

ROSEBURG PUBLIC SCHOOLS

School Board Meeting
Electronic Link Available
Hucrest Elementary School
1810 NW Kline Street
Roseburg, Oregon 97471

Vol 3 No. 14

March 16, 2022

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, Director of Finance and Operations
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, March 16, 2022, in the cafeteria of Hucrest Elementary School located at 1810 NW Kline Street in Roseburg, Oregon, in person with an electronic link available.

CALL TO ORDER / PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE: Board Chair Rebecca Larson called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m., acknowledging the marvelous job Hucrest staff did in displaying student artwork throughout the space. Hucrest principal, Don Schrader welcomed guests and shared the significance of the origami cranes on the tables. Chair Larson asked Student Services Director, Melissa Roberts, to lead the Pledge of Allegiance.

ATTENDANCE: Board members were in attendance, along with Superintendent Cordon and Cabinet members. RHS leadership students, Marin Gray and Emma Kahler attended were in attendance as well.

COMMUNICATIONS TO THE BOARD / REVIEW OF AGENDA

Superintendent Cordon welcomed everyone here in person, as well as Directors Krimetz and Shirtcliff who have joined the meeting remotely. He offered sincere condolences to the Sutherlin School District after the unexpected passing of one of their students who also spent time in the Roseburg School District, noting that the loss of any child is always a tragic occurrence. Superintendent Cordon also acknowledged that RHS senior, Marin Gray, was recently crowned Miss Douglas County, and thanked for her being such a fine representative of our county.

WELCOME TO HUCREST ELEMENTARY SCHOOL: Hucrest Principal, Don Schrader, welcomed attendees to the Hucrest Elementary school, and shared the significance of the origami cranes. Chair Rebecca Larson expressed gratitude for the amazing student artwork gracing the space and thanked Hucrest for hosting tonight, adding that conducting Board meetings remotely is just not the same as being here in person.

STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE REPORT: RHS leadership students Marin Gray and Emma Kahler both attended in person and expressed pleasure in being here in person to share all the exciting things happening at Roseburg High School. Students at both middle schools and RHS are enjoying the fun activities associated with “Kindness Week” including sharing smiles, complimenting others, writing encouraging notes, and contributing

links to the Kindness Chain. Positivitrees are a continued presence on campus, encouraging everyone to complete random acts of kindness. Marin shared her excitement in attending in person with no mask requirement. The Leadership students are interacting collaboratively with the two middle schools, and students interested in leadership are invited to attend an informational meeting to learn about next year's class. Over Spring Break, students gathered at Melrose Elementary to help prepare emergency buckets to support our local community. The popular annual fundraising event, Mr. RHS, is scheduled for May 6, and the nine candidates are already busy practicing. RHS Prom will take place on April 23rd. Plans are also in progress for a UCC math competition, annual Mother-Daughter Tea, P.R.I.D.E. Night and Homegoing events.

Emma shared all the current athletic and concert event results, with the Wind Ensemble and Choir having qualified for state competition. The literacy play received lots of positive feedback. The wrestling team placed Third in the state, with both Nash and Gage Singleton placing First, and Varrius Scanlon placing Second. Events are on tap for softball, track, tennis and lacrosse. Nominees for the Future First Citizen Scholarships have been announced. Students are planning to honor all staff throughout the week of April 18th, acknowledging them for ensuring student success throughout the pandemic.

STUDENT / STAFF RECOGNITION

Chair Larson shared that the Board has really been looking forward to having student and staff recognitions in person. 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:

Addison "Addie" Soder, Fifth Grade Student at Melrose Elementary School

Addie has been selected as this month's outstanding student at Melrose Elementary. Addie is described as an amazing and talented student who is a leader and role model. She is also a student council member and loves spending time in the school garden. She is known for her kind and thoughtful ways and her willingness to serve anywhere she is needed on campus. Melrose staff say Addie's creative problem-solving inspires others to think deeply. Addie has a passion for reading, math, science and art, and teachers say her positive outlook helps encourage classmates and teachers alike.

Congratulations, Addie!

Tyson Juett, Sixth Grade Student at Joseph Lane Middle School

Joseph Lane Middle School's outstanding student of the month is Sixth Grade student, Tyson Juett. Tyson is described as a conscientious student who comes to class every day prepared to learn. He is self-motivated and readily takes on any challenge offered. Even when a challenge isn't presented, he looks for ways to challenge himself to new ideas and new ways of thinking. Tyson's willingness to help other students and help them feel welcome is admirable, and he is known as the type of student who can accomplish anything he sets his mind to.

Congratulations, Tyson!

Imogen Warnack, Tenth Grade Student at Roseburg High School

Imogen Warnack is Roseburg High's outstanding student this month. Imogen is involved in track at RHS and her favorite classes are art, food, and photography/design. Imogen is described as peaceful, creative and a hard worker who has a positive influence in class. Imogen's art pieces are said to be full of life, vigor, and based on an incredible technique and craft. Imogen, who is also described as calm, caring and kind, and hopes to pursue art in college.

Congratulations, Imogen!

Special staff members were also recognized and honored with Crystal Apple Awards this evening:

Reagan Aramburo, Lead Cook at Fullerton IV Elementary School

Reagan Aramburo is lead cook at Fullerton IV and has served the district for 19 years. Reagan is known for having a personality and a smile that will light up the room. She is dedicated and reliable and will go above and beyond for students. Nutrition Services Director Kyle Micken reports that the district is lucky to have someone as special and caring as Reagan serving our students.

Reverend Johnson added that his great-granddaughter, a kindergarten student at Fullerton IV, reports that Reagan cooks very well!
Congratulations, Reagan!

Dawn Cannon, Lead Cook at Fir Grove Elementary School

Fir Grove Elementary Lead Cook, Dawn Cannon, has been serving the district for the past 25 years. Dawn is known for being a hard worker who is reliable and willing to do anything for the kids and her fellow coworkers. Her attention to detail is second to none, and Nutrition Services Director Kyle Micken reports that he relies on Dawn for her leadership and ability to train new lead cooks as they join the department.

Congratulations, Dawn!

Lindsey Cook, Teacher at Roseburg Virtual School (RVS)

Lindsey Cook, a teacher at Roseburg Virtual School, has done a lot of work to help RVS kids feel connected to their school. Her knowledge of technology and effective strategies for engaging students has not only supported her own students, but all students in the school. The time and effort Lindsey puts into teaching students virtually, making engaging lessons, and communicating clearly with her families, has helped make the newest school in the district a success.

Congratulations, Lindsey!

Kira Rathjen, Roseburg Virtual School (RVS) Custodian

Staff report that Kira Rathjen is not your ordinary custodian. She actively maintains the school and grounds to the utmost quality possible, organizes all nooks and crannies, and is always available for whatever may be needed, even if it is above and beyond the call of duty. Kira is described as reliably the happiest face in the building, and one of the most caring members of the RVS community.

She welcomes students, families, and fellow staff members to a beautiful space and truly makes the school a better place.

Congratulations, Kira!

Rebecca King, Second Grade Teacher at Sunnyslope Elementary School

Sunnyslope second-grade teacher Rebecca King is always willing to help colleagues, has a great rapport with kids, gets to school early and often leaves late because she is so dedicated. Her colleagues report that Rebecca is kind but firm with her students, which allows her to effectively manage her classroom. She is described as a charismatic, positive, and smart teacher who likes to make school fun for both staff and students. Rebecca is known for always having a smile on her face and greeting everyone in a very special way.

Congratulations, Rebecca!

Konni McComb, Skills Trainer at Sunnyslope Elementary School

Sunnyslope Skills Trainer Konni McComb is known for treating all students equally and fairly and has a special touch with students who need a little extra TLC. No matter how busy her schedule is, she is always willing to lend a hand with academics, student well-being, and health and safety checks. Konni finds creative ways to support student learning in vocabulary and math and can often be found organizing supplies to meet students’ basic needs outside the classroom. The relationships she has built with students has made her an essential part of the Sunnyslope team.

Congratulations, Konni!

Director Johnson shared that he considered it an honor to present tonight and asked for forgiveness for any mispronunciations. Student and staff recognitions are a team effort, from us to you and from you to us. Thank you all for your efforts.

The students being honored will receive McDonald’s gift cards along with the presentation letters from their principals. Our staff members being honored were each presented with Crystal Apple Award.

CONSENT AGENDA

The Consent Agenda was presented for consideration, including approval of the Consent Agenda, Minutes from the February 23rd board meeting, Work Session and Executive Session minutes, Gifts to the District and Surplus Items listing. Personnel actions included a recommendation for hire and resignations as follows:

Recommendations for Hire:

Licensed Staff:

- Roseburg High School
 - Brynn Pitts, Social Studies (a temporary position for 2021-22)

Resignations:

- Sandra Bannister, Fourth Grade Teacher at Fullerton IV Elementary, is retiring at the end of the current school year, after nine years in the District;
- Lisa Crain, Language Arts Teacher at Fremont Middle School, is retiring at the end of the current school year, after 30 years in the District;
- Jennah Cummings, Special Education Teacher at Fullerton IV Elementary, is resigning at the end of the current school year to be closer to family, after two years in the District;
- Alex Lombardi, Second Grade Teacher at Green Elementary, is resigning at the end of the current school year to relocate due to spouse’s employment, after two years in the District;
- Dixie Sturman, Kindergarten Teacher at Eastwood Elementary, is retiring at the end of the current school year, after nine years in the District; and
- Emily Terhune, Language Arts Teacher at Fremont Middle School, is resigning at the end of the current school year, after two years in the District.

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

M3-45 Approved the Consent Agenda

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION:

Chair Rebecca Larson invited Public Participation and asked Assistant Superintendent Michelle Knee to explain the process for the “raise your hand” feature in Zoom for those attending via Zoom, to sign-up for speaking and that she would be letting speakers know when their two-minute limit is approaching. No individuals attending in the audience in person or via Zoom requested to address the Board. However, Human Resources Director, Robert Freeman, shared that in recent work with the softball team, Coach Blevins took the opportunity to teach athletes about community service. The team cleaned up the softball field and spread bark mulch to improve the surroundings. Mr. Freeman came directly here from tonight’s game and reported that our team was up 5-1 in the bottom of the fifth inning. Kudos to Coach Blevins and these student athletes!

BUDGET COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP UPDATE

Board Chair Rebecca Larson reminded everyone that there are now two vacancies on the District’s Budget Committee. Anyone interested may contact the administrative office at (541) 440-4016 for information on how to apply for membership on this important committee.

MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING BETWEEN THE ROSEBURG EDUCATION ASSOCIATION (REA) AND DOUGLAS COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT 4 (ROSEBURG PUBLIC SCHOOLS)

Human Resources Director, Robert Freeman, shared that Article 12 D in the licensed CBA outlines the amount of money to be set aside to support tuition reimbursement. Recently, the tuition reimbursement committee met to discuss the \$35,000 amount in the CBA. The committee concluded \$35,000, which has been the reimbursement amount for many years, is not sufficient. The committee, chaired by Superintendent Cordon, recommends increasing that amount by \$15,000 beginning in the 2022-23 school year.

Director Charles Lee moved to approve the Memorandum of Understanding as presented. Director Brandon Bishop seconded the Motion. He was also informed that this fund is expended every year. Vice Chair Johnson voiced that in that case, the amount should be higher. Superintendent Cordon responded that as the school year progresses, he would provide updates as to where we are with this reimbursement opportunity for our teachers obtaining graduate level credits. He also confirmed for Director Krimetz that all teachers are eligible to share in a portion of the funds. Mr. Freeman explained that the formula is somewhat complicated, but teachers can request reimbursement for up to six hours every school year. Any monies remaining becomes available to those who applied up to 100% reimbursement. With discussion concluded, the Motion passed unanimously.

M3-46 Approved MOU with REA for increase in Tuition Reimbursement effective 2022-23 school year.
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CURRICULUM & INSTRUCTION COMMITTEE MEETING HELD FEBRUARY 2, 2022

Assistant Superintendent Michelle Knee shared that RHS Principal, Dr. Jill Weber, presented course changes for the 2022-23 school year, including areas of CTE, English, Social Studies, Art and Health. In addition, two former courses are being brought back, Musical History and Introduction to Speech.

Roseburg Virtual School Principal, Dani Jardine, also updated the committee on the elementary health curriculum pilot. Materials will be available for review in the district office the last week of April. Following completion of the committee review process of The Great Body Shop and the McGraw-Hill option, the Board will be invited to adopt the preferred curriculum in May.

SUPERINTENDENT’S REPORT (copy attached)

Superintendent Cordon provided an analogy regarding time and space by sharing the story of a state-of-the-art bridge constructed in Honduras, rendered completely useless due to changes in the course of the river pursuant to Hurricane Mitch. As we move forward from the pandemic, we are cautioned to consider that the things we used to do may not be the things we should be doing in the future. The 2022-23 budget process is beginning, including consideration of our investments as we endeavor to get better, not back to normal.

This week we were able to move to a transition for masking, which has gone really well with our focus on kindness. Again, our kudos to parents, kids and staff. The election papers have been filed for the upcoming bond measure and presentations scheduled at the schools. An informational flyer is being prepared to help the community understand the bond and what it could potentially accomplish.

INDIVIDUAL REPORTS BY DIRECTORS

Director Rod Cotton commended everyone involved in working on the District’s website on bond-related issues. Questions coming in are being answered, and it’s just fabulous. The content is superb, and he gave a shout-out to Communications Coordinator, Chelsea Duncan.

Chair Rebecca Larson shared her daughter’s experience in her writing class when the classroom lights dimmed when a student unplugged their device due to the chrome books being re-charged.

Director Ann Krimetz is looking forward to the health curriculum pilot for grades K-5. She will report her learnings after the review.

Director Andrew Shirtcliff expressed disappointment in being unable to attend in person tonight, but he is also glad that we can return to meeting in person.

ADJOURNMENT: With all regular business before the Board completed, Chair Rebecca Larson adjourned the meeting at 6:52 p.m.

Jared P. Cordon, Superintendent

JPC/jlk

Next Meeting: April 13, 2022, 6:00 p.m. in the Eastwood Elementary Multi-purpose Room located at 2550 SE Waldon Avenue in Roseburg, Oregon, and also accessible via Zoom