

ROSEBURG PUBLIC SCHOOLS

School Board Meeting Via Zoom

1419 NW Valley View Drive
Roseburg, Oregon

Vol 3 No. 8

November 17, 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 Exc
Melissa Roberts, Director of Student Services

REGULAR SESSION

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, November 17, 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 just a few minutes after 6:00 p.m. as we were experiencing technology difficulties. She welcomed attendees and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

ATTENDANCE: Board members were in attendance via Zoom. Superintendent Cordon was on site, along with Vice-Chair Howard Johnson and Director Brandon Bishop. Education Reporter, Madison Temmel attended via Zoom.

COMMUNICATIONS TO THE BOARD / REVIEW OF AGENDA

Superintendent Cordon announced Cheryl Northam, Chief Operations Officer, was excused this evening. He also acknowledged and welcomed a new education reporter from the News Review, Madison Temmel. With the Thanksgiving holidays nearly upon us, Mr. Cordon shared a reflection of something Ralph Waldo Emerson used to do, by encouraging his readers to cultivate a habit of being grateful for every good thing that comes to us and to give thanks continually. He expressed appreciation to the board, our staff, kids, their families, this community, wanting to let people know how grateful he is for the opportunity to serve each of you. Agenda additions included an additional hire within the Consent Agenda, along with a revision to the 2021-22 school year calendar.

STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE REPORT: RHS student leadership students Marin Gray and Emma Kahler provided updates of the most recent activities, including the wrap up of fall sports, with the winter sports season having begun this week. Numerous student athletes and coaches have received recognition for their outstanding achievements, including Bryanna Witcher, Eliza Eckman, Colton Marsters and Tiger Black. Coach Heuberger was also honored with coach of the year in our conference, and Coach Thompson is Oregon State baseball

coach of the year. RHS band members and cheerleaders showcased their talents in the Veterans Day Parade and over 2,100 individual Parent Teacher conferences were recently completed. Roseburg Chapter FFA livestock projects are now in progress, along with National Honor Society elections. Plans for the upcoming Winter Week include dress-up days and activities during lunch. Our leadership students continue to support middle school students as they prepare for their future high school leadership experiences. Students will be supporting Partner's Club members by attending upcoming basketball events. A total of 958 RHS students met a 90% attendance goal in October. Awesome! Students involved in after school sports and clubs can enjoy a free supper and late bus services. Overall, students indicate that school is feeling more normal again while taking extra safety precautions, and they are happily attending RHS in person where they can share with each other the true spirit of Thanksgiving.

STUDENT / STAFF RECOGNITION

Director Howard Johnson had the honor of sharing highlights of the letters of recognition that the schools will be presenting to the following outstanding students and staff:

Amelia Berry, Fir Grove Elementary Fifth Grade Student

Amelia's teachers and peers describe her as kind, positive, collaborative, respectful, humble, and overall, a phenomenal student to have in this community. She is known for being a hard worker with a positive attitude, diligent in completing her work while volunteering to help teachers with whatever is needed. Amelia enjoys artistic endeavors and has a great sense of humor.

Amelia Van Dyke, Jo Lane Middle School Eighth Grade Student

Jo Lane staff share that Amelia shows an amazing commitment to her learning, with her work well thought out and organized. Her work ethic, respect for others, and time management skills are all characteristics that will help her be a successful student and person in the future. An active member of National Jr. Honor Society, Amelia is considered an independent, industrious, and quiet leader who has a positive impact on others.

Thomas Ogle, Roseburg High School Senior

After attending Melrose and Fremont Middle School, and now a senior at RHS, Thomas is known for his work ethic and conscientious attitude, earning a 3.67 GPA. Thomas brings a positive presence to all of his classes and interactions and enjoys exploring nature. His teachers praise his drive to explore everything from art and photography, to ceramics, world language and fine arts. Thomas loves the many programs at RHS and plans to continue studying the automotive program at UCC.

Staff members were also recognized and honored this evening, including:

Linda Taylor, Eastwood Elementary School Instructional Assistant

Linda was honored for her great attitude and problem-solving skills, always finding ways to help students learn from challenges and resulting outcomes. Always one of the first to reach out to new staff members, she finds ways to assist them in learning their new jobs. Eastwood is a better place because of Linda, and her positive impact on Eastwood staff and students is invaluable.

Corina VanBurger, Fir Grove Elementary Child Development Specialist

This integral part of the Fir Grove Falcon community is known for her positive energy, kind heart, compassion for every child and adult, and knack for building positive relationships with everyone. Quick with a smile, welcoming words and gentle heart, Corina makes an impact on our community that goes above and beyond. Considered an epitome of kindness, staff are thankful to Corina for all she does.

The students will receive McDonald’s gift cards along with the presentation letters from their principals. Staff members being honored will be presented with Crystal Apple Awards at their school sites. Congratulations to all these highly deserving individuals. Congratulations, recipients, you each make our world a better place.

CONSENT AGENDA:

The Consent Agenda was presented for consideration, including approval of the Consent Agenda, Minutes from the October 27, 2021, School Board Meeting, Gifts to the District, and recommendations for employment and notice of resignation. Personnel actions included:

Recommendations for Hire:

Licensed Staff:

- Fullerton IV Elementary School
 - Megan Driver, Special Education Turnaround Program Teacher, a temporary position for the 2021-22 school year;
- Melrose Elementary School
 - Jaime Vredenburg, Kindergarten Teacher, a temporary position for the 2021-22 school year;
- Fremont Middle School
 - Joanna Johnson, Math Teacher, a temporary position for the 2021-22 school year; and
 - Karalyn Soffer, Music Teacher

Resignation:

Licensed:

- Ann Carey, Child Development Specialist at Winchester Elementary School, is retiring for PERS retirement purposes after 25 years in the district and wishes to continue working for the remainder of the 2021-22 school year. Congratulations to Ann!

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

M3-24 Approved the Consent Agenda

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION:

Chair Rebecca Larson 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-minute limit is approaching.

Yuri Vincent publicly praised Fullerton IV Principal, Debbie Price, for effectively handling a recent issue with poise and leadership. He brought forth some concerns about upcoming health curriculum with respect to gender identity.

Kathleen LaRose shared her opinion that OSHA mandates are unlawful and suggested that some questions posed during public comment be answered at the time. Assistant Superintendent, Michelle Knee, invited Ms. LaRose to email any curriculum adoption inquiries and she will be happy to assist.

Chair Larson clarified that we are happy to provide information and encouraged patrons to reach out to District Office for assistance.

PHOENIX CHARTER SCHOOL REPORT – ATTENDANCE RATES

Phoenix Charter School Executive Director Thomas McGregor and Principal Brandy Osborn shared an update of data specific to student attendance, high school success, and grade level improvement goals, adding that some current data will not be available until after reporting period ending next week. They are proud to serve students with severe social, economic, and medical complexities while navigating poverty and homelessness. Principal Osborn noted that staff are striving daily to improve student attendance and shared the various tools staff are utilizing to encourage students and improve those numbers. Director Bishop noted concerns regarding both academic and attendance goals. Board Chair Larson expressed appreciation for the report and will look forward to reports later this school year.

STUDENT SUCCESS ACT – STUDENT INVESTMENT ACCOUNT (SIA) 2020-2021 ANNUAL REPORT

Assistant Superintendent, Michelle Knee, presented the 2020-21 Final Report for this grant that targets support for student mental and behavioral health; increasing academic achievement; reducing academic disparities for students from racial or ethnic groups that have historically experienced academic disparities; students with disabilities; English Language Learners; economically disadvantaged students; students who are homeless and students who are foster children. Michelle shared the four strategies utilized in our district, including investments in class size, well-rounded education, instructional time, and health and safety. The SIA 2020-21 grant totaled \$1,471,801.13.

AMENDMENT TO FIRST STUDENT TRANSPORTATION AGREEMENT

To address the current student transportation crisis attributable to a nation-wide bus driver shortage, the Board of Directors is being asked to consider early implementation of the agreed upon 2022-2023 2.5 percent increase to be effective November 21, 2021. Superintendent Cordon noted that this provision is intended to speed up driver recruitment. Chair Larson added her parent perspective that it's hard for families to help with transportation for athletics and activities, potentially creating access issues. The District and First Student will continue efforts to reduce the impact on our students and their families.

Director Charles Lee moved to approve the Amendment to the First Student Transportation Agreement as presented. Director Howard Johnson seconded, and the Motion passed by majority with Director Andrew Shirtcliff voting against.

M3-25 Approved First Student Amendment

REVISION OF 2021-2022 SCHOOL CALENDAR

District administration and the licensed labor management group have proposed changing December 17, 2021, from a student contact day to a teacher workday to allow staff to plan and prepare prior to the winter break, thereby alleviating stress and anxiety that has resulted from COVID-19.

Director Charles Lee moved to approve changing December 17 from a student contact day to a non-student day as proposed. Director Howard Johnson seconded, and the Motion passed unanimously. Board members acknowledged the amazing work happening throughout the District and extended their appreciation for the dedication of all our hard-working staff.

M3-26 Revised 2021-22 school calendar
(December 17, 2021)

VOTE: OSBA LEGISLATIVE POLICY COMMITTEE (LPC) POSITION NO. 9, DOUGLAS/SOUTH COAST REGION

The Board considered a request from OSBA to vote in support of one of the two candidates nominated to represent Position 9 of the Legislative Policy Committee (LPC) for the Douglas/South Coast Region.

Director Charles Lee moved to support candidate Candice Voynick, nominated by the Glide School District, to represent Position No.9 of the Douglas/South Coast Region. Director Brandon Bishop seconded, and the Motion passed by majority with Directors Rodney Cotton, Rev. Howard Johnson and Andrew Shirtcliff voting against.

M3-27 Voted for Candice Voynick for LPC Position 9 of Douglas/South Coast Region

COMMITTEE REPORT – BOND DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

Committee Chair, Andrew Shirtcliff, shared that 20-30 committee members met last night, gathering in four groups to talk about what they believe is most important within a potential bond. The focus areas will be further analyzed to hopefully bring them closer to a consensus on what could potentially be accomplished. Chair Larson thanked everyone who has participated in this work, explaining that it will help the Board identify what our community really needs. The Board will hear the findings from this committee work at the December 15th Board Meeting.

SUPERINTENDENT’S REPORT (slideshow follows these minutes)

Superintendent Cordon shared an update of student transportation challenges and an overview of our five-year agreement with First Student. School leaders and instructors are continuing to examine how systems can support students impacted by pandemic-related disruptions. Our treasured volunteers are now being welcomed back into our schools to support students and staff. These individuals will be following the same safety protocols as our staff to ensure the continued safety of our staff and students. The superintendent also shared exciting updates on 2019-20 graduation rates, along with systems development to improve 9th-grade on track numbers were impacted by COVID-19.

Jared was very pleased to share a slideshow prepared by our Communications Coordinator, Chelsea Duncan, who invited students to share what they are most thankful for. It was a heartfelt moment reminding us of all blessings in our lives.

INDIVIDUAL REPORTS BY DIRECTORS

Director Charles Lee shared that he is grateful for this Board.

Director Ann Krimetz shared her gratitude for working with this group, explaining that she is encouraged by what she has observed so far in the District. She reported that the community can be confident in the work being done, and she will do her best to share her learnings with the community so they can have confidence in our work as well.

Director Brandon Bishop shared that he is thankful for the teachers who are working so hard.

Director Rod Cotton stated he is thankful to be alive and for his fellow Board members. He is looking forward to when they can again meet in person. And last, he gave thanks for Jared, who was “a home run” hire.

Director Howard Johnson announced that he is “too blessed to be stressed” and is thankful for waking up this morning.

Chair Rebecca Larson shared that she feels honored to serve with the Board and staff at District Office. As actions speak louder than words, tonight the Board gave a big “thank you” to staff, who we feel are a gift to us. She expressed hope that the time on December 17th will be meaningful to everyone.

ADJOURNMENT: With all regular business before the Board completed, Chair Rebecca Larson recessed the regular meeting at 7:10 p.m. to enter Executive Session.

Executive Session

Chair Larson convened an Executive Session at 7:10 p.m. via Zoom pursuant to ORS 192.660(2)(i). The Board concluded their discussion at 8:03 p.m. Chair Larson recessed the Executive Session, to be reconvened on January 12, 2022. Chair Larson reconvened the regular session. No members of the public remained in the waiting room, and the meeting was adjourned at 8:03 p.m.

Jared P. Cordon, Superintendent

JPC/jlk

Next Meeting: December 15, 2021, 6:00 p.m. in the Administrative Office Board Room via Zoom