHOOL BOARD POSITIONS NO. 2 AND NO. 7

Superintendent Cordon had the honor of administering the Oath of Office to incoming Board members, Andrew Shirtcliff, Position No. 2 and Ann Krimez, Position No. 7. Both positions are effective immediately and are scheduled to expire on June 30, 2025. Mr. Cordon welcomed both individuals to their newly elected positions.

ELECTION OF 2021-2022 BOARD CHAIR AND VICE CHAIR

Current Board Chair, Rebecca Larson, opened the floor for nominations for the position of Board Chair for 2021-2022.

Director Brandon Bishop announced his nomination of Director Rebecca Larson for Board Chair, and Howard Johnson for Vice Chair. There were no additional nominations. Director Charles Lee seconded, and the Motion passed unanimously.

Director Lee added that he has been pleased with Director Larson's enthusiasm. Chair Larson explained that when she was young, she was given a bookmark with Ralph Waldo Emerson's quote, "*Nothing great was ever achieved without enthusiasm.*" Superintendent Cordon added that it has been his pleasure to work with both Chair Larson and Vice-Chair Johnson, as well as the entire board, over the past year.

M3-2 Re-elected Rebecca Larson and Howard Johnson as Chair and Vice Chair, respectively, for the 2021-2022 school year

ORGANIZATION OF THE BOARD

Newly re-elected Board Chair, Rebecca Larson, explained that the draft roster for 2021-22 Board committees is currently being created based on input from the Board of Education membership. She pointed out that the roster is suggested to be modified by making all committee meetings as needed, as opposed to regularly scheduled dates and times. In addition, The Finance, Student Services and Licensed Bargaining Committees are being placed on hiatus for the time being. Superintendent Cordon shared that as three Board members are needed to participate on the Bond Development committee, he suggests that assignees to the Building and Sites Committee be assigned that duty since the proposed capital improvement bond is focused on facility needs.

Chair Larson indicated that she would continue fine-tuning the proposed roster and provide members with a copy. The 2021-22 roster will be included on the August 11 Board Agenda for consideration of adoption.

BOARD / SUPERINTENDENT OPERATING REVIEW

Mr. Cordon shared a graphic on the screen, noting that the superintendent/board relationship is defined by high trust teams who collaborate by engaging in trust, inspiration, exchange, assist, support, success, sharing and teamwork. He provided an overview of roles and responsibilities, illustrating how it's the Board's responsibility to govern, while it's the Superintendent's responsibility to administer that governance. He provided a list of best practices, including:

- Speaking with one voice. Share opinions but commit to overall Board decision;
- Commit to no surprises. Bring questions to the Superintendent prior to meetings, then ask your question again in public so everyone learns together;
- Stick to policy around public participation; remember, this is YOUR meeting;
- Familiarize yourself with district complaint policy; and, most important...
- Don't forget to find joy in the service of kids, staff and community.

The Superintendent emphasized that in both statute and policy, a board's role is incredibly vital to school districts in creating great places for kids to learn and providing a vision for our children, trying to make sure kids are having a delightful quality learning experience that sets them up for the future.

Board members may experience being contacted about issues in classrooms, with staff or happenings in buildings. Jared explained that in day to day operations, the Board is the last stop, not the first, in order to adhere to the appeal process.

2021-2022 ANNUAL OPERATING RESOLUTIONS NOS. 1-8

Each year, the Board considers annual resolutions required in designating and authorizing official capacities, services and officers that allow the Board and designated officials of the District to carry on the daily business of the school district as required by Oregon statutes. Chair Larson explained that the Board may act on each resolution individually, or as a group at their discretion.

Director Howard Johnson moved to adopt the eight annual resolutions as noted below:

- Resolution 21-22-1: Designation of Clerk and Deputy Clerk and Bonding of Employees;
- Resolution 21-22-2: Designation of Custodian of Funds, the use of facsimile signature and Authorization for payment of obligations;
- Resolution 21-22-3 Designation of Auditor;
- Resolution 21-22-4 Designation of Depositories;
- Resolution 21-22-5 Designation of Attorney;
- Resolution 21-22-6 Designation of Election Official;
- Resolution 21-22-7 Designation of Budget Officer and Newspaper; and
- Resolution 21-22-8 Authority to Apply for Grants for the 2021-2022 School Year.

Director Charles Lee seconded, and the Motion passed unanimously. Superintendent Cordon acknowledged that attorney Cadence Whiteley from Dole Coalwell Attorneys was present this evening as the district again appointed the firm as legal counsel for 2021-22.

M3-3 Adopted annual Resolutions 21-22-1 through 21-22-8
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APPROVE MAINTENANCE / OTHER EXPENDITURES EXCEEDING \$50,000

Chief Operations Officer, Cheryl Northam, presented the two summer maintenance projects that she and Facilities Manager, Tracy Grauf, have identified for Board consideration.

1. Expansion of Security Camera Systems through REECE Complete Security in the amount of \$236,054:
 - a. RHS 22 added cameras and server upgrade
 - b. Winchester 10 added cameras
 - c. Green 5 added cameras and relocation of 2 existing cameras
 - d. Fullerton IV 7 added cameras and relocation of 2 existing cameras
 - e. Eastwood 7 added cameras and relocation of 2 existing cameras
 - f. Melrose 1 added camera
 - g. Elementary Schools Camera Server upgrade
 - h. Fremont Middle School 1 additional camera
 - i. Jo Lane Middle School 1 additional camera and relocation of 2 existing cameras

2. RHS Gym awning replacement by Renco General Contractors in the amount of \$64,542 to include demolition, cleanup and installation of the new awning.

Director Brandon Bishop moved to approve the maintenance projects as proposed. Director Howard Johnson seconded. Director Andrew Shirtcliff shared his recent experience of having security cameras installed at a lower cost. Chief Operations Officer, Cheryl Northam, explained that, as allowed by Oregon procurement guidelines, the District was able to utilize a purchase price previously negotiated by another district, thereby taking advantage of volume pricing. She noted that the project will require extensive wiring as it encompasses nine schools within our district.

The Motion passed by majority, with Director Shirtcliff voting against.

M3-4 Approved expansion of security camera systems through REECE Complete Security Solutions and replacement of awning outside the gymnasium at Roseburg High School.

APPROVE PURCHASE OF LAPTOPS FOR INSTRUCTIONAL STAFF

Assistant Superintendent, Michelle Knee, shared the proposal to purchase 140 13-inch MacBook Air laptops to replace those due for replacement for instructors as determined by the technology replacement schedule. The devices scheduled for replacement are 7 years old and can no longer be updated. The education quote provided by Apple Inc. was received in the amount of \$123,060 for the 140 devices.

Director Howard Johnson moved to approve the request for purchase of 140 Apple MacBooks as presented. Director Charles Lee seconded, and the Motion passed unanimously.

M3-5 Approved the purchase of 140 Apple MacBook Air laptops for instructors in the amount of \$123,060

SUPERINTENDENT’S REPORT

Superintendent Cordon shared his report with the Board, after welcoming new and returning members, thanking them for their service to our students and community. He provided a graphic to illustrate both Board governance and Superintendent directive expectations along with best practices.

Our summer enrichment programs are in full swing, and students are reportedly having a blast. Approximately 1,500 students per day are participating in the engaging programs. Both Jared and Chair Larson expressed their appreciation for the willingness of RPS instructional staff to make these incredible opportunities possible, not only for credit retrieval, but for creative and accelerated learning. The Oregon Department of Education’s ‘Ready School - Safe Learners’ Resiliency Framework was reviewed, and Roseburg Public Schools will continue to encourage best practices to reduce the spread of COVID-19.

Community members interested in participating in the Bond Advisory Group can find a link on the district web site. Jared also shared his optimism in the upcoming PERS obligation bond process as current interest rates continue to remain at historically low levels.

INDIVIDUAL REPORTS BY DIRECTORS

Director Ann Krimetz noted that she is looking forward to getting involved in sub-committee work, especially Curriculum and Instruction and Policy. Chair Larson responded that she has that in her notes.

Director Charles Lee commented that he is pleased to see that the state is making “strong recommendations” as opposed to mandates and expressed his appreciation for the district being flexible with kids. He has great hopes for this fall, but also realizes that no one can know what the virus will do between now and then.

Director Howard Johnson thanked fellow Board members for allowing him to serve another year as Vice Chair. He then reported that his sister passed away last Saturday and he has been invited to officiate her service, and asked for our prayers.

Director Brandon Bishop welcomed Director Ann Krimetz and Director Andrew Shirtcliff to the Board.

Director Rebecca Larson noted that one of her children is participating in the summer learning program with another one starting next week. Her daughter arrived home from school very excited today after playing music and planting seeds. Chair Larson reflected that staff were exhausted at the end of last school year, and their willingness to take on the summer learning opportunity and make this happen for kids speaks to the quality of our staff. Parents are posting pictures illustrating the profound impact the program is having on their students. Becky added that the driver’s ed teachers have likely earned a place in heaven.

ADJOURNMENT: With all business concluded, Chair Larson adjourned the meeting at 6:55 p.m.

Jared P. Cordon, Superintendent

JPC/jlk

Next Meeting: August 11, 2021 at 6:00 p.m. in the administrative office Board Room