

ROSEBURG PUBLIC SCHOOLS

School Board Meeting
Melrose Elementary School
2960 Melrose Road
Roseburg, Oregon 97471
Available via Zoom

Vol 5 No. 16

March 13, 2024

Board Members:

Rodney D. Cotton, Chair
Steve Hammerson
Rev. Howard Johnson, Vice-Chair Zoom
Ann Krimetz
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

SCHOOL BOARD MEETING

TIME/PLACE: A meeting of the Douglas County School District No. 4 Board of Directors was convened on Wednesday, March 13, 2024, at 6:00 p.m. in the Melrose Elementary School multi-purpose room, 2960 Melrose Road, Roseburg, Oregon, in person and available via Zoom link.

ATTENDANCE: Board members and Cabinet members attended in person, with Rev. Johnson attending via Zoom. Media representatives in attendance included Will Geschke, reporter with The News Review, and David Jaques, Publisher/Executive Director of The Roseburg Beacon.

CALL TO ORDER / PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE: Board Chair, Rodney D. Cotton, called the regular meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. and invited Assistant Superintendent Michelle Knee, who is celebrating her birthday today, to lead the Pledge of Allegiance. Chair Cotton also advised the audience that Board meetings are recorded for future viewing and to please silence their cell phones. Anyone wishing to be part of Public Participation was asked to complete a card at the entrance to the room and cards will be collected prior to Public Participation. Our Zoom link is available for family and friends unable to attend the student and staff recognitions. Patrons may also contact board members via email.

Chair Cotton thanked Principal Darin Lomica and the Melrose staff for preparing this space for us tonight and for the site tour, made extra special by the “lessons” taught in the old one-room schoolhouse, hosted by “Miss Barry”, retired elementary teacher, Patricia Duerfeldt.

PRINCIPAL REPORT – Melrose Elementary School
Where the roots run deep!

Our Vision: At Melrose, we nurture our school family with a sense of community and connection. We strive to consciously cultivate strong academic success while promoting an inclusive environment for all.

School Principal, Darin Lomica

Principal Darin Lomica had earlier led a tour of the school, highlighted by “Miss Barry” leading the board in a history lesson recollecting the era when the old schoolhouse was in use prior to being relocated to the Melrose

campus due to generous donations of area clubs such as Rotary. Student Council students, Brooklyn Bogardus, Emmerson “Emie” Soder and Caroline Adams all shared highlights of exciting things happening at Melrose that make the school so enjoyable for kids, including the annual carnival with over 900 attendees, a recent Veteran’s celebration acknowledging our veterans and first responders, the annual holiday dinner and Father/Daughter dance that included other Roseburg schools. The leadership council sponsored a movie night, earning \$600. They are looking forward to Marble season, a Mother/Son Night, the annual fifth grade coast trip on May 9th, and preparing for the Melrose Mile. Principal Lomica led the board through last year’s state assessment data in the areas of English Language Arts and Math while identifying specific plans to improve student progress toward state benchmarks. With the District’s Strategic Plan guiding their efforts, they continue to emphasize the importance of regular student attendance. The last day of school will be a celebration of a year of hard work with students enjoying “Field Day”.

Principal Lomica explained that teachers are focused on 5D, the five dimensions of teaching, and are setting learning targets. The teachers understand that if students are engaged in the classroom, their capacity for learning will increase. During professional learning on Wednesdays, Melrose teacher-leader Angie Allen shares best practices in areas such as math instruction to ensure that all classrooms benefit from the studio work being done that is benefiting all elementary schools.

Chair Cotton thanked Principal Lomica for hosting tonight and sharing highlights of the Melrose experience.

STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE REPORT:

Leadership students Hannah Heuberger and Raeleigh Travis announced that the RHS spring concert will be held in the RHS Rose Theatre at 7:00 p.m., with six bands performing. Last week the RHS Foundation celebrated scholarship winners and future first citizen finalists who each received \$4,000 including Malia Narsisso, Kate Dammann, Christina Chi, and Eli Malak. Max Felleni, selected as this year’s Future First Citizen, received the top scholarship award of \$10,000. The students shared the most current sports results, along with activities that included planning for this year’s prom, themed “*The Great Gatsby*” selected by the students. Each year the week prior to Spring Break is “Kindness Week”. Hand-written affirmation cards, animals from the Wildlife Safari, chess tutorials and other lunchtime activities are on tap. Robotics student Leo Gimbel-Cook will attend the world championships in Houston as a finalist for the dean’s list award. The Astra club is holding elections for next year’s officers and will be attending a conference in May. Key Club is assisting with student prom attire needs throughout the lunch period.

Spring sports are happening, with three softball games scheduled for the new field this week. Boys baseball, track and field, boys lacrosse and boys and girls tennis are in full swing. This year’s Arts Assembly was very successful.

STUDENT / STAFF RECOGNITION

Director Andrea Miner had the pleasure of presenting honorary certificates and McDonald’s gift cards to worthy students this evening. Honorees this evening included:

Ruby Ellis, Fifth Grade Student at Melrose Elementary School

Ruby is an outstanding example of what being a Melrose Bulldog is all about. Leading by example and kindness, Ruby has been a champion of others and an asset to any classroom. Mrs. Gausnell Remembered back in kindergarten Ruby always being willing to stay with a task until the Job was completed. “Ruby is top-notch”, said Ms. Parrott from second grade.

Ms. Rice noted that Ruby is an exemplar in the cafeteria and on the playground. Mrs. Luther said, “As her fifth grade teacher, I get the pleasure of seeing Ruby every day in her final year at Melrose. I see how academically incredible she is in all subjects and yet pushes herself to be creative on each task.”

Ruby is simply a wonderful student and a pleasure to recognize. She will be honored throughout her time in Roseburg Schools. Certainly, Fremont will be lucky when Ruby steps on their campus next year.

Congratulations, Ruby!

Halle Miller, Sixth Grade Student at Fremont Middle School

Halle is a great student with a fun personality. Her teachers say it is clear that Halle is not afraid of hard work or going the extra mile to get a task completed. In class, she is always dedicated, respectful, kind, and supportive of her peers. Not to mention, she has a great sense of humor. Halle consistently shares her thinking at a high level, including classmates in work and discussion. Regardless of the task, she approaches her education with tenacious spirit and unwavering focus. When collaborating with others, Halle’s cheerful and positive demeanor fosters a welcoming environment where all group members feel valued and supported. Her genuine care and respect for others is truly inspiring. Halle truly embodies the EPIC values at Fremont and her teachers have no doubt that she will continue to shine and make a positive impact in every academic setting she encounters.

Congratulations, Halle!

With Vice-Chair Johnson participating via Zoom this evening, Chairman Rod Cotton expressed that it was his honor and extreme privilege to present Crystal Apple Awards to the following staff members:

Jessy Lawrence, Librarian at Melrose Elementary School

Jessy goes out of her way to support the students at Melrose, pouring her heart into each of them. She helps students find the perfect book to get them to love reading. She is dedicated and creative, going above and beyond to engage students in the library lessons as well as in providing recess activities for those who prefer indoor activities. She has facilitated the chess club and even took on a group of second-graders wanting to start a brand-new Pony Club.” Jessy establishes a safe space for students whether they are big readers or not. She has worked tirelessly to build a strong local participation in the Battle of the Books. Not only that, Jessy is a big supporter of after-school activities dedicating countless hours attending things like Movie Night, decorating for the Holiday Dinner, and attending PTAN meetings to represent our staff. Without a doubt, Melrose would not be the same without Jessy.

Congratulations, Jessy!

Crystal Apple: “Fun, Creativity and Heart, Dedicated to Relationships, Amazing Gold Pants!”

Kathy Spears, Third Grade Teacher at Melrose Elementary School

Kathy, a 40-year veteran teacher here at Melrose, is an outstanding instructor and colleague who leads the school’s third-grade team. Kathy consistently has high expectations for her students academically, behaviorally, and socially. With that, she provides the appropriate levels of scaffolding to support each learner’s unique backgrounds and skill levels. As one might expect, she has a lot of strategies in her toolkit at this point in her career. Perhaps the most amazing thing is that she is always eager to engage in professional learning to continue to find new

and more effective ways to positively impact learning. Professionally, Kathy’s door is always open, acting as an amazing resource to assist others across the building with instruction, management, assessment, or problem solving in a challenging situation. Kathy advocates for her students to ensure that they are getting the timely and targeted instruction that they need. Melrose students, as well as the staff, are better because of Kathy Spears

Congratulations, Kathy!

Crystal Apple: “Extraordinary Teacher, Mentor for Many, Immeasurable Impact.”

Chair Cotton noted that these staff members are excellent examples of the reason that the Crystal Apple award was initiated by the School Board decades ago. Congratulations to tonight’s recipients!

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 6:45 p.m. and reconvened at 6:52 p.m.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION: Asst. Superintendent Michelle Knee asked for any cards to be submitted from anyone interested in addressing the Board. There were none.

ACTION / DISCUSSION ITEMS

REVIEW OF AGENDA / COMMUNICATIONS TO THE BOARD

Superintendent Cordon welcomed everyone present in person, as well as those who were joining the meeting remotely. He further noted that since initial publication, one of our students being honored, Henry Anderson, is being rescheduled due to a track meet.

APPROVE BUDGET COMMITTEE CANDIDATES

The Board welcomed current Budget Committee Candidates, Becky Marr, Mia Murphy and Nicole Messenger. Another candidate, Yuri Vincent, has withdrawn his application. Becky Marr shared that with her passion for community involvement, a keen interest in financial planning and a deep commitment to her child’s education, she is eager to contribute to the district’s fiscal decision-making process.

Mia Murphy moved to Roseburg six years ago and two children already graduated from RHS, and the youngest is attending Melrose. She has been disheartened at school bonds not passing and would love to advocate for future bond efforts by educating the public as much as possible.

City Manager with the City of Roseburg, Nikki Messenger shared the frustration at not passing a school bond, understanding the importance of having good facilities where kids and staff can thrive. Her family has a long history in Roseburg, and she obtained her Mechanical Engineering degree while helping to raise three grandchildren. She has experience working with the bond committee and has a keen understanding of budgets and knowledge of what can and can’t be funded from certain sources.

Director Steve Hammerson moved to approve the three candidates for the Budget Committee. Director Andrea Miner seconded, and the Motion passed unanimously. Director Steve Hammerson commented that he was very impressed by all three candidates and how well they articulated their interest in this committee work.

M5-049 Approved appointments of Becky Marr, Mia Murphy and Nicole Messenger to the Budget Committee

CONSENT AGENDA:

The Consent Agenda was presented for consideration, including:

- Approval of the Consent Agenda
- Minutes from February 7th board meeting
- Contract approval for Superintendent Cordon
- Contract Addendums: Asst. Superintendent Michelle Knee and Director of Finance & Operations, Cheryl Northam
- Approval of Summary of Benefits for Administrators, Managers and Supervisors effective July 1, 2024 through June 30, 2027
- Approval of Summary of Benefits for Confidential employees effective July 1, 2024 – June 30, 2027
- Recommendations for Hire and acceptance of Resignations as listed below
- Surplus Items Listing and Gifts to the District

Personnel Actions included:

Licensed Hire Recommendation:

[Kristina Alldridge, LRC Teacher at Eastwood Elementary School, a temporary position for 2023-24.](#)

Resignations:

- Kayla Hawkins-Carter, Kindergarten Teacher at Sunnyslope Elementary School
- Emilie Cochran, Choir Teacher at Joseph Lane Middle School
- Christopher Cockman, Language Arts Teacher at Roseburg High School
- Robert Coulson, Assistant Principal at Roseburg High School
- Olivia King; Fourth Grade Teacher at Fullerton IV, effective February 15, 2024
- William “Jason” Lipe, Assistant Principal at Roseburg High School
- Arica Pynch, Math Teacher at Joseph Lane Middle School

Unless otherwise noted, these resignations are effective at the end of the 2023-2024 school year.

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

M5-050 Approved the Consent Agenda

ANNUAL RENEWAL OR NONRENEWAL OF CONTRACTS FOR THE 2024-2025 SCHOOL YEAR, including :

- Probationary Administrator Renewals
 - First Year to Second Year
 - Second Year to Third Year
- Contract Administrator Extensions
- Probationary Teacher Renewals
 - First Year to Second Year
 - Second Year to Third Year
 - Second Year to Contract
 - Third Year to Contract
- Two-Year Teacher Contract Extensions: 2024-2025; 2025-2026
- Contracts Expiring at the end of the 2023-2024 school year

Director Steve Hammerson moved to approve annual renewal or nonrenewal of contracts for the 2024-2025 school year per ORS 342.513 as presented. Director Andrea Miner seconded, and the Motion passed unanimously.

M5-051 Approved renewal or nonrenewal of contracts for 2024-25 school year

PURCHASE OF REPLACEMENT DISH MACHINES

As outlined in the memo from Purchasing Supervisor, Denny Austin, the district is requesting approval of the purchase of replacement dishwashing machines to be installed at six elementary schools and both middle schools. The Nutrition Services Fund will cover the \$389,941 expenditure from Bargreen-Ellingson using their publicly awarded Oregon State price agreement. The investment will provide Energy Star appliances with advanced monitoring and sanitation capabilities at Eastwood, Fir Grove, Fullerton IV, Melrose, Sunnyslope, Winchester, Fremont and Joseph Lane Middle School. Work is expected to be completed before school reconvenes in Fall 2024, with the exception of Eastwood which will be completed during Spring Break.

Director Andrea Miner moved to approve the purchase of replacement dish machines as requested. Director Steve Hammerson seconded, and the Motion passed unanimously. Director Andrew Shirtcliff asked for clarification regarding vendors, installers, and funding sources. In considering return on investment, it was pointed out that the equipment being replaced at Melrose is 30 years old.

M5-052 Approved purchase of replacement dish machines from Bargreen-Ellingson at a price not to exceed \$389,940.

PURCHASE OF ANATOMAGE TABLE FOR HEALTH OCCUPATIONS

P-20 Coordinator, Brett Steinacher, shared that the district is also requesting the purchase of an interactive 3D anatomy dissection table, eight devices and necessary software, training and licensing for use in the RHS Health Sciences Department to align coursework at the college level with our allied nursing pathway. The addition of an Anatomage system will allow our students to complete advanced classes prior to high school graduation on the same devices currently in use at Umpqua Community College. The purchase would be made possible from \$80,050 in Measure 98 funds to expand the offerings in career technology education. This will allow us to build our program in connection with UCC with the goal of articulating in the near future for dual credit for our students.

Director Steve Hammerson moved to approve the purchase of an Anatomage system as recommended. Director Andrea Miner seconded, and the Motion passed unanimously. Chair Cotton expressed that this addition to the program is fabulous will help keep our students local.

M5-053 Approved purchase of Anatomage system in the amount of \$80,060 for the RHS Health Sciences division

SECURITY VESTIBULES – FINAL PHASE

Director of Finance and Operations, Cheryl Northam, presented the request for approval to contract with S+B James for the final phase of security vestibules at Green, Sunnyslope, Fullerton IV, Melrose and Hucrest Elementary Schools in the amount of \$1,535,294. As the project progresses, Ms. Northam explained that the district, S+B James and architect Paul Bentley will work on value engineering the projects to take advantage of cost reductions that may be available. The Building & Sites Committee requested to meet with S+B James representatives, and VP Terry Mackey will be attending a board meeting in April.

Director Andrew Shirtcliff moved to approve a contract with S+B James for the final phase of security vestibules at the five elementary schools as recommended. Director Steve Hammerson seconded, and the Motion passed unanimously.

M5-054 Approved contract for final phase of security vestibules with S+B James Construction Management
--

REPORTS

BUILDING & SITES – March 6, 2024

Committee Chairman, Steve Hammerson, announced that the committee met March 6th next to the beautiful softball field. The committee is expecting to secure S+B James to complete the remainder of our secure front-entrance vestibules. Oregon Department of Education representatives have expressed that it appears the district went above and beyond the compliance requirement, setting a gold standard in meeting the conciliation agreement requirements for the new softball field. We are awaiting the official notification from ODE. The committee also discussed field lighting to mitigate effects on the Laurelwood neighborhood adjacent to Finlay Field. A new system should be nearly cost neutral between Oregon Energy Trust funding, SIA funds, and energy efficiencies over time. Mr. Hammerson further noted that current lighting is resulting in some dark spots on the field which could create safety concerns.

CURRICULUM AND INSTRUCTION – February 28, 2024

Committee Chairman, Michael Leone, reported that the committee reviewed math and reading achievement data on February 28th, and also discussed the process for adopting a new science curriculum for K-12. Dr. Weber did a thorough job reviewing the information with the committee and is meeting with all principals to review the reading and math data and determine what steps need to be taken to accomplish end-of-the-year goals. Teams of teachers are forming to pilot new science curriculum options for the 2024-25 school year. A community review of the piloted curricula is scheduled to take place in May, with recommendations expected to be shared with the committee the same month.

SUPERINTENDENT REPORT *(slide deck follows)*

Superintendent Cordon took a moment to recognize kids and staff and the great things they are doing in their classrooms and on the fields, adding that we are blessed to live in this community. As student rep Hannah Heuberger mentioned earlier, congratulations to Future First Citizen, Massimo Falleni; our choir and band students were honored by Douglas Commissioners for Music in Our Schools Month; elementary students enjoyed a literacy play at RHS as part of Celebration of Literacy; and our students and staff celebrated 100 days of school so far this year! RHS Robotics competed at the First Tech Challenge Oregon Championship Tournament held in Hillsboro. Along with the many achievements at that event, Leo Gimbel-Cook is one of four students in Oregon to win the Dean's List Award for academics and student leadership and will advance to the World Championships in Houston Texas.

Jared shared favorite quotes from Audrey Hepburn, *"To plant a garden is to believe in tomorrow."* and *"Is there anything more important than a child?"* Our staff are investing in the lives of our children, the rising generation and treasures of our community.

Superintendent Cordon also noted the presence of RVS Principal Dani Jardine, and shared that Roseburg Virtual School will continue to serve students in grades K-8 in 2024-25 as we make adjustments to create a cost-neutral program while continuing to examine academic return on investment. This innovative, high achieving program has been grant funded through ESSER, and that funding is ending. Jared thanked Dani, Michelle Knee and Jill Weber for working to create a plan to support these students in a way that will be cost neutral.

He further expressed appreciation to the Ford Family Foundation for their support in providing food at the celebration of our new softball field. Many students, community members and the contractors who worked hard on this project attended the event, providing proof that when this community comes together with a vision of what they want to accomplish, we can do anything. We do not have a talent problem in Roseburg. This “field of possibility” serves as a provocation for our community....if we can do that, we can do a lot of things to support this rising generation.

Leaders from the Oregon Dept. of Education recently toured some of our classrooms and the CTE building to learn more about our incredible programs, and they could be replicated in other districts.

BOARD OF EDUCATION REPORTS

Director Andrew Shirtcliff related that with regard to the dishwashing machine purchase, he will always get a bad case of sticker shock when it comes to expensive equipment.

Director Steve Hammerson stated he had nothing to share to benefit the children this evening.

Director Ann Krimetz shared her appreciation of Melrose Elementary, particularly the eloquence of the student leaders and Principal Lomica this evening. The students were very succinct as they represented their pride in their school. Thank you for our time here!

Director Michael Leone shared his amazement at the support the students received tonight as they received their awards. This says so much about this community. Much of their success is the result of the support they obviously receive from family and friends.

Chair Cotton shared that former board members had a vision in purchasing properties behind the high school years ago as they considered solutions for adding field space. It took years, but look at the resulting beautiful field that exists today! There are wonderful things happening in our community. He was also very touched tonight in awarding the crystal apple to Kathy Spears, who has been teaching elementary students for 40 years. She’s amazing, but we have so many amazing staff in this district. Thank you all for taking care of our kids! Teachers play such an important role, with some children seeing more of their teachers than family at home. He expressed pride in being part of this community and school district.

ADJOURNMENT: With regular business before the Board concluded, and with no objections, Chair Cotton adjourned the meeting at 7:58 p.m. The next meeting will take place at Roseburg High School on April 10th at 6:00 p.m. and will also be available via zoom link.

Jared P. Cordon, Superintendent

JPC/jlk

Next Meeting: Board Meeting, April 10, 2024, at 6:00 p.m. at Roseburg High School media center located at 400 W Harvard in Roseburg, Oregon and available via Zoom.