

# ROSEBURG PUBLIC SCHOOLS

## School Board Meeting

### Via Zoom

1419 NW Valley View Drive  
Roseburg, Oregon

Vol 3 No. 9

December 15, 2021

#### Board Members:

Dr. Brandon Bishop	Exc.
Rodney Cotton	<input type="checkbox"/>
Rev. Howard Johnson, Vice Chair	<input type="checkbox"/>
Ann Krimetz	<input type="checkbox"/>
Rebecca Larson, Chair	<input type="checkbox"/>
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, Director of Finance and Operations	<input type="checkbox"/>
Melissa Roberts, Director of Student Services	<input type="checkbox"/>

## 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, December 15, 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 at 6:00 p.m. She welcomed attendees and asked Director Rodney Cotton to lead the Pledge of Allegiance.

**ATTENDANCE:** Board members were in attendance, with the exception of Director Brandon Bishop, who was excused. Superintendent Cordon and Cabinet members were in attendance. Education Reporter, Madison Temmel attended via Zoom.

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

Superintendent Cordon announced that Director Bishop was excused this evening. He announced that there were no changes to the agenda.

**STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE REPORT:** RHS student leadership student and co-ASB vice president, Marin Gray, shared her abbreviated holiday edition of RHS activities, providing updates of the most recent activities. This week is Winter Week with lots of fun activities for the added enjoyment of the students. The week wraps up with an Ugly Sweater Day tomorrow. The campus is sporting a festive look complete with snowflakes and holiday decorations for all to enjoy. The library is hosting creative workshops. Leadership students are now preparing to mentor younger students to take on leadership roles next year. Sports are in high gear with the wrestling team travelling to Nevada this weekend for a championship tournament. The FFA veterinary science career students placed third in the advanced class, with the beginning team placing first. A band concert is scheduled this evening, with a choir concert to follow on Friday night. Students are definitely ready for Winter Break and are very grateful for the uplifting positivity and support coming from both students and staff, with everyone wearing a smile as they prepare for the holidays.

## **STUDENT / STAFF RECOGNITION**

Board Chair Rebecca Larson had the honor of sharing highlights of the letters of recognition that the schools will be presenting to the following outstanding students and staff:

### **Hunter Fullerton, Eleventh Grade Student at Roseburg High School**

Hunter Fullerton is a 4.0 student taking honors English and math, along with several business classes. He's also vice president of media for FBLA and plays basketball and softball. RH teachers describe Hunter as dedicated, kind, compassionate, helpful, respectful, patient, inquisitive and humble. Teachers also noted that Hunter asks probing questions, is a dedicated athlete and scholar, and is hard working. Hunter, who enjoys fishing and hiking, hopes to major in business after he graduates. Keep up the good work, Hunter!

### **V Vasser, Fremont Middle School Student**

V Vasser is a quiet leader and exemplifies Fremont's EPIC core values; Empathy, Perseverance, Integrity and Community. V demonstrates being an EPIC student by consistently being reliable, making smart decisions, never giving up and being trusted to always do the right thing.

It is clear why the decision to honor V was an easy one from all teachers.

### **Brianna Villanueva, Fullerton IV Elementary Student**

Brianna Villanueva is known as a leader who displays respect, empathy, perseverance and charisma. She is someone whom others know they can go to when they need help on schoolwork or if they need a friend at recess. Brianna stands up and encourages those around her to show the same responsibility that she exhibits. She is a hard worker and is determined to get through any difficulties she faces. Those traits will provide her endless opportunities in life. Keep going, Brianna! We are excited for your future.

Chair Larson read the letter from Principal Price in English, and Superintendent Cordon read the same in Spanish so that all members of the family could enjoy the moment.

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

### **Mike Booze, Green Elementary School - Evening Custodian**

Mike has been helping keep Green running smoothly while subbing for the school's site operator.

He is recognized for his willingness to step in and do anything that is needed, from cleaning to repairs. Fellow staff members note Mike's positive attitude and appreciate him for looking out for all students and staff. He brings a sense of humor and friendly nature to the job and is a great example of a hard worker.

Thank you for all you do, Mike.

### **Jannah Cummings, Fullerton IV Elementary – Turn Around Program Teacher**

Jannah came to Roseburg is a first-year teacher into the Turn Around Program at Fullerton IV. She meets the challenges she faces with humor and confidence. The knowledge she brings into her role and her willingness to openly support staff and students is inspiring. She has a wonderful ability to take complex problems and offer her team members solutions in a way that is both positive and genuine. Her connection with others is so authentic. Jannah has a big heart for students, and she has been a huge encouragement to the entire Fullerton team. We are incredibly thankful she chose to start her career at Fullerton IV.

### **Jamie Hummel, Green Elementary School – PE Teacher**

Jamie puts her heart into planning and prepping for PE and is consistent in her classes. She is very passionate about her job and goes above and beyond both in her PE program and Green on the Run. Staff report that Jamie is loved by her students and always brings a positive and uplifting attitude to the school, always going

the extra 500 miles for the kids. She makes sure PE is welcoming and all are included. She has been especially supportive of building community throughout the school and focuses on keeping students connected.

### **Holly Knox, Fullerton IV Elementary - Librarian**

Holly has taken on the role of librarian with huge amounts of enthusiasm and energy. Holly spent hours and hours transforming the Fullerton library into a cozy and inviting space for students by creating a home-like atmosphere. Her love of books and creativity radiate through the library. She pours her heart into her work and makes Fullerton a place where students thrive and feel loved. She aims to make positive connections with all students. We are lucky to have a dedicated and determined librarian making such a positive impact.

These 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 November 17, 2021, School Board Meeting; Surplus Items listing; Gifts to the District, and recommendations for employment and notice of resignation. Personnel actions included:

### **Recommendations for Hire:**

Licensed Staff:

- Eastwood Elementary School
  - Carolyn "Jean" Christensen, Third Grade Teacher, a temporary contract for the 2021-22 school year. Jean retired from the District in 2013 after 22 years, and taught Fifth Grade remote instruction on a temporary contract in 2020-2021.
- Joseph Lane Middle School
  - Alexa Scroggins, Sixth Grade Math and Science Teacher, a temporary position for 2021-2022.

### **Resignations:**

Licensed Staff:

- After 37 years in the district, Diane Hoffine, Learning Specialist at Sunnyslope Elementary School, has submitted her resignation for PERS retirement purposes, and would like to continue working for the remainder of the school year; and
- Will Long, Fourth Grade Teacher at Sunnyslope Elementary School since August of 2020, has submitted his resignation effective December 13, 2021.

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

M3-28 Approved the Consent Agenda
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### **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.

Roseburg resident and former teacher and Board Member, Micki Hall, offered her congratulations to each of the students and staff members being recognized tonight. She also thanked every board member who are

community members serving on the board, emphasizing that all are volunteers who are not compensated for their time. She expressed gratitude for each and every one of them. Merry Christmas!

## **PRESENTATION OF THE 2020-2021 AUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

Director of Finance and Operations, Cheryl Northam, introduced Ms. Aria Bettinger, an auditor and partner with accounting firm KDP CPAs, LLP. A member of this year's audit team, Ms. Bettinger, shared the required communications to the school board subsequent to the completion of the 2020-2021 fiscal year audit. Following review of the main focus areas, Ms. Bettinger advised the Board that the audit had been awarded an "unmodified opinion", which is the highest level of assurance possible.

## **COMMUNITY BOND DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE – REPORT OF FINDINGS**

The Community Bond Development Committee included:

- ❖ Andrew Shirtcliff, RPS School Board Director, Bond Development Committee Chair
- ❖ Aric Groshong, Physician Director, Centennial Medical Group; Pediatric Hospitalist
- ❖ Corrie Peachey-Briggs, Community member, Parent, RPS Alumni
- ❖ Erica Mills, NeighborWorks Umpqua CEO; UCC Board member
- ❖ Jennifer Sikes, Knife River Materials Construction Project Manager/Estimator, Parent of three
- ❖ Joe Newton, Parent, Community member
- ❖ Keith Cubic, Former Douglas County Planning Director
- ❖ Lance Colley, Community volunteer; nonprofit board member; former City Manager for the City of Roseburg
- ❖ Nikki Messenger, Roseburg City Manager
- ❖ Rebecca Larson, RPS School Board Chair
- ❖ Rod Cotton, RPS School Board Director
- ❖ Ryan Finlay, Roseburg Tracker
- ❖ Steve Loosley, Volunteer; Community advocate; small business owner
- ❖ Camron Pope, REA President; RPS teacher
- ❖ Jill Weber, Roseburg High School Principal
- ❖ Laurie Way, RPS teacher
- ❖ Kevin Wicks, RPS teacher

Purpose: Develop a recommended bond package for the consideration of the Roseburg School Board.

Committee members assumed roles and responsibilities including –

- Reviewing information related to the District's education vision, enrollment trends and facility needs.
- Reviewing public polling data related to different bond package scenarios.
- Serving as advocates for the process in the community (with colleagues and in neighborhoods).
- Prioritizing investment priorities to best serve students.

Guiding Principles –

- Be responsible stewards of the community by demonstrating fiscal responsibility, transparency, environmental sustainability, and clear communication throughout the process.
- Provide schools that are student-centered and designed to support students, families, and community members. Our schools should instill a sense of pride and unity to not only every student but to members of the community.
- Cultivate relationships between the community and school facilities to ensure success in the classroom and beyond. Emphasize the role of our schools in the promotion and support of community development and its success.
- Desire to support our community by making investments in our schools. Construct and/or modernize facilities that will support present and future educational needs.

This team has been meeting since August 2021, and their process and findings were presented by individual members including Aric Groshong, Corrie Peachey-Briggs, Jennifer Sikes and Lance Colley, who shared insights developed throughout the process.

Dr. Groshong and the team began by explaining the “Why” behind this bond effort, specifically sharing that –

- An investment in Roseburg’s children is an investment in our community’s future.
- Our children deserve to learn and grow in safe, secure, healthy educational environments.
- Our schools are our community’s assets, and responsible stewardship includes maintaining and improving community investments.
- Every school in our district will experience increased safety, accessibility, and quality educational upgrades.
- Economic development investment opportunity that will continue to accelerate partnerships throughout and beyond our community that benefit both our youth and our adults.
- Roseburg Public Schools has no capital improvement bond.

Community polling results conducted by Patinkin Research Strategies last October tested highest in the areas of health and safety, energy efficiency and accessibility. With more than \$300 million in critical renovations and upgrades identified throughout our facilities review process, the Bond Committee prioritized the district’s top needs, selecting \$154 million in investments. Based on current assessed values, the estimated bond rate would be approximately \$1.85/\$1,000 of assessed value to be applied to:

- ✓ Heath, safety and security (39%)
  - Secure vestibules throughout the district to ensure access control;
  - New generators at 11 schools;
  - Elementary school playground improvements; and
  - Middle school track replacements and new synthetic turf fields.
- ✓ Building Systems and Energy Efficiency (23%) – District-wide improvements to:
  - HVAC additions and repairs for air ventilation/filtering, temperature control;
  - Roofing; and
  - Plumbing and electrical.
- ✓ Educational improvements (38%)
  - Educational and facility improvements at all elementary schools and middle schools;
  - Career and technical education/vocational education investments;
  - Replacement of Old Main at Roseburg High School that maintains and honors the historical architectural elements; and
  - New multi-purpose facilities at five elementary schools.

The Board of Directors will deliberate on the recommended bond package at their January 12, 2022, meeting.

**RESOLUTION 21-22-13: ACCEPTING AND APPROPRIATING THE CORONAVIRUS STATE FISCAL RECOVERY FUND GRANT**

Resolution 21-22-13 necessitates adoption by the Board to accept and appropriate \$211,927 in grant funding to provide highspeed data access along with acquiring classroom equipment for remote learning. As part of the Coronavirus State Fiscal Recovery Fund, Representative Gary Leif awarded Douglas ESD two million dollars to be spent on schools in House District 2’s boundary to upgrade core technology required to allow rural schools to move to highspeed data access along with classroom equipment for remote learning for a total of \$354,513. Roseburg Public schools will receive iPads, Apple computers, Digital displays for classrooms and document cameras. Apple requires entities to purchase equipment directly from Apple in order for the

equipment to be included in a device management platform the entity uses. For this reason, Roseburg School District will need to purchase the 559 iPads and 64 Apple computers directly from Apple for the sum of \$211,927. The remaining \$142,586 in equipment will be purchased by Douglas ESD and given to the Roseburg School District.

Director Charles Lee moved to accept and appropriate the Coronavirus State Fiscal Recovery Fund Grant in the amount of \$211,927. Vice Chair Howard Johnson seconded, and the Motion passed unanimously.

M3-29 Accepted and appropriated the coronavirus state fiscal recovery fund grant
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### **SUPERINTENDENT’S REPORT**

Superintendent Cordon thanked the members of the Bond Development team who presented tonight and expressed gratitude for the entire committee who did the important and deep work around the future of RPS, as well as those who participated in polling. He also congratulated the Business Operations team for their diligent work in attaining an “unmodified opinion”, the highest rating possible in their 2020-21 financial audit, as they have succeeded in doing over the past several years, striving for transparency, accuracy and accountability. Remaining proud and humbled by the way staff, students and families navigated this school year, Jared reminded everyone that despite ongoing challenges, we remain open full time, continuing to teach and care for students and growing stronger as a school community every day. It’s important to thank our Board, staff and community for 2021, for their focus on student safety, added opportunities for kids and keeping our schools open. Merry Christmas, happy holidays, and have a wonderful New Year!

### **INDIVIDUAL REPORTS BY DIRECTORS**

Director Charles Lee shared that he is very happy to see it raining in Oregon and seeing the snow in the mountains where it belongs after such a long time. He hopes it continues and added that it has made him cheerful the past few days.

Director Ann Krimetz noted that she is not so much a “numbers” person as some others on the Board, but in looking at the audit and the summary, she reflected we did really well handling things in a fiscally responsible way which is so nice to know and be confident in. She is even more appreciative of Director of Finance and Operations, Cheryl Northam, for doing what she does. She is looking forward to working on the Curriculum and Instruction Committee, reviewing some new curriculum and working with Asst. Supt. Michelle Knee. Director Krimetz then wished everyone a Merry Christmas.

Chair Rebecca Larson thanked everyone for coming and announced that the next meeting takes place on January 12, 2022, a new year. She wished everyone a Merry Christmas.

**ADJOURNMENT:** With all regular business before the Board completed, Chair Rebecca Larson adjourned the regular meeting at 7:00 p.m.

**Jared P. Cordon, Superintendent**

JPC/jlk

**Next Meeting:** January 12, 2022, 6:00 p.m. in the Administrative Office Board Room via Zoom