

ROSEBURG PUBLIC SCHOOLS

School Board Work Session and Meeting

Electronic Link Available

Administrative Office Board Room

1419 NW Valley View Drive

Roseburg, Oregon 97471

Vol 4 No. 4

September 21, 2022

Board Members:

Dr. Brandon Bishop
Rodney Cotton
Rev. Howard Johnson, Chair
Ann Krimetz
Rebecca Larson, Vice Chair Exc
Charles F. Lee
Andrew Shirtcliff Zoom

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

BOARD WORK SESSION

TIME/PLACE: A Board Work Session of the Douglas County School District No. 4 Board of Directors was convened on Wednesday, September 21, 2022, in the administrative office Board Room located at 1419 NW Valley View Drive in Roseburg, Oregon, in person with an electronic link available.

ATTENDANCE: Board members attended in person, with Vice Chair Rebecca Larson excused, and Director Andrew Shirtcliff attending via Zoom. Superintendent Cordon and Cabinet members were present.

PHOENIX CHARTER SCHOOL CHECK-IN

Board Chair Howard Johnson welcomed Phoenix Charter School Representatives, Vice-President of the Board, Laurie Newton, and Principal Kat Bierkens. Executive Director, Thomas McGregor, was excused, and Board President, Rick Wesenberg, was unable to attend.

New this August to Phoenix, Principal Bierkens shared her background in early intervention and special education.

General updates included:

- Phoenix has welcomed 7 new faculty members, out of a total of 14, with the majority of remaining staff having been with Phoenix over a decade.
- ESSER funds provided the resources to upgrade ductless HVAC at the school during the summer.
- Support staff are focusing on instructional assistance, student safety and transition services. They are working with ADAPT to provide on-site mental health services and skills training.
- As of September 16, 2022, 78% of students are returning and 22% of students are new to Phoenix Charter.

Phoenix Vice President Newton and Principal Bierkens confirmed that Phoenix shares concerns expressed by the RPS Board with the data being conveyed regarding student attendance, progress toward graduation and graduation rates. Additional information regarding plans for improvement was provided as follows:

Attendance and Engagement Updates:

- For the first 10 days of school, 30% of students attended over 90 percent of the time.
- Pathways and homeroom class teachers are working on interventions to increase school connections.
- Systems development work tracking behavioral barriers is holding both students and staff accountable.

High-School Success Updates:

- As of 9/13/2022, 27 students are receiving special education services. Skills trainer positions are providing instructional assistance for students.
- Working to ensure households understand available high school completion options.
- Information Coordinator hired to build internal database (the Phoenix Flight Plan) to track high school success data points, attendance benchmarks, and student barriers to engagement.
- New Partnership with the SW Oregon Workforce Investment Board is funding two employment coach positions and ability to place all eligible charter students into paid internships.
- CTE faculty team has added a member with computer science area of focus capacity.

Academic Achievement Updates:

- New faculty members are leading district's 5D framework model and attending 5D workshops.
- 58% of student body has been tested within the first three weeks of school. Testing will continue with goal to reach 100% students tested. New Student Pathways class was created for newly enrolled students.
- Assessment team to ensure use of data for instruction and course planning. PLC processes feature a lead role for English Language Arts and Math faculty.
- Systems being designed to assist students needing instructional interventions.

In response to questions concerning plans to address meaningful student instruction and achievement, Superintendent Cordon and Board members were assured that Star 360 data will be used to encourage student engagement, establish IEPs and interventions and increase supports needed to improve student success. Director Lee added that he is looking forward to seeing the numbers improve.

Director Rod Cotton compared the charter's 61-page 2022-24 strategic plan prepared by a University of Oregon graduate student with the assistance of two undergraduate students, to RPS's one page plan and expressed a concern in the usefulness of the document, as well as the cost. He further pointed out that the document confirmed that Phoenix administrators have not been evaluated. Director Cotton did share his confidence that future communications with the district will be improved with the new team. Superintendent Cordon urged Principal Bierkens to encourage staff to be intentional with instruction, as there is a correlation between meaningful instruction and students showing up to school. He expressed kudos to the three Phoenix staff members who recently attended the 5D training at Douglas ESD.

Chair Johnson personally thanked Board member Newton and Principal Bierkens for attending and sharing an update on Phoenix Charter students' progress. He explained that the Board will follow up with the data provided. He wished the administrative team the best of luck and encouraged them to contact him if he can be of help. Principal Bierkens invited board members to visit the school. She explained that the school environment is greatly improved, and systems are developing for dealing with and tracking student discipline. Director Ann Krimez noted that she and Director Andrew Shirtcliff are scheduled to visit Phoenix next week.

CONTINUED DISCUSSION OF THE 2022-2023 STRATEGIC PLAN

Chairman Johnson solicited input from the Board in identifying the core statement for the 2022-2023 Strategic Plan, emphasizing the importance of establishing a main focus while respecting each other's opinions and viewpoints. Board members collectively spoke in favor of the wording from Option No. 4, "All students will receive the care, support and instruction needed to graduate from high school with plans for their most successful futures."

Board Work Session recessed at 6:26 p.m.

REGULAR SCHOOL BOARD MEETING

CALL TO ORDER / PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE: Board Chair Howard Johnson convened the regular meeting at 6:35 p.m. and led in the Pledge of Allegiance.

ATTENDANCE: Board members again remained in person, with Vice Chair Rebecca Larson excused, and Director Andrew Shirtcliff again attending via Zoom. Superintendent Cordon and Cabinet members were present.

COMMUNICATIONS TO THE BOARD / REVIEW OF AGENDA

Superintendent Cordon welcomed everyone present in person, as well as those who were joining the meeting remotely.

CONSENT AGENDA:

The Consent Agenda was presented, including approval of the Consent Agenda, Minutes from the September 7 regular meeting, a Surplus Items listing and Gifts to the District.

Director Brandon Bishop moved to approve the Consent Agenda. Director Ann Krimetz seconded, and the Motion passed unanimously.

M4-018 Approved the Consent Agenda

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION:

Chair Johnson invited Public Participation, explaining that the 20 minutes allotted is limited to two-minutes per person, and participants would be advised when their time was up.

Mr. Taylor Underwood, 1776 NW Beaumont Avenue in Roseburg, a resident near Hucrest Elementary School, again addressed the Board sharing his perspective of neighbors monitoring individuals on the school grounds, and his interpretation of county codes related to setbacks between private and public property. He also suggested that the addition of the proposed fence would create additional maintenance duties for maintenance personnel. He reported that it's the neighboring property owners who are string trimming the area, and more fencing will cause more issues with weeds. He again expressed that the fencing would not be good for property values. With his allotted time expired, Mr. Underwood shared that he would be forwarding additional points to the Board members.

Assistant Superintendent Michelle Knee confirmed that there were no individuals attending via Zoom who wished to address the Board.

Policy JHCD/JHCDA: Medications, and JHCD/JHCDA-AR: Medications, for First Reading, Second Reading and Adoption

Superintendent Cordon noted his appreciation for the opportunity to discuss this policy, and thanked Director Charles Lee for his input on suggested amendments to the proposed policy. Due to the rise in fentanyl and opioid deaths on the West Coast, the Douglas County Sheriff’s Office has encouraged public awareness pursuant to this crisis. It has been recommended that school districts add Narcan-Naloxone to Policy JHCD/JHCDA to allow permission for administration in suspected cases of opioid exposure or overdose if an individual is on school property. The product is provided in a nasal spray and staff would have training and this policy would assure a process is in place. Superintendent Cordon pointed out that if a person was instead experiencing a seizure and was administered Narcan, it would not have a negative impact. Director Bishop, a practicing physician, confirmed that he has observed the medication being administered; it is very similar to an Epi-Pen, and it is a powerful and safe drug that provides the ability to save lives. Director Lee received confirmation that in the event the medication was administered, emergency responders would still be summoned.

Director Brandon Bishop moved to approve Policy JHCD/JHCDA: Medications and JHCD/JHCDA-AR: Medications, for First Reading, Second Reading and Adoption. Director Charles Lee seconded, and the Motion passed unanimously.

M4-019 Approved Policy JHCD/JHCDA: Medications - for First Reading, Second Reading, and Adoption

APPROVE 2022 – 2023 STRATEGIC PLAN

Board Chairman Howard Johnson summarized that during the Work Session the Board supported the selection of Option No. 4. With that previously accomplished, he asked for a Motion to Approve the Strategic Plan.

Director Charles Lee moved to approve the Strategic Plan for 2022-2023. Director Brandon Bishop seconded, and the record will reflect that the Motion passed unanimously.

M4-020 Approved the updated 2022-2023 Strategic Plan

ADJOURNMENT: Chair Johnson reflected that together we are accomplishing good work, and he is grateful to his colleagues for their help and support. With business before the Board concluded, Chair Johnson adjourned the meeting at 6:56 p.m., reminding everyone that the next meeting will be held at Joseph Lane Middle School.

Jared P. Cordon, Superintendent
JPC/jlk

Next Meeting: October 12, 2022, at 6:00 p.m. in the Joseph Lane Middle School Library, located at 2153 NE Vine Street in Roseburg. Zoom link will be available.