

ROSEBURG PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Regular School Board Meeting
Fir Grove Elementary School Library
1360 W Harvard Avenue
Roseburg, Oregon 97471
Available via Zoom

Vol 5 No. 7

October 11, 2023

Board Members:

Rodney D. Cotton, Chair
Steve Hammerson
Rev. Howard Johnson, Vice-Chair
Ann Krimetz Exc. /viewed via Zoom
Michael Leone
Andrea Miner
Andrew Shirtcliff

Administration:

Jared P. Cordon, Superintendent
Michelle Knee, Assistant Superintendent
Cheryl Northam, Director of Finance and Operations
Melissa Roberts, Director of Student Services
Jill Weber, Director of Teaching and Learning
Chelsea Duncan, Communications Coordinator

SCHOOL BOARD MEETING

TIME/PLACE: A meeting of the Douglas County School District No. 4 Board of Directors was convened on Wednesday, October 11, 2023, at 6:00 p.m. in the Fir Grove Elementary School Library, 1360 W Harvard Avenue in Roseburg, Oregon, in person and available via Zoom link.

CALL TO ORDER / PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE: Board Chair, Rodney D. Cotton, called the regular meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. and invited Director Steve Hammerson to lead the Pledge of Allegiance. Chair Cotton also advised the audience that Board meetings are recorded for future viewing. Anyone wishing to be part of Public Participation was asked to complete a card at the back of the room and cards will be collected prior to Public Participation. We appreciate Fir Grove staff for hosting our meeting this evening. We appreciated the tour, viewing the playground areas and several classrooms. He recognized the effort required to host meetings off-site, including the district and school staff preparing the space, and technology staff for enabling patrons and staff to view the proceedings remotely. Chair Cotton also advised parents attending for their student's recognition, that family and friends not able to attend are also encouraged to log in via Zoom so they don't miss out on the celebration.

PRINCIPAL REPORT – FIR GROVE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Fir Grove Principal Katrina Hanson shared her background with Roseburg Public Schools and acknowledged Dr. Jill Weber for crafting the vision statement for the school with her staff members while she was principal, confirming that the message has withstood the test of time:

Fir Grove Vision –

Fir Grove is a safe, welcoming school where students, families, staff and community are a part of our Fir Grove Family. All are:

- Valued
- Treated with respect
- Involved and united with a focus on learning
- Focused on high standards
- Provided opportunities to celebrate success

Students, staff and families are excited about learning and are excelling academically and socially. Our students will leave Fir Grove prepared for their next steps with a strong foundation and a focus on serving our community.

Mrs. Hanson shared her gratitude to the Board for creating the District's Strategic Plan, which drives the work

being done at the school.

Fir Grove has 55 staff members serving 270 students at the site, with two teachers in each grade level. The Developmental Learning Classroom (DLC) serves students with the most profound needs in the district. The Complex Needs Classroom (CNC), an ESD program, is also housed at this school. Principal Hanson affirms the school's vision for students each morning during her morning announcements:

*“We are Falcons and we SOAR to success.
I am loved.
I am a problem solver.
I am safe—I belong.”*

Principal Hanson shared results from the 2022-23 state assessments. While she acknowledged those numbers were humbling, she also confirmed that staff and kids are all working hard to improve. For example, the percentage of regular attenders (90% or more of the time) for that reporting period was 53%. The current percentage has increased to 73% with a goal of 90%. Demographics entitle the school to receive Title 1 services including a Learning Specialist, along with targeted reading, math and sped instruction. After school opportunities for children include Choir and Robotics clubs, PE club (2nd semester), Wednesday Garden Club and booster club activities such as movie night, May carnival and Winter dance events.

Principal Hanson outlined goals within the Continuous Improvement Plan (CIP) including:

- Increasing SBAC scores by 5% in ELA, Math and Science.
- Increasing regular attenders by 5%.
- Aligning specific practices (e.g., using a common phonics program in K-2 to solidify sounds for all; practicing quick number sense activities to increase fact fluency, etc.).
- All teaching staff posting Learning Targets to connect the daily learning.
- Increasing our connection opportunities with families.

Principal Hanson's goal is to increase her own connections with families by hosting 'Coffee with the Principal' at least once before December, with more opportunities scheduled throughout the school year.

Directors were interested in factors contributing to the decreased scores for the 22-23 school year, and while it was confirmed that COVID was a factor, everyone agreed that it's time to move on from that. It takes a village to raise a child, and it's important for our community to understand the importance of kids attending school (unless it's due to illness) to keep them connected with school and striving to become their best selves. Principal Hanson shared that the newly constructed safety vestibule at the school will create a single point of entrance where all individuals will enter and check in before proceeding to their destination. Security fencing is also underway. Director Steve Hammerson commended Mrs. Hanson for her daily affirmation with the children to reinforce that they are safe and supported in their learning at Fir Grove.

STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE REPORT:

RHS Leadership Students, Sylvia Eckman and Annan Kolberg, provided updates of current happenings at the high school. Sylvia announced how impressed she is with Fir Grove, adding that her orchestra teacher works here! It was a day of testing for students at RHS, with Pre-SAT and ASVAB available. It was the first time for the Pre-SAT being offered digitally. Kudos to the librarian and staff in the Career Center. The upcoming Career Fair will be a great experience. Students are signing up for dual enrollment through UCC and Southern Oregon Community College, along with advanced credit opportunities. RHS students are also enjoying interacting with the German exchange students who have been welcomed on campus and are enjoying the electives RHS students have available.

The students shared that the construction project on the security vestibule is finishing up, looking super cool and high tech. The new bell system sounds really good. Annan reported that fall teams are in the last two weeks of competition before start of the post-season. Volleyball is second in their division and varsity football plays next Friday during Homecoming. She announced that Coach Gwen Bartlett is passing the baton for track and field to Nathan Eckman and athletes are super grateful to both of these coaches for their contributions.

Sylvia noted that leadership is busy planning Homecoming Week events including Powder-Puff, Bingo, Cornhole, a dance competition and the assembly. This year, students will nominate a prince and princess from each grade. This year, new administrators were welcomed to RHS, and they are being well received. The students are excited for the second quarter and of course, Homecoming Week.

STUDENT / STAFF RECOGNITION

Director Andrew Shirtcliff had the honor and privilege of recognizing worthy students this evening, including his own daughter! Recipients received certificates and McDonald's gift cards. Honorees this evening included:

Sofia Smith, Fifth Grade Student at Fir Grove Elementary School

Sofia has been selected to represent this month's Student of the Month for Fir Grove Elementary for a variety of reasons. Academically, she is always on task and puts forth great work. But it is her character that makes her stand out amongst her peers. She exemplifies Discipline, Tenacity, Determination, Integrity, and Respect. She's a great example to the other students and has natural leadership qualities. She shows up every day with a smile on her face and a positive attitude. The best thing about Sofia is her ability to brighten up and elevate the mood of the room.

Her class and school are better with Sofia there!

Congratulations, Sofia!

Alivia Shirtcliff, Eighth Grade Student at Joseph Lane Middle School

Although our school year has just begun, Alivia has shown just what it takes to be a student who is willing to go above and beyond in the classroom. She is a sweet young lady who comes to school with a smile and a willingness to learn. She doesn't demand attention but works diligently and turns in quality work. Alivia is polite, respectful and seeks to find ways to help others find success. She actively participates in class and brings conversations that richly enhance classroom learning. There have been occasions when Alivia's light side is revealed and you can tell she has a great sense of humor, along with respect. Her brilliance is undeniable and her potential is limitless.

She will undoubtedly radically transform the world for the better.

Congratulations, Alivia!

Christina Lai Ying Chi, Senior at Roseburg High School

Cheerful, kind, humble, inquisitive, outgoing, hardworking and determined. These are just a few of the affirmations that Christina's teachers showered on her as she was nominated for Student of the Month.

Christina is, quite frankly, the real deal! Her schedule this year would make da Vinci sweat: She is enrolled in AP Lit, AP Calc, AP Gov, Speech, Mock Trial, and College Credit Fine Arts 2. She is also a valued member of FBLA, NHS, and Astra Club and, unlike da Vinci, she finishes everything that she starts. Christina's teachers say her patience and willingness to push herself is unmatched. She comes to class every day prepared and willing to learn.

And she is a diligent volunteer who always puts others above herself.

Congratulations, Christina!

Extraordinary staff members were also recognized and honored by Vice-Chair Johnson, who presented them with Crystal Apple Awards:

Val Titus, Fourth-Grade Teacher at Fir Grove Elementary School

Val Titus has been a First-grade and Fourth-grade teacher at Fir Grove, and we are grateful she has chosen our district to cultivate her career as an educator. As the grade-level math teacher, she brings a genuine love of her content to daily lessons and organizes consistent routines to the classroom while keeping an eye on ease of access (i.e., information, materials, and movement around the room). Additionally, Mrs. Titus is an incredible resource for the Fir Grove community as she is gifted in solving technology problems and providing guidance and support to those around her.

We are fortunate to have her as a Fir Grove Falcon!

Congratulations, Mrs. Titus!

Tracy Clements, Librarian at Fir Grove Elementary School

Tracy Clements has been the Fir Grove Librarian for two years, but it feels like she has been a part of the Falcon family for much longer. She brings with her a natural skill of connecting with kids and adults while also creating a welcoming environment in the school community. She is quick to assist others with a moment's notice and finds ways to support the academic growth of all kids through her library lessons. She is a critical resource for assisting with technical difficulties and finds creative and efficient ways to resolve any issues that come her way. We are grateful for Mrs. Clements and what she brings to Fir Grove Elementary!

Congratulations, Mrs. Clements!

Liz Elder, Nutrition Services Lead Cook at Hucrest Elementary School

Liz has worked diligently serving students in Roseburg School District for the past 21 years. Her love for serving students and staff is something to be admired. She comes to work each and every day with a can-do attitude to do whatever it takes to get the kids fed. Whether it is an extracurricular event such as Fine Dining or Future Chefs, Liz is always there with a smile and willing to help. She is always willing to help other kitchens and assist with anything in the department.

Thank you, Liz, for all that you do to make Nutrition Services and the district the best it can be.

Congratulations, Mrs. Elder!

BRIEF RECESS: On behalf of the Board, Chair Cotton thanked the attendees for coming tonight to support the honorees and offered a brief break to allow an opportunity for those who wished to depart for the evening. The meeting was recessed at 6:30 p.m. and reconvened at 6:40 p.m.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION: Asst. Superintendent Michelle Knee confirmed that there was a single card received from an individual wishing to address the Board, and no viewers on Zoom utilized the "raise your hand" feature. Yuri Vincent of 547 NW Winchester, shared his background growing up in Roseburg and service in the National Guard. After moving away, he returned three years ago. He added that he spoke at a board meeting last year as well. He suggested the board meeting agenda be adjusted so that more people were present for public participation. Mr. Vincent expressed concern about Lesson 4 in the Great Body Shop after being provided with a copy of the lesson from his child's school and the option to opt his child out of the lesson. After doing research on Google, Mr. Vincent didn't feel comfortable with information he assumes will be included in the classroom lessons. Mr. Vincent reached the end of his allotted time to address the board, but Chair Cotton explained that

patrons are also welcome to contact the district via email.

ACTION / DISCUSSION ITEMS

ATTENDANCE: All members of the Board and Cabinet were present, with the exception of Director Ann Krimetz, who was excused. However, Director Krimetz was able to view the meeting via Zoom link remotely.

COMMUNICATIONS TO THE BOARD / REVIEW OF AGENDA

Superintendent Cordon welcomed everyone present in person, as well as those who were joining the meeting via Zoom. He further noted that since initial publication, we have added the Student Representative Report and Resolution 23-24-9: Designation of American Education Week.

CONSENT AGENDA:

The Consent Agenda was presented for consideration, including approval of the Consent Agenda, Minutes from the September 13th and 27th Board Meetings; Surplus Items listing and Gifts to the District, as well as Personnel actions including the recommendation for hire and acceptance of resignation as listed below:

Recommendation for Hire:

Licensed Staff:

Department of Student Services –

- Catherine Follmar, Home Instruction Teacher (temporary position for 2023-2024)

Resignations (for PERS retirement purposes)

- Joanie McLain, 2nd Grade Teacher at Melrose Elementary, resigning for PERS retirement purposes after 33 years of service in education effective October 1, 2023. She would like to continue working in her position for the remainder of the 2023-24 school year.

Director Andrea Miner moved to approve the Consent Agenda as presented. Director Steve Hammerson seconded, and the Motion passed unanimously.

M5-028 Approved the Consent Agenda

RESOLUTION 23-24-9: DESIGNATION OF AMERICAN EDUCATION WEEK

Superintendent Cordon explained that with only one business meeting each month, it is important to present this resolution and share the importance of recognizing all of our district staff who work so hard to serve children. Chair Cotton had the honor of presenting the Resolution and indicated that each board member will be signing it once it is approved. He noted that this will be the 102nd year that our nation celebrates education during November. The superintendent also confirmed that our communications staff will be sure to join districts nationwide in bringing attention to American Education Week as we get closer to the week of November 13th.

Director Steve Hammerson moved to adopt Resolution 23-24-9 designating the week of November 13-17, 2023 as American Education Week. Director Andrew Shirtcliff seconded, and the Motion passed unanimously.

M5-029 Adopted Resolution 23-24-9 designating the week of Nov. 13-17, 2023 as American Education Week

DIVISION 22 STANDARDS

Assistant Superintendent, Michelle Knee, presented the district's Report on Compliance with Public School Standards for the 2022-23 school year, explaining that district superintendents are required by OAR 581-022-2305 to report to their community their district's status with respect to all of the Standards for Public Elementary and Secondary Schools. The standards are adopted by the State Board of Education and set out in Oregon Administrative Rules Chapter 581, Division 22.

Asst. Superintendent Knee reported that within the specific categories including Teaching & Learning, Health and Safety, District Performance and Accountability, and Human Resources/Staffing, the district was determined to be in compliance.

Board Chair Cotton reminded the Board that this is a report only, requiring no action on the part of the Board.

DIRECTOR REPORTS – TEACHING & LEARNING SCHOOL REPORT CARDS

In anticipation of the 2022-23 Oregon school report cards being released on October 26th, Dr. Jill Weber provided a comprehensive overview of district and school report cards and how to interpret the data profiles including staff, outcomes, environment, academic progress and success, high school success, etc. All families will have access to the 2022-23 reports once they are released.

Dr. Weber further noted that reporting waivers for 2022-23 include the essential skills graduation requirement and PE data collection. However, we still have local performance assessment requirements that students must complete in order to graduate. We anticipate that the PE data collection which was suspended last year, will be coming back in the 2023-24 school year. Dr. Weber emphasized that RHS graduates all meet essential skills and a diploma from RPS means a lot.

With school report cards being released later this month, Dr. Weber reviewed the sample report card to help in understanding the report when it becomes available. She pointed out that our district and Phoenix School data is reported together, not separately. We are anxious to see our upcoming results and will be carefully following data to see the growth throughout this school year.

SUPERINTENDENT REPORT *(slide deck follows)*

Superintendent Cordon shared his appreciation for the reports tonight and celebrations for kids. He also reminded the Board relative to Dr. Weber's report, that the report cards expected on October 26th will contain data from Phoenix School, and their data impacts RPS data and graduation rates. He further explained that in order for students to get credit in our school district, they must perform at a higher level than essential skills. He is proud that our schools have increased the rigor in our classrooms.

Jared reflected on the learning celebrations this evening, sharing that it's so good to be able to see some of our incredible students in person. But it's only a snapshot of the amazing kids in our schools. He also shared that RHS vet science and forestry teams have qualified for national competition taking place in Indiana. The RHS marching ensemble earned their highest season-opener score in over 20 years at the Pacific Coast Invitational. For those who have never had a child involved in marching band, it takes an incredible amount of work.

We have students taking advantage of career technical opportunities. The Southern Oregon Trade Careers Expo was attended by 65 of our CTE students. And the combined GPA of fall varsity student-athletes is 3.56 with over 300 students participating. RHS leadership student Sylvia Eckman, who reported earlier tonight, has been selected OSAA Student Athlete of the Week after winning the 2023 Prefontaine Memorial Meet by 53 seconds.

A huge shout-out to all our building leaders as we celebrate National Principals Month! Jared also updated the Board on our P-20 Pathways, an initiative between the district and UCC to expand career paths for advanced health care, advanced manufacturing, elementary education and first responders. Local industry leaders are helping to guide the process and are now seeing our schools as a pipeline for high-quality employees.

Superintendent Cordon again acknowledged the leadership of this Board in ensuring our students get the care, support and instruction they need to succeed, thrive, feel happy and proud.

All RPS staff are helping move the Board's work forward and we look forward to working together through the upcoming collective bargaining process to ensure employees are provided with the compensation, support and culture they deserve, with the goal of retaining & recruiting the very best employees to serve our students.

BOARD OF EDUCATION REPORTS

Director Andrea Miner shared that she thoroughly enjoyed the tour of Fir Grove this afternoon. She noted that it was fun to see student Sylvia Eckman tonight, explaining that the families were neighbors when Sylvia was little, and the Miners put them to work when they were looking for jobs. It's great to see her blossom and be so successful in her achievements.

Director Steve Hammerson also enjoyed the tour, sharing that the "lost and found" was very unique.

Director Michael Leone stated that he was so impressed with the students honored this evening and how we celebrate them, along with the teachers for the work that they are doing. It's so exciting and inspiring. He acknowledged that the work we are doing with Umpqua Community College will change our community in many ways. This will help our young people have opportunities to stay here and grow their community. Very exciting.

Chair Rodney Cotton expressed concern with Senate Bill 2753 relating to school board stipends being passed by the legislature perhaps prematurely before being evaluated by the ethics committee. In speaking to other board members, it seems best to wait until after the legislature meets in February before bringing the topic to the board for discussion. Chair Cotton reflected that he and Vice-Chair Johnson are currently mentoring Director Andrea Miner. But they are discovering that she is also mentoring them and they are learning from her.

ADJOURNMENT: With business before the Board concluded, and with no objections, Chair Cotton stated that the meeting was adjourned at 7:35 p.m.

Jared P. Cordon, Superintendent

JPC/jlk

Next Meeting: Board Work Session, October 25, 2023, at 6:00 p.m. in the central office board room, 1419 NW Valley View Drive Roseburg, Oregon and available via Zoom.