

ROSEBURG PUBLIC SCHOOLS

**School Board Regular Meeting
Winchester Elementary School Library
Page Road Entrance
Winchester, Oregon 97495
Available via Zoom**

Vol 4 No. 11

February 8, 2023

Board Members:

Dr. Brandon Bishop	via Zoom
Rodney Cotton	<input type="checkbox"/>
Rev. Howard Johnson, Chair	<input type="checkbox"/>
Ann Krimetz	Exc
Rebecca Larson, Vice 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 – SCHOOL BOARD MEETING

TIME/PLACE: A regular meeting of the Douglas County School District No. 4 Board of Directors was convened on Wednesday, February 8, 2023, in the Library of Winchester Elementary School, 217 Pioneer Way, Winchester, 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 Director Ann Krimetz excused. Director Brandon Bishop attended via Zoom. Superintendent Cordon and Cabinet members were present. Reporter Donovan Brink of the News Review, and KVAL reporter Brandon Kamerman attended via Zoom.

COMMUNICATIONS TO THE BOARD / REVIEW OF AGENDA

Superintendent Cordon welcomed everyone present in person, as well as those who were joining the meeting remotely. He noted the addition of minutes from January 25, and Item No. 6: Curriculum and Instruction Committee Meeting report that Assistant Superintendent, Michelle Knee will share on behalf of the committee chair, Director Ann Krimetz, being excused tonight.

STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE REPORT:

RHS leadership student representatives, Hannah Heuberger and Emma Kahler, celebrated the addition of new students to their team. Planning continues for homegoing, volley buff, the arts assembly, senior sunset and senior family brunch (replacing mother-daughter tea). Student leaders continue to visit our middle schools, sharing ideas such as Kindness Week. Other celebrations included:

- [Robotics Teams Aries and Leo will be competing at State](#)
- [16 FBLA qualifiers go to State in April](#)
- [Band Bingo Night Thursday](#)

- “13th” the Musical 2/24 & 25, 3/3 & 4, and 3/5
- Unified Basketball 2/15
- Orange R broadcasts
- Future 1st Citizen nominees to be announced soon
- Swimming & Wrestling to compete at districts this weekend
- Basketball teams both expected to earn playoff berths
- Huge turn-out for track informational meeting
- Boys Bowling placed 3rd out of 16 teams
- Lots of support at Cheer Orange & Black meet
- Winter girls Basketball & Swim: 3:77 GPA; varsity sports combined: 3:31 GPA

Chair Johnson thanked the students for a job well done.

STUDENT / STAFF RECOGNITION

Vice Chair Larson had the honor of presenting awards and McDonald’s gift cards to students being recognized this evening, including:

Riann Eggleston, 1

Tenth Grade Student at Roseburg High School

Riann has attended Roseburg Schools since sixth-grade and is now a 4.0 GPA student at RHS. She is an active member of the student body, playing basketball and softball, and participating in National Honors Society, Leadership and Link Crew. Riann loves to be active, so it’s no surprise that her favorite class is fitness. Riann’s teachers say she has a friendly personality and is full of positive energy, lighting up the room when she walks in and making others feel more comfortable. She is also described as hardworking, cheerful and fun-loving. Riann plans to attend West Point when she graduates and is interested in being an officer in the military as well as a chiropractor.

Congratulations, Riann!

Alexandra Mao, Sixth Grade Student at Joseph Lane Middle School

Jo Lane’s sixth-grade teachers were thrilled to nominate Alexandra Mao to be honored tonight because she is a wonderful student and human. Alexandra is extremely respectful to students and teachers, consistently remembering to thank others for even the smallest gestures. She goes above and beyond with her work and effort on all assignments. She is a positive influence in and out of the classroom. And Alex is helpful and kind to all, and goes out of her way to do so. On her way down the hall to head home, she will often be seen picking up trash. Keep shining, Alex.

Jo Lane thanks you for your contributions to making our school outstanding.

Congratulations, Alex!

Bailey Wolford, Fifth Grade Student at Winchester Elementary School

Bailey is a shining star at Winchester Elementary! Each day, Bailey breezes into her classroom with an amazing smile, positive attitude, tenacious work ethic, and sweet disposition. Bailey excels in all academics, so it would be easy to list her many accomplishments. But the most noteworthy thing about her is how she makes people feel.

Bailey finds thoughtful and unique ways to make her teachers feel appreciated and noticed. She makes her peers feel welcomed and accepted by always being kind and encouraging. Bailey spreads her joy generously, and it inspires those around her to do the same. Every classroom needs a Bailey, and Winchester is privileged to have her.

Congratulations, Bailey!

Special staff members were also recognized and honored with **Crystal Apple Awards** presented by Chairman Johnson:

Grace Johnson, Child Development Specialist at Winchester Elementary School

“Thank you for your heart and dedication to our Winchester School Family”

Grace Johnson has been in education for 15 years. She is the current Child Development Specialist at Winchester, and has taught every subject including music. She also worked as a bilingual teacher in Spanish and volunteered in a German preschool when studying abroad. Grace has a Bachelor’s degree in Child Development and a Master’s in Education and Teaching. She would like to pursue a PhD someday. Grace has enjoyed every teaching job she has ever had, but has never felt more a part of a school family than she does at Winchester and foresees having a long career with Roseburg Public Schools
Congratulations, Grace!

Ranyssa Syverson, Title 1 Instructional Assistant at Winchester Elementary School

“Thank you for your dedication and support to our Winchester School Family”

Ranyssa Syverson has been at Winchester for almost two years and is thriving in her position as the Title I Instructional Assistant. She was once a student at Winchester, and she now supports not only the school’s Learning Specialist, but its teachers, students, and families. Ranyssa has the greatness in her heart that supports students becoming the best version of themselves. She has been married for 4 and a half years, and has a wonderful son named Ray, who is almost two. Winchester has filled an important puzzle piece to the school family with Ranyssa.
Congratulations, Ranyssa!

BRIEF RECESS: On behalf of the Board, Chair Johnson took the opportunity to thank the families and friends of those being recognized tonight. Chair Johnson shared that he feels grateful and honored to support the honorees and called for a brief break at 6:17 p.m. to allow those who wished an opportunity to depart for the evening. The meeting was reconvened at 6:21 p.m.

CONSENT AGENDA:

The Consent Agenda was presented for consideration, including approval of the Consent Agenda, Minutes from the January 11 and 25, 2023 regular and board work sessions, minutes from the January 11th Curriculum and Instruction Committee Meeting, a Surplus Items listing and Gifts to the District. Personnel actions included the acceptance of resignations as listed below:

Licensed Resignations:

- Heather Hughes, Third-Grade Teacher at Hucrest Elementary School, has submitted her resignation after eight years in the district, effective January 19, 2023;
- Will Irwin, Child Development Specialist at Eastwood Elementary School, is resigning at the end of the school year after two years in the district, and will be relocating;
- Jennifer Morrow, Fifth-Grade Teacher at Melrose Elementary, is retiring March 1, 2023 for PERS retirement purposes after 33 years in the district and would like to continue in her position until the end of the 2022-23 school year; and
- Jennifer Weiss, Language Arts Teacher at Roseburg High School, has submitted her resignation after 31 years in the district for retirement purposes, effective at the end of the 2022-23 school year.

Vice Chair Rebecca Larson moved to approve the Consent Agenda. Director Rodney Cotton seconded, and the Motion passed unanimously.

M4-037 Approved the Consent Agenda

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION: Chair Johnson opened the floor to Public Participation, explaining that the 20 minutes

allotted is limited to two-minutes per person, and participants would be advised by Assistant Superintendent Michelle Knee once their time was up and how to use the Raise Your Hand feature within Zoom. There was no one present wishing to participate, and Asst. Superintendent Knee confirmed that there were no individuals attending via Zoom who were waiting to address the Board.

APPROVE ESSER FUND EXPENDITURE FOR MODULARS

Director of Finance and Operations, Cheryl Northam, presented a request to add two classroom modular buildings, one each at Fullerton IV and Melrose Elementary Schools to meet expanding program needs. The initial cost per unit of \$160,000 does not include site work including electrical, fire alarms, steps and ramps for the buildings. Mrs. Northam shared that the proposed purchase is being made possible by ESSER (Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief funds).

Director Charles Lee moved to approve an ESSER fund expenditure for the purchase of modulars as proposed. Director Brandon Bishop seconded, and the Motion passed unanimously. Director Cotton asked Mrs. Northam to explain ESSER funds. Cheryl responded that these are Elementary and Secondary School Recovery Act funds, commonly known as Covid relief funding to be used to ease the burdens on classrooms, very similar to what we have done for RHS.

M4-038 Approved the ESSER fund expenditure of approximately \$160,000 each for the purchase of two modular classroom buildings at Fullerton IV and Melrose Schools
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RESOLUTION 22-23-12: CONSIDERATION OF MEASURE ELECTION FOR GENERAL OBLIGATION BONDS IN MAY 2023

Chairman Johnson asked Superintendent Cordon to recap the process leading up to the proposed resolution. Mr. Cordon shared that the board has engaged in lengthy conversations and meetings concerning the past two bond efforts that were unsuccessful in 2020 and 2022. He thanked the Board for their willingness to work through another community led process, determining what to include in a bond and reflective of stakeholder input. The \$75.51M was developed after listening to the public and responding to their desire to narrow the bond focus to the bare essentials specific to security, health and safety, and a rebuild of the Old Main needed to reclaim classroom space suitable for present-day instruction.

Director Brandon Bishop moved to adopt Resolution 22-23-12: Consideration of Measure Election for General Obligation Bonds in May 2023. Director Andrew Shirtcliff seconded, and the Motion passed unanimously.

Director Rodney Cotton anticipates a close vote in May, and emphasized that a bond measure is the district's only avenue to address our aging facilities. Beaverton SD passed a \$723M bond, adding only \$.10 to their tax rate. We are trying to do \$75M for \$.99. Our state needs to understand that the system is not equitable. Director Cotton pledged to continue reaching out to community members to help them understand the bond.

Vice-Chair Rebecca Larson shared her confidence in the bond, explaining the transparency of the district in passing every annual audit and our operations staff trying to be very smart with the district's funds. We have a record of being very careful with our dollars. She echoed Director Cotton in stating that a bond is our only pathway to address the conditions in our buildings. She pointed out that there are few people working in buildings as old as ours, lacking essential items such as new roofs, updated plumbing, heating and air conditioning. If there was some other budgetary trick, we would have discovered it by now. This bond is very responsive to our community's input. She and Director Shirtcliff worked with community members throughout

the process. Nobody wants more taxes, but this is what we have to work with. She expressed hope that our community will be willing to make an investment in our schools and children.

Director Shirtcliff reiterated Vice-Chair Larson’s comments. The community expressed that the previous bond was too much, so we cut back to absolutely essential services to allow us to continue teaching children. There are not a lot of workplaces out there without heating and air conditioning. OSHA has passed new laws prohibiting teachers from working without air conditioning. We are asking for basic services for staff and students. Most classrooms have been moved out of the Old Main. Director Shirtcliff emphasized that what is being asked is completely essential.

Director Charles Lee pointed out that what is being asked is not very dramatic, essentially plumbing, electrical and roofs. Better air conditioning will help children learn better, and that makes for better future employees. We need better services for students, parents, and citizens of this community.

Director Rod Cotton added that we have the opportunity to do something on a basic level. He stated his intention to vote yes on the bond. He is hopeful that providing citizens with a voice will help gain their support.

Chair Johnson shared that he had spoken with Director Krimetz who was unable to attend tonight. She is in favor of this bond resolution.

M4-039 Adopted Resolution 22-23-12:
Measure election for general obligation
bonds in May of 2023

DOUGLAS EDUCATION SERVICE DISTRICT LOCAL SERVICE PLAN RESOLUTION FOR 2023-24

Douglas ESD Superintendent, Analicia Nicholson, noted that she used to be a regular attender of these board meetings, and it was nice to see familiar faces again. Supt. Nicholson shared some background, being born and raised in Douglas County, and her belief in the children we all serve. Analicia explained that there are no significant changes in this proposed plan from that of the previous year. DESD will continue to provide SpEd services, Speech & Language, Technology, administrative services, etc.

Vice-Chair Larson pointed out that in looking at the services listed, many of them are provided in-house at RPS. The DESD does a lot for smaller districts, but what specifically are they providing RPS? Supt. Nicholson responded that services include Speech and Language, Nursing, dedicated fte communication services, technology, autism, CNC, Transition Network, Instructional Services, registration of home-schooled students, etc. Director Larson clarified that the reason for her question is that we are going to our community to ask for additional funds and desire to be wise stewards by understanding our return on investment with DESD. We want to assure we gain a good understanding of what we are getting for our dollars. Chair Johnson added that this is a formal request for a return-on-investment analysis. Director Charles Lee concurred that we need to know what we are spending and what we get for it. It’s complicated to grasp what services we buy and to what extent we are helping provide services to other districts.

Vice-Chair Rebecca Larson moved to approve the Douglas ESD Local Service Plan for 2023-2024. Director Brandon Bishop seconded, and the Motion passed unanimously.

M4-040 Approved the 2023-24 Douglas ESD
Local Service Plan

RESOLUTION 22-23-13: CLASSIFIED EMPLOYEE APPRECIATION WEEK – MARCH 6-10, 2023

Chairman Howard Johnson suggested pausing in our busy day to show appreciation for our Classified staff. Without them we would be in very dire straits. Human Resources Director, Robert Freeman pointed out that the new classified union president, Kristi Jo was in the audience, and he gave a shout out to her. Board Resolution 22-23-13 was adopted to recognize and honor our classified employees March 6-10, 2023.

Director Rodney Cotton moved to adopt Resolution 22-23-13 designating the week of March 6-10, 2023 as Classified Employee Appreciation Week. Director Andrew Shirtcliff seconded, and the Motion passed unanimously.

M4-041 Adopted Resolution 22-23-13: Declaring the week of March 6-10, 2023 as Classified Employee Appreciation Week

CURRICULUM AND INSTRUCTION COMMITTEE MEETING – JANUARY 11, 2023

Asst. Superintendent Michelle Knee shared that in the absence of Committee Chair, Ann Krimetz, she would provide the report shared with the Curriculum and Instruction Committee Meeting on January 11, 2023.

RHS Principal, Dr. Jill Weber, presented proposed course changes for 2024 with the biggest changes to the math courses for next year. The Match 2+1 adoption will focus on core courses with concentration on algebraic reasoning. Year two will concentrate on the +1 courses ranging from advanced algebra, data science, etc., including math for trades in CTE offerings. This ties in with our math adoption for grades 6-12. ODE has given us two years to adopt math materials. Dr. Weber, Principal Bentea, Principal Opp and Supt. Cordon have created a math position paper that aligns to the district vision outlining where we want students to go as math learners. They are considering approved publishers for the secondary principals and math teacher leaders to select from for the pilot period of March – May. We anticipate having a recommendation ready for the Board to consider for adoption in June. Vice-Chair Larson received confirmation that parents will have an opportunity to view materials, as was done with the health curriculum adoption.

Asst. Superintendent Knee further shared that this is the last year of our current SIA Plan. The Oregon Dept. of Education has now moved to Integrated Guidance, combining SIA, PERKINS, and Early Intervention in their effort to streamline reporting. In March, the new SIA application will be brought to the Board for consideration.

Chairman Johnson thanked Mrs. Knee for her diligence in timely and accurate data reporting to the Board.

SUPERINTENDENT REPORT: (slide-deck attached)

Superintendent Cordon thanked the Board and community for putting their trust in our schools. Our amazing people here want to make sure we can provide children opportunities to become productive citizens in our community and beyond. We pledge to be great financial stewards with this bond, just as was done with the 2000 bond that accomplished upgrades, such as the Rose Theatre, a fine example of what can happen when communities say, “We can do this”. These projects will be done on time, on budget and will last for decades. We appreciate the vote of confidence tonight in putting a May bond before our community for consideration. While we have done a remarkable job with facilities that are on average 75 years old, some are beyond their projected lifespan. Approximately 130 Oregon districts have passed capital improvement bonds.

Our schools also lack space to provide equitable experiences for student athletes. Staff are currently working through a Title IX complaint pursuant to installation of artificial turf at Legion Field that created disparities in access which led to the complaint. We are now working on processes to establish a softball field for girls in 2024. Director Rodney Cotton appreciated the illustration of what a reconstruction of the Old Main could look like.

INDIVIDUAL REPORTS BY DIRECTORS

Director Andrew Shirtcliff reiterated to our community that we do listen. You resoundingly told us the previous amount requested in the bond was too much. We have done what the community asked and have cut approximately 50 percent from this bond request. Director Shirtcliff expressed optimism that everyone can get behind this effort.

Director Brandon Bishop echoed Director Shirtcliff's comments, adding that we clearly listened and made adjustments. He is also hopeful that our community will support this bond.

Director Charles Lee reflected that every day he walks past the aged Professional Building downtown just north of the US Bank building, both built at around the same time. He recalls that 40 years ago, that building was a bustling place with medical offices and restaurants. Over the last ten years, it has remained virtually vacant as the old construction has become obsolete. Mr. Lee also shared that years ago in the District Attorneys' Office, security consisted of him standing in the doorway. Over the past 20 years, that building now has locks on all doors and windows and employees carry passkeys. Staff have protection while they are working. We want employees to have that protection. It was reported in the local paper today that a man with mental issues had a handgun in his church. This could happen in any building. While it offends him that our world is not the same as it was 40 years ago, this bond is important.

Director Rodney Cotton expressed thanks that the bond passed in 2000 has been paid off. He also thanked Winchester Elementary for hosting the meeting tonight, sharing that his two daughters attended school here and the family spent a lot of time here as well. The girls received a great education. People see in the news throughout the country that public schools are losing enrollment, but our enrollment is close to projections, and that's important. He requested a work session before the budget committee meetings begin. At RPS, we deal with kids, not systems, and we can do better for our kids. He pledged to be the first one out the door supporting the bond, being aware that we will have to work on it. He thanked the cabinet for their reports tonight.

Vice-Chair Rebecca Larson wanted to make sure that our classified employees know how grateful we are for the work that they do every day. We could not do what we do without them. They greet parents and students, drive kids to school, feed them, sit with them in reading groups. Staff has been important in her children's lives. Director Larson expressed her gratitude that these employees work for our school and children, and she hopes they know how grateful we are for them.

Chair Howard Johnson shared that our efforts to work collaboratively allows us to move forward in a positive manner to reach our public and assure them we will be good stewards of their money.

ADJOURNMENT: With business before the Board concluded, Chair Johnson adjourned the meeting at 7:30 p.m. and announced that the next meeting, a Board Work Session, would be held February 22, 2023, at 6:00 p.m.

Jared P. Cordon, Superintendent
JPC/jlk

Next Meeting: School Board Work Session, February 22, 2023, at 6:00 p.m. in the administrative office Board Room located at 1419 NW Valley View Drive in Roseburg, Oregon and available via Zoom.