

ROSEBURG PUBLIC SCHOOLS

School Board Meeting
Electronic Link Available
Administrative Office Board Room
1419 NW Valley View Drive
Roseburg, Oregon 97471

Vol 4 No. 3

September 7, 2022

Board Members:

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

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	Exc
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 on Wednesday, September 7, 2022, in the administrative office Board Room located at 1419 NW Valley View Drive in Roseburg, Oregon, in person with an electronic link available.

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

ATTENDANCE: Board members attended in person, with Directors Rodney Cotton and Andrew Shirtcliff both excused. Superintendent Cordon and Cabinet members were present, with Director of Finance and Operations, Cheryl Northam, excused.

COMMUNICATIONS TO THE BOARD / REVIEW OF AGENDA

Superintendent Cordon welcomed everyone present in person, as well as those who were joining the meeting remotely. In reviewing the agenda, Jared noted a new Item No. 3, report of English Language Learners for the 2020-2021 school year, as required by the Oregon Department of Education.

CONSENT AGENDA:

The Consent Agenda was presented, including approval of the Consent Agenda, Minutes from the August 10 regular meeting and work session; a Surplus Items listing and Gifts to the District, and personnel actions listed below:

Recommendations for Hire:

- Dept. of Teaching & Learning –
 - Patricia “Trish” McCracken, Teaching & Learning Specialist. A retired principal, Trish is now a PERS working retiree; and
 - Grace Tester, STEAM Teacher
- Dept. of Human Resources –
 - Rosa Mohlsick, Roving Elementary Teacher, temporary for 2022-2023

- Dept. of Student Services –
 - Maria Sheridan, School Psychologist
- Winchester Elementary School –
 - Sharon Bareswill, Third Grade, PERS working retiree
- Fremont Middle School –
 - Heather Barnett, Wellness Teacher; and
 - Madeleine “Maddie” Weiss, Technology Teacher
- Roseburg High School –
 - Heidi Eichman, Social Studies Teacher

Licensed Resignations:

- Carol Bilyeu, Sunnyslope Kindergarten Teacher, after ten years, resigning effective June 9, 2023, for PERS retirement purposes;
- Colleen Jones, Language Arts Teacher at RHS, resigning effective October 14, 2022, after eight years in the District; and
- Jeff Thomas, Social Studies Teacher at Joseph Lane Middle School, effective August 22, 2022, after 15 years in the District.

Vice-Chair Rebecca Larson moved to approve the Consent Agenda. Director Charles Lee seconded, and the Motion passed unanimously.

M4-016 Approved the Consent Agenda

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION:

Chair Johnson invited Public Participation, explaining that the 20 minutes allowed is limited to two-minutes per person, and participants would be advised when their allotted time was up. John Houston, 1180 NE Brooklyn Avenue, Roseburg, addressed the Board with a proposal to complete a survey for “Save our Schools”. He expressed appreciation for not requiring students to mask and commented that the RAPTOR program seems authoritarian to him but agreed that kids need to be protected.

Mr. Taylor Underwood, 1776 NW Beaumont Avenue in Roseburg, resides near Hucrest Elementary School, and has spoken with Security Coordinator, Ed Villarreal, regarding the property fencing at the school. He understands the need for security but advocated for additional security personnel especially during PE and recess, in lieu of additional fencing. He also suggested that more communication to the neighbors would be appreciated as he feels there could be impact to property values and views.

Human Resources Director, Robert Freeman, introduced new leadership for both of our employee unions: Kristi Jo Bracken – Lead cook at Joseph Lane Middle School; and David Morocco, Language Arts teacher, also at Joseph Lane MS. Chair Johnson thanked both representatives for coming in and being introduced.

RESOLUTION 22-23-09: ATTENDANCE AWARENESS MONTH

The Board will be joining school districts across the nation in adopting Resolution 22-23-09 declaring the month of September 2022 as Attendance Awareness Month, thereby promoting regular school attendance to better provide equitable opportunities for our students to learn, grow and thrive academically, emotionally, and socially. Efforts will be made to engage parents and the community to help spread the message that good attendance matters and help us come up with solutions to ensure all children are in school as much as possible. Chair Johnson read the resolution aloud, explaining the importance of identifying why students are absent so that we can help eliminate barriers to regular student attendance. Superintendent Cordon noted that showing up is important, and to consider it a life skill.

Director Brandon Bishop moved to approve Resolution 22-23-09 declaring the month of September as Attendance Awareness Month. Director Ann Krimetz seconded, and the Motion passed unanimously.

M4-017 Adopted Resolution 22-23-09
declaring the month of September 2022 as
Attendance Awareness Month

2022 – 2023 STRATEGIC PLAN

Superintendent Cordon thanked the Board for their feedback from the previous two meetings, noting the importance of a Strategic Plan and putting our resources into our core beliefs of what we want for our students and the community. Strategic plans are a way to organize our resourced in order to move forward. The core of the plan is basically our North Star. The outer portion is how we plan to get there. Jared reminded the team that the past two years serve as a reminder of how to shift and pivot to meet changing needs of our students.

Chair Johnson reflected that in a corporate environment, a plan is needed so that each day its resources and people are focused on the big picture of the direction an organization wants to go. He shared that the plan should be a living document with areas needing modification as unexpected events unfold.

Board members had a robust and thoughtful discussion as they narrowed down the four remaining drafts of proposed strategic plan language to guide the work of the Board and District. Director Charles Lee shared his appreciation of beginning with a statement that we can be held accountable to. Vice-Chair Rebecca Larson pointed out that the four options under consideration are saying the same thing, only in four different ways. It's now down to wordsmithing. The message and meaning are there, and that's what's important. Director Ann Krimetz noted that she liked the graphic with the compass, and Superintendent Cordon responded that we could work on the outer portion of the graphic once the core is established. We will leverage our available resources to meet the goal.

With two of our board members unable to attend this evening, it was suggested that a blend of the final two options be combined for the board to consider for adoption at their September 21st meeting.

ENGLISH LEARNERS IN OREGON – ANNUAL REPORT FOR 2020-2021

Assistant Superintendent Michelle Knee indicated that the 50-page annual report was forwarded to the Board last week, and a copy will remain in the administrative office reception area for patrons to access pursuant to ORS 327.016 if they don't prefer to access the ODE website. Mrs. Knee explained that this report is not specific to our district, but rather covers state progress toward meeting English Learners needs. RPS has 50 students currently served by this program, 36 in elementary with the vast majority in grades K-2, and another 14 served in grades 6-12. The English Language instructors provide lessons to these children every day at their schools. They also provide other teachers with strategies and supports as they help those students with limited skills.

Superintendent Cordon pointed out the stereotypical misconception that these students do not come to us with strong academic foundations, when in reality they can be very strong academically but are needing our help with the English language. Michelle further explained that students served in the program are typically provided services over 5-7 years. They will always be second language learners but won't always need a high level of support. Students already strong academically in their native language tend to quickly pick up a second language. Michelle noted that there are 21 languages spoken in our district, while Jared added that in his prior district, 105 languages were spoken.

Chair Johnson thanked Asst. Superintendent Knee for her summary, stating that timely reports help the Board in their decision-making.

SUPERINTENDENT REPORT: (slide-deck attached)

Superintendent Cordon first extended kudos to the District’s custodial and maintenance crews for their huge efforts in preparing our facilities (average age of 74 years) and grounds for the return of staff and students. Chair Johnson accompanied the Superintendent in visiting every school building recently, while Vice-Chair Larson and Director Krimetz joined them at the welcoming events for our newest staff members. Jared shared how nice it’s been to again see the smiles from kids, staff, and parents. Student enrollment is remaining fairly steady from last year, and we are seeing a significant increase in after-school activities such as band, choir, robotics and athletics at all levels. It’s great to see the kids participating beyond the classroom. A grant-funded seismic project at Fremont is closer to completion, with another to begin at Joseph Lane Middle School. Phase I fencing work is in process and design work is moving forward on vestibules. Staff training is beginning on the “I Love You Guys” standard response protocols, with more training to come on the new RAPTOR system. He thanked Ed Villarreal and the Safety Team for working on our crisis response plans.

High temperatures and smokey air led to disruptions the first week of school and continue to present challenges. New OSHA rules are resulting in a two-hour early-release time in all of our schools this Friday as air temperatures are projected to be extreme and the majority of our buildings lack capacity for air conditioning and circulation. Chair Johnson added that these buildings were built to code 70-plus years ago, but now require a lot of wattage in order for equipment to operate.

INDIVIDUAL REPORTS BY DIRECTORS

Director Ann Krimetz appreciated the opportunity to meet some of the new teachers starting work in our district this year. It was nice to meet the remainder of the principals she hadn’t yet met as well.

Director Charles Lee shared that directors used to attend various ceremonies at the schools. He has heard that the high school is doing a good job with training staff. New staff members feel much more comfortable, and that is good to hear. Mr. Lee reflected that in previous years he had the opportunity to attend the new teacher events, but his work schedule didn’t allow it this year. He was happy that Director Krimetz took advantage of that opportunity.

Director Brandon Bishop noted that the new OSHA regulations further prove the importance of passing a school bond. He shared that three of his children are currently attending Roseburg Public Schools, and they are telling him it’s been great so far this year.

Vice-Chair Rebecca Larson expressed her belief that we are off to a great school year.

Chair Howard Johnson shared that it is his great honor to serve the district and fellow board members and reminded them that he is available for them. As we move forward, we need to focus on what we can do help our kids succeed. He thanked his colleagues for their input tonight.

ADJOURNMENT: With regular business concluded, Chair Johnson adjourned the meeting at 7:22 p.m.

Jared P. Cordon, Superintendent
JPC/jlk

Next Meeting: September 21, 2022, at 6:00 p.m. in the administrative office Board Room, available via Zoom