

ROSEBURG PUBLIC SCHOOLS

School Board Meeting

Via Zoom

1419 NW Valley View Drive
Roseburg, Oregon

Vol 3 No. 2

August 11, 2021

Board Members:

Dr. Brandon Bishop	<input type="checkbox"/>
Rodney Cotton	<input type="checkbox"/>
Rev. Howard Johnson, Vice Chair	<input type="checkbox"/>
Ann Krimetz	<input type="checkbox"/>
Rebecca Larson, Chair	EXC
Charles F. Lee	<input type="checkbox"/>
Andrew Shirtcliff	<input type="checkbox"/>

Administration:

Jared P. Cordon, Superintendent	<input type="checkbox"/>
Robert Freeman, Director of Human Resources	<input type="checkbox"/>
Michelle Knee, Assistant Superintendent	<input type="checkbox"/>
Cheryl Northam, Chief Operations Officer	<input type="checkbox"/>
Melissa Roberts, Director of Student Services	<input type="checkbox"/>

REGULAR SESSION - SCHOOL BOARD MEETING

TIME/PLACE: A regular meeting of the Douglas County School District No. 4 Board of Directors was convened at 6:00 p.m. on Wednesday, August 11, 2021, in the Administrative Office Board Room located at 1419 NW Valley View Drive in Roseburg, Oregon, electronically via Zoom link.

CALL TO ORDER / PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE: Board Vice Chair Rev. Howard Johnson called the meeting to order promptly at 6:00 p.m. and welcomed attendees and led in the Pledge of Allegiance.

ATTENDANCE: Board members were in attendance via Zoom, with the exception of Board Chair Larson, who was excused. Vice Chair Johnson, Superintendent Cordon, Director of Human Resources, Robert Freeman, Assistant Superintendent, Michelle Knee, Chief Operations Officer, Cheryl Northam and Student Services Director, Melissa Roberts were on site. Reporter Joey Keeran and Roseburg High School Leadership student, Marin Gray, joined the meeting via Zoom.

COMMUNICATIONS TO THE BOARD / REVIEW OF AGENDA

Superintendent Cordon began the meeting by sharing that Chair Larson will not be in attendance this evening as she is picking up a long-awaited new addition to the Larson family; a foreign exchange student, who due to the onset of the pandemic was forced to postpone her arrival. There have also been two changes to the previously released packet: a change in position of one of the hiring recommendations and the recently received data from Phoenix. Superintendent Cordon requested a moment to speak to attendees and opened by acknowledging to both the Board and community that the level of emotions is greatly varied, from excitement about being back to school in-person, full-time, to relief for parents that they will be able to return to work, as well as the high level of frustration and anxiety being felt in our community over the increasing COVID-19 case numbers and recently issued mask mandate. Superintendent Cordon clarified that the mandate was not a school-initiated directive, but rather from the Governor working cooperatively with the Oregon Health Authority and the Oregon Department of Education. Mr. Cordon noted that as always, the district's priority is the safety of the kids, staff and community and to keeping our schools open full-time and in-person. Superintendent Cordon closed by acknowledging that not everyone is going to agree on how to manage the pandemic and that is okay, but working together and most definitely, not fighting is the best way to get through this trying time.

CONSENT AGENDA:

The Consent Agenda was presented, including approval of the Consent Agenda, Minutes from the July 14 School Board Meeting; recommendations for employment and notice of resignation, surplus items listing and Gifts to the District. Personnel actions included:

Hiring Recommendations:

Licensed Staff:

- Department of Student Services
 - Kathy Mitchell, School Psychologist (PERS Working Retiree)
- Eastwood Elementary
 - Anna Kass, Third Grade Teacher
- Green Elementary
 - Victoria “Torey” Horrace, Pre-Kindergarten
- Hucrest Elementary
 - Johanna Bean, Third Grade Teacher
- Roseburg High School
 - Eugene “Gene” Castillo, Construction Technology Teacher;
 - Marlene Garcia, Language Arts Teacher; and
 - Ibrahim Mesanovic, Science Teacher.
- Sunnyslope Elementary
 - Amy Cunningham, Second Grade Job-Share (temporary for 2021-22); and
 - Kristen Halvorsen, Fifth Grade Teacher.

Requests for Leave of Absence:

- Carrie Carson, Second Grade Teacher at Sunnyslope Elementary School, is requesting a Leave of Absence for the 2021-2022 school year for rest and recuperation;
- Chelsea Hanner, First Grade Teacher at Winchester Elementary School, is requesting a waiver of required years of service to take a Leave of Absence for the 2021-2022 school year for childcare leave; and
- Shonna Berry, Language Arts Teacher at Fremont Middle School, is requesting to take a Leave of Absence for the 2021-2022 school year for childcare leave.

Resignations

Licensed Resignations:

- Ryan Jephson, Child Development Specialist at Eastwood Elementary, after three years.

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

M3-6 Approved the Consent Agenda

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION:

Vice Chair Johnson invited Public Participation, explaining that the 20 minutes allowed is limited to two-minutes per person, and that Assistant Superintendent Michelle Knee would explain the process for the “raise your hand” feature in Zoom to sign-up for speaking and that she would be letting speakers know when their two minutes is up.

Ms. Lindsey Stanton stated that she had a question for the Board as to whether or not they are adopting a disciplinary policy to deal with students who are not following masking rules. Assistant Superintendent Knee explained that per Board policy, the Board can only take comments and are not able to respond.

Ms. Denise Dammann expressed her appreciation of Superintendent Cordon's message and thanked the Board for following the mandates in order to reduce the possibility of quarantines and helping the schools to stay open.

Mrs. Jennifer Singleton expressed her appreciation to the Board for being supportive of the community during this rough time and asked that parents be allowed to choose whether or not to mask their children as it should be the choice of parents. Mrs. Singleton expressed that the community needs to rally together as one united group.

Mr. Daniel Barr explained that his daughter, who is disabled, will not be wearing a mask. Mr. Barr shared statistics about the number of United States youth who have died from COVID-19. Mr. Barr feels that masks are a cause of brain damage and skin infections in children. Additionally, Mr. Barr noted that if our District chooses to add Critical Race Theory to our curriculum, he will be removing his daughter from our district.

Hearing and seeing no other requests for an opportunity to speak, Vice Chair Johnson thanked everyone and let them know that their comments were greatly appreciated and reminded participants that they can always email Board Members from the district website if they have a need for further communication.

PHOENIX CHARTER SCHOOL – 2020-21 DATA UPDATE

Thomas McGregor, Executive Director and Brandy Osborn, Principal for Phoenix Charter School, joined the meeting this evening and will continue to do so on a quarterly basis to share details about Phoenix, based on a meeting between the Phoenix Staff and Board Chair and Roseburg Public Schools Staff and Board Chair early in June. For this meeting, Thomas and Brandy shared results for the 2020-21 school year for Charter Goals 1 – 3: Student Attendance, Graduation Rates and ELA and Math rates. Mr. McGregor noted that the data is from an internal pull and not from ODE. Ms. Osborn noted that they have a system in place to improve attendance beginning in the fall.

Director Lee expressed his appreciation for the much easier to understand data and acknowledged that last year was bad for attendance.

Director Krimetz also expressed appreciation for the data presented, specifically the quantity of data made available.

Director Cotton noted that it had been a wise move to have the meeting and expressed his appreciation for the format and he would like the ODE report included next time.

Director Bishop questioned the 85% attendance rate of the students who attended less than 50% of the time and asked what systems are in place to increase attendance. Brandy responded that they will be making more phone calls and home visits when called for. Regarding graduation rates, Director Bishop asked about improvements that are in place. Brandy explained that in the past students have come to Phoenix in 11th & 12th grades and behind academically. Now they have developed a dedicated 8th grade classroom to allow for a stronger start to increase retention of students. Brandy noted that over the prior year they had a 5% increase in the number of graduates, to 36%. Thomas also noted that staff would be providing ongoing coaching with a

homeroom model. Director Bishop inquired as to why attendance was so low. Ms. Osborn explained that Phoenix has a high population of homeless students or those who have had to take on multiple jobs and still others who are contending with parental roadblocks. They expect to see an increase in students attending in person this coming year.

Vice Chair Johnson acknowledged that he recognizes and appreciates the amount of work Phoenix has done.

RESOLUTION 21-22-9: Adopting Supplemental Budget

Chief Operations Officer Cheryl Northam explained the intent of this resolution is to increase the appropriation for the amount of the PERS bond that was sold. This action will account for the debt service payment that will be coming due later in 2021, that was not accounted for during the 2021-22 budget process. This transaction will be a book only action as the money to be paid will be sent directly to PERS from the bond underwriter and will not actually ever touch the District's books.

Director Charles Lee moved to approve Resolution 21-22-9. Director Brandon Bishop seconded, and the Motion passed unanimously.

M3-7 Approved Resolution 21-22-9
Adoption of Supplemental Budget to
increase appropriations for PERS UAL
payments

RESOLUTION 21-22-10: Accepting and Appropriating Joseph Lane Middle School Multipurpose Room Seismic Rehabilitation Grant

Chief Operations Officer, Cheryl Northam, explained that the school district has been granted \$1,200,210 to seismically rehabilitate the multipurpose room at Joseph Lane Middle School. The intention of this rehabilitation is to raise the performance standards of that part of the building to Life Safety Standards. These grants are funded by the State of Oregon through the Oregon Infrastructure Finance Authority of the Business Development Department. Construction is planned for summer 2022. Director Bishop questioned if this work will be completed by the end of the summer and COO Northam confirmed that since the work is only being completed on one room, it will be done.

Director Brandon Bishop moved to approve and appropriate the Joseph Lane Middle School Multipurpose Room Seismic Rehabilitation Grant in the amount of \$1,200,010. Director Charles Lee seconded, and the Motion passed unanimously.

M3-8 Approved Resolution 21-22-10
Accepting and Appropriating Joseph Lane
Middle School Multipurpose Room Seismic
Rehabilitation Grant

APPROVE BOARD COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENTS FOR 202-22

Board Vice Chair Johnson presented the proposed Board Committee Assignments for 2021-22, noting the Directors had a chance to present their requests for committee placements to Board Chair Larson. There were no requested changes to the proposed assignments.

Director Ann Krimetz moved to approve the 2021-22 Board Committee roster. Director Andrew Shirtcliff seconded, and the Motion passed unanimously.

M3-9 Approved Board Committee assignments for 2021-22 as proposed

DESIGNATION OF SUPERVISORY AND CONFIDENTIAL EMPLOYEES:

Board Vice Chair, Howard Johnson, presented the annual listing of supervisory and confidential employees for Board approval. Vice Chair Johnson noted that this is a technical action that is an annual requirement to ensure that there are proper controls in place and staff are held accountable in their areas of expertise. In accordance with the Oregon Collective Bargaining Law, the Board must formally designate supervisors who will have the authority to act on behalf of the Board with regard to personnel management. In addition, the Board is also required by law to designate the confidential employees who will assist our administrative staff in effectuating management policies dealing with collective bargaining.

Director Brandon Bishop moved to approve the list of 2021-2022 supervisory and confidential employees. Director Andrew Shirtcliff seconded, and the Motion passed unanimously.

M3-10 Approved supervisory and confidential employees for 2021-2022.

5D INSTRUCTIONAL FRAMEWORK PROFESSIONAL LEARNING SERVICES – CENTER OF EDUCATIONAL LEADERSHIP - UNIVERSITY OF WASHINGTON

Assistant Superintendent, Michelle Knee, shared the proposal to purchase professional learning services from the Center for Educational Leadership at the University of Washington to support the continued implementation of the 5D Instructional Framework. Services will be paid for by ESSA funding. Michelle explained that this purchase allows us to continue the work that has been taking place with the Center for Educational Leadership over the last two years to support the implementation of the District’s instructional framework, in alignment with the Strategic Plan in the areas of Appropriate & Timely Instruction and Leadership Development.

Director Charles Lee moved to approve the request for purchase of professional learning services as presented. Director Ann Krimetz seconded, and the Motion passed unanimously.

M3-11 Approved the purchase of 5D Instruction Professional Learning Services from UW CEL

ENGLISH LEARNERS IN OREGON 2019-20 ANNUAL REPORT

ORS 317.016 directs the Oregon Department of Education (ODE) to prepare an annual report on English learner program funding and student outcomes. The report’s intention is to describe the population of English Learners in Oregon and provide a summary of district and state progress towards meeting their needs and objectives. This report is also available on the ODE website, as well as copies posted on the District website and printed copies at the District Office. Any member of the public can contact the Government Relations and External Affairs Director to request a copy of this report.

The District's ELD program currently has 50 active and 124 monitored students with 19 unique languages being spoken. Director Krimetz inquired as to how testing for proficiency is completed and would like to get a copy of the District's data, Assistant Superintendent Knee will provide this information to Director Krimetz. Director Lee inquired as to what exactly monitored students refers to. Assistant Superintendent Knee explained that these students have exited from receiving English language services and are no longer receiving direct instruction, but the District monitors for several years afterwards to ensure they are still making progress.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Superintendent Cordon shared his report with the Board, noting that we have had an amazing summer. Kudos to all who had a hand in the success of the summer programs. More than 1,200 students attending one of the many program offerings including over 140 credits retrieved by over 200 high school students. Our thanks to the legislature for providing this funding. Superintendent Cordon also shared that our plans for the fall reopening of schools includes: a return to full-time in-person learning; 5 days a week for all students; 7 periods a day for secondary students; a full offering of extra-curricular activities and after-school programs; a regular athletic season and full-time virtual options.

Per state law, we will require face coverings indoors and on school buses. They will not be required outdoors. Our District Operations Team continues to provide oversight and consultation with Douglas Public Health Network. We will still adhere to the guidelines within ODE's Resiliency Framework as they pertain to physical distancing, cleaning, co-horting and layering of health strategies.

Congratulations to the Board and COO Cheryl Northam for participating in the sale of \$32.5 million in bonds as a means of selling outstanding PERS debt as part of a cohort of statewide school districts selling \$660 million in bonds. This sale is expected to provide nearly \$18 million in savings over the next 20 years. This success is reflective of the strong credit reputation of our school district.

Director Krimetz shared that she recently attended an OSBA webinar and was pleased with the news that the mask mandate will potentially be reviewed monthly.

INDIVIDUAL REPORTS BY DIRECTORS

Director Brandon Bishop appealed to everyone from the viewpoint of not only a Board Member, but as a father of four and a local medical provider, to please consider vaccinating.

Director Ann Krimetz shared that recently she was involved with Patriot Camp and was encouraged by the positivity and the opportunity for over 90 local children to learn all about life on the Oregon Trail, as well as learning about the Constitution.

Director Charles Lee expressed his pleasure with the expertise of our financial officials involved in the handling of the PERS bond sale. Director Lee also noted that he has heard from parents and their concerns about their children being masked and the potential for skin problems. Director Lee says he is looking forward to a new year; it is going to be a great adventure.

Director Andrew Shirtcliff shared that he is frustrated at a lack of local control and feels like everyone should agree that we need to have the local control and would love for suggestions on how to achieve this.

Vice Chair Howard Johnson shared that Chair Rebecca Larson was very excited about her trip to Eugene to pick up their new family member and he is looking forward to reports from her. On a personal note, Vice Chair Johnson shared that he made a trip to Sacramento last weekend to officiate his late sister's funeral. Additionally, he is pleased that we have a good mix on our new Board. He expressed confidence that we can achieve great things and have a great vision for students and the community as long as we agree to work collaboratively moving forward.

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

Jared P. Cordon, Superintendent

JPC/sdt

Next Meeting: August 25, 2021, at 6:00 p.m. in the Administrative Office Board Room via Zoom