

# ROSEBURG PUBLIC SCHOOLS

## School Board Meeting Via Zoom

1419 NW Valley View Drive  
Roseburg, Oregon

Vol 3 No. 4

September 8, 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   
Robert Freeman, Director of Human Resources   
Michelle Knee, Assistant Superintendent   
Cheryl Northam, Chief Operations Officer   
Melissa Roberts, Director of Student Services

## 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, September 8, 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 Chair Rebecca Larson called the meeting to order promptly at 6:00 p.m. and welcomed attendees and asked Director Brandon Bishop to lead the Pledge of Allegiance.

**ATTENDANCE:** Board members were in attendance via Zoom. Director Ann Krimetz was delayed but expected to join. Superintendent Cordon, Assistant Superintendent, Michelle Knee and Chief Operations Officer, Cheryl Northam were on site. Roseburg High School Leadership student, Marin Gray, joined the meeting via Zoom.

### COMMUNICATIONS TO THE BOARD / REVIEW OF AGENDA

Superintendent Cordon updated everyone that subsequent to the initial publication of the agenda, the classified association membership had completed the required ratification of the proposal Collective Bargaining Agreement between the district and Chapter 21 of the Oregon School Employees Association. The tentative agreement can be found on pages 13-69 of the updated board packet.

### STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE REPORT

RHS leadership student, Marin Gray, shared that freshman and sophomore students were treated to two days of Link Crew activities in an effort to provide as many opportunities to rebuild what was lost socially and emotionally over the last year during the pandemic. Targeted Advisory Lessons will be focusing on grade level needs, and those advisors will remain with students over all four years of their high school experience. Seniors have been invited to the upcoming Senior Sunrise this Saturday at 6:00 a.m. and will then look forward to Senior Sunset next year as their high school journey nears completion. Student athletes are competing in sports including football, volleyball, soccer and cross-country events. Marin noted that students are very happy to be back on campus, in person and able to again participate in the many opportunities available to them.

## CONSENT AGENDA:

The Consent Agenda was presented for consideration, including approval of the Consent Agenda, Minutes from the August 25 School Board Meeting, Gifts to the District, a Surplus Items listing and recommendations for employment and notices of resignation. Personnel actions included:

### Hiring Recommendations:

#### Administrative Staff:

- Department of Student Services
  - David “Keith” Kronser, Administrative Coordinator, PERS working retiree, temporary for the 2021-2022 school year.

#### Licensed Staff:

- Roseburg High School
  - Camille Smicker, Drama Teacher

### Resignation

#### Licensed Resignation:

- Angela Chenoweth, Agricultural Science Teacher at Roseburg High School, effective October 24, 2021 following three years in the district, to take a position in another district.

Director Brandon Bishop moved to approve the Consent Agenda and Director Charles Lee seconded. The Motion passed unanimously (Director Krimetz not present).

M3-13 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. No individuals accepted the invitation to address the Board.

### APPROVE AGREEMENT WITH ROSEBURG CHAPTER OF OREGON SCHOOL EMPLOYEES ASSOCIATION (OSEA)

Classified Bargaining Chair, Charles Lee, explained that the proposed contract attempted to address economic challenges including the minimum wage, which impacted some of our hourly wage staff. A compromise adjustment was reached with a greater percentage to lower-paid staff, and the agreement was accomplished without a lot of negative feelings that can sometimes occur during the process of collective bargaining. This agreement is effective July 1, 2021 and continues through June 30, 2024. Legal expertise was provided by Nancy Hungerford of the Hungerford Law Firm. The school district appreciates our board committee members who participated in and contributed to these negotiations, including Directors Charles Lee (Chair), Dr. Brandon Bishop and Rev. Howard Johnson.

Director Andrew Shirtcliff moved to approve the Collective Bargaining Agreement between the District and the Roseburg Chapter of the Oregon School Employees Association (OSEA) effective July 1, 2021 through June 30, 2024. Director Brandon Bishop seconded, and the Motion passed unanimously (Director Krimetz not present).

M3-14 Approved the Collective Bargaining Agreement between the District and the Roseburg Chapter of OSEA

**CONSIDER ADOPTION OF RESOLUTION 21-22-11: ATTENDANCE AWARENESS MONTH**

Superintendent Cordon reflected on the impact of chronic absenteeism and the correction it has student academic success. The District’s commitment to reducing chronic absenteeism fits well within our Strategic Plan to make certain that kids are seen and heard. We are asking the Board to designate the month of September as Attendance Awareness Month.

Director Rodney Cotton moved to approve the adoption of Resolution 21-22-11: Attendance Awareness Month. Director Howard Johnson seconded, and the Motion passed unanimously (Director Krimetz not present).

M3-15 Adopted Resolution 21-22-11  
Attendance Awareness Month

**CONSIDER REQUEST TO APPROVE DUST ABATEMENT SYSTEM FOR THE ROSEBURG HIGH SCHOOL WOODSHOP**

Chief Operations Officer, Cheryl Northam, and Project Manager, Mike Jardine, presented the proposal to utilize Measure 98 funds for this needed upgrade of the dust abatement system in the RHS woodshop that has been in operation for approximately 50 years.

The High School Success Grant was initiated by ballot Measure 98 in 2016 with the goal of improving student progress toward graduation beginning with grade 9, increasing the graduation rates of high schools, and improving high school graduates’ readiness for college and career. The grant’s eligibility requirements ensure schools and districts put systems into place designed to look at what data they collect and begin the process of improving data literacy. Funding is provided to establish or expand programs in three specific areas:

- Drop-out prevention
- Career and Technical Education, and
- College-level opportunities

This project has been in the planning stages for some time and while numerous vendors expressed interest during the state-wide advertisement, only one company submitted a bid to was received for the specialized work required for the project. The projected cost, exclusive of electrical, plumbing, demolition and a concrete pad is estimated to be \$433,000. Mr. Jardine is currently working on value engineering with the successful bidder, Umpqua Sheet Metal to hopefully identify modifications for any potential cost savings. Mr. Jardine assured Director Johnson that we will follow up on his suggestion of determining if residual material can be marketed. Ms. Northam responded to Director Cotton that the project would likely be addressed during holiday and spring breaks. Chair Larson pointed out that this is the type of project that was intended for Measure 98 Grant funds. The district is very fortunate and grateful to be able to make this needed equipment upgrade to enhance the career technical experience and added safety for students. Chair Larson also pointed out that the successful bidder is a local business.

Director Charles Lee moved to approve the request to purchase a dust abatement system for the Roseburg High School woodshop. Director Rodney Cotton seconded, and the Motion passed by majority, including Director Ann Krimetz, who had joined the meeting. Director Brandon Bishop voted against.

M3-16 Approved purchase of dust  
abatement system for RHS woodshop from  
Umpqua Sheet Metal

**SUPERINTENDENT REPORT (slideshow follows these minutes)**

Superintendent Cordon shared a video provided by Communications Coordinator, Chelsea Duncan. Highlighting the excitement students are experiencing in seeing old friends and meeting new ones, feeling safe, secure and

confident as they grow and learn. It feels like family again with kids back at school. Strategies utilized in the successful fall reopening included:

- Focus on maintaining student, staff & community health;
- Prioritize student learning and student connection;
- Provide parent choice in learning models;
- Follow the health and safety mandates that will keep our schools open to full-time, in-person instruction; and
- Center kindness around mask and vaccination concerns.

In year three of the pandemic, we are making sure we are thinking and prioritizing health and safety rather than the political divide around COVID-19. Our focus continues to be on making connections with kids as we prioritize student learning after the less than desirable experience last year. While we are not back to enrollment numbers of 2019-20, this year's numbers have increased by approximately 400 students. Our plans to support families and students include virtual options. Assistant Superintendent Michelle Knee and RVS Principal, Dani Jardine, were instrumental in planning for and successfully launching our Roseburg Virtual School, home of the "Hive". RVS is kid-focused and allows our staff to remain connected with kids.

On the COVID front, our Operations Team is doing a super job managing cases and our schools had no evidence of spread last year. OHA has revised quarantine processes this year, and we anticipate far fewer quarantines related to school. We also expect to deal with staffing shortages this year which will be dealt with through redistribution of duties and assignments to provide consistency for kids. Conversations state-wide regarding vaccinations has been contentious and we will focus on safety and foundational importance of religious freedom and medical rights in terms of exceptions which would be followed by additional safety protections.

The biggest challenge districts face right is the current shortage of bus drivers, resulting in community frustrations. We apologize to parents whose children have been on the bus too long, and we have been in conversations with our provider, First Student, demanding they meet obligations to fulfil their agreement. We are trying to help where possible in rescheduling athletic events and extra-curricular activities, trying to assure that kids are not disadvantaged due to this shortage. Local service people, specifically Tonji, are terrific. Getting kids to and from school in a timely matter, along with athletic events, are critical services.

Chair Larson inquired about substitute teachers, and HR Director Robert Freeman responded that while the pool is smaller than in previous years, Douglas ESD is transitioning to a different provider for retaining and recruiting substitutes, and they are hoping to increase the pool. Jared responded to Directors Lee and Krimetz that we are leaning on OHA's expertise regarding appropriate distancing for staff and students. Students are not masked during lunch or while outside.

The Superintendent reminded everyone that we are all in this together, and expressed kudos to staff as well as appreciation to the Board for following protocols that allowed our students to return to full time in-person learning. We appreciate our wonderful & supportive community, and our dedicated staff members.

### **INDIVIDUAL REPORTS BY DIRECTORS**

Director Cotton watched the Governor and ODE's Colt Gill speak yesterday and is curious about the directive to limit student gatherings outside of school hours. Jared responded that our district will move open houses to Zoom. The request to limit extra-curricular activities is an effort to limiting spread of the virus. It's important to have a more normal year, and families are encouraged to limit large gatherings. Jared will continue to advocate for clearer communication.

Director Brandon Bishop acknowledged that case numbers show early signs of decreasing, but the virus is still very much here. He encouraged cooler, calmer minds during this time of crisis, pointing out that National Guard, FEMA and Indian Health personnel are currently providing assistance at the hospital.

Director Ann Krimetz expressed interest in knowing specific numbers of cases related to children in order to have a clearer picture of our school children. Dr. Dannenhoffer may be a resource for more detailed reports of hospitalizations and recovery, but we are not informed if a student is in the hospital. Chair Larson shared that HIPAA privacy restrictions limit available information.

Director Lee remarked that as a student of government, he has in the past been in favor of local decision making and is satisfied that the district is doing the reasonable thing at this time.

Chair Larson noted that it's wonderful to see kids back in school and she shared that she is grateful for staff and how hard they are working to provide a somewhat normal school year.

**ADJOURNMENT:** With all business concluded, Chair Rebecca Larson adjourned the meeting at 6:57 p.m.

**Jared P. Cordon, Superintendent**

JPC/jlk

**Next Meeting:** September 22, 2021, at 6:00 p.m. in the Administrative Office Board Room via Zoom