

ROSEBURG PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Regular Board Meeting
Fullerton IV Elementary School
2560 W Bradford Drive
Roseburg, Oregon 97471
Available via Zoom

Vol 6 No. 4

September 11, 2024

Board Members:

Rodney D. Cotton, Vice Chair
Keith Cubic
Steve Hammerson
Ann Krimetz
Michael Leone
Andrea Miner, Chair Zoom
Andrew Shirtcliff

Administration:

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

TRIBUTE TO OUR NATION'S TRAGEDY THAT OCCURRED ON 9.11.2001

Board Vice-Chair Rodney Cotton acknowledged the significance of today's date. Twenty-three years ago, our nation faced the tragedy of September 11, 2001. We remember those who were lost, the bravery of our first responders, and the strength of our communities. To honor this day, we are fortunate that RHS Band Director Branden Hansen arranged to have members of the high school band here to perform the national anthem. Following their inspiring performance, these talented RHS band members, including

Asher Brewster
Samuel Cohan
Nicholas Cunningham
Loki Dodge
Conner Dryden
Eduardo Martinez Maya
James McKenzie
Emylie Moore
Fiona Strickland
Allissandra Wenzl
Aaron Winn

joined attendees in a moment of silence to reflect on the values of unity, service, and resilience that continue to inspire and guide our school district and community.

PUBLIC HEARING

Proposed findings supporting an exemption from traditional bidding requirements and use of the CM/GC method of procurement for the Roseburg High School Vo-Tech East Building Rehabilitation

Pursuant to publication of public notice, a Public Hearing was held at 6:02 p.m. on September 11, 2024, to review proposed findings supporting an exemption from competitive bidding requirements and use of the CM/GC method of procurement for the Roseburg High School Vo-Tech East Building seismic rehabilitation.

Cheryl Northam, Director of Finance and Operations, explained that the School Board, acting as the Roseburg

School District Local Contract Review Board, in accordance with ORS 279C.335 has contract review authority to grant specific exemptions from the requirement for competitive bidding upon approval of specific findings.

Roseburg Public Schools has received a \$2,499,420 grant through the Oregon Seismic Rehabilitation Grant program to seismically retrofit the specified parts of the building to meet or exceed the code requirements outlined in ACSE41-06 "Seismic Rehabilitation of Existing Buildings".

The CM/GC contract allows the district to bring a general contractor on board during the initial design phase, providing engineering services and a Guaranteed Maximum Price during the design phase in lieu of during the bid phase after full design documents have been established. The Roseburg School District proposes utilizing the CM/GC contract delivery methodology to obtain proposals for this project. Director Northam confirmed that the district has previously used this method for all seismic rehabilitation projects undertaken to date, reporting that it worked well. The findings supporting the exemption have been reviewed by legal counsel as required by Oregon statute.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION: There was no one either in person or online wishing to address the Board regarding the Public Hearing and Proposed findings.

Adjournment: The Public Hearing was adjourned at 6:05 p.m.

REGULAR BOARD MEETING

TIME/PLACE: A regular meeting of the Douglas County School District No. 4 Board of Directors was convened on Wednesday, September 11, 2024, at 6:00 p.m. in the Fullerton IV Elementary multi-purpose room, 2560 W Bradford Drive in Roseburg, Oregon, in person and available via Zoom link.

CALL TO ORDER / PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE: Vice-Chair Rodney D. Cotton called the regular meeting to order at 6:05 p.m. immediately following the Public Hearing and asked Director Michael Leone to lead in the Pledge of Allegiance. He asked audience members to silence their cell phones and advised that Board meetings are recorded for future viewing.

ATTENDANCE: Madam Chair Miner attended via Zoom link. Vice-Chair Cotton assumed the duties of chair for the evening. Otherwise Board members and Cabinet members attended in person.

REVIEW OF AGENDA / COMMUNICATIONS TO THE BOARD

Superintendent Cordon welcomed everyone attending in person, as well as those who were joining the meeting remotely, reminding us of Madam Chair Miner attending via Zoom while she enjoys a well-deserved family vacation. Since initial publication, no new action items have been added to the Consent Agenda.

WELCOME TO FULLERTON IV ELEMENTARY SCHOOL – Go Panthers!

Principal Russ Bolin and his staff welcomed us to their school, proudly sharing the exciting achievements of staff and students at Fullerton IV Elementary! The Board viewed the security vestibule at the entrance of the school which includes expanded office and conference/sick child areas, and also toured the classroom modulars that are now being put into service following the long wait last year for electrical service. The spaces are more comfortable, climate-controlled, and students, staff and community members have shared many positive comments. The Fullerton staff are leaning into the district Strategic Plan, and shared their vision for student

learning this year:

- Create a positive and engaging learning environment which promotes a GROWTH MINDSET.
- Supporting students to feel connected, safe, confident and challenged.

Principal Bolin takes his leadership role very seriously, making sure his teachers are taken care of so that they can help children on their path to graduate from high school with plans for their most successful futures. Current student data reflects that we are already seeing increases in the areas of Literacy, Math and Path to Graduation. Goals for improvement this school year have been established to improve those percentages:

Goal 1 Literacy	Goal 2 Math	Goal 3 Path to Graduation
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 5D framework two areas of focus - Purpose and Student Engagement. Focus our professional learning around these two domains. • Learning Walks. • ELA team meetings both district wide and school meetings. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 5D framework two areas of focus – Purpose and Student Engagement. Focus Professional learning around these two domains. • Participation in Math Studio. Math leader meetings both district and school. • Learning Walks. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improve bus behavior. • Meeting with bus drivers. • Targeted interventions. • Communications with families.

In addition to supporting students, Russ models his commitment to nurturing a Growth Mindset by encouraging all Fullerton IV staff members to strive to improve 1% every day.

RHS STUDENT LEADERSHIP REPORT:

RHS ASB co-presidents Sylvia Eckman and Annan Kolberg shared the exciting activities that have been on tap both before and after the start of this school year, welcoming foreign exchange students, working on school beautification, helping with registration and a staff welcome back luncheon. Leadership welcomed ten new members, along with their new advisor, Gwen Bartlett. Last week they hosted the first tailgate event of the year, followed by Senior Sunrise the next morning. Link Crew welcome over 350 new members to the class of 2028 last Tuesday. Clubs have begun meeting, including ASTRA, Key Club and Robotics. Soccer, football and cross country athletic teams are already competing and students are actively involved in the many academic and extra-curricular opportunities available to them. An amazing list of available college credit courses through UCC are available at no cost to our students.

CONSENT AGENDA:

The Consent Agenda was presented for consideration, including approval of the Consent Agenda, Minutes from August 14 and 28, 2024; gifts to the district and a listing of surplus items. There were no personnel actions under consideration.

Director Steve Hammerson moved to approve the Consent Agenda. Director Andrew Shirtcliff seconded, and the Motion passed unanimously.

M6-16 Approved the Consent Agenda

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION: There was no one present in person or on Zoom who wanted to address the Board.

Introduction of Mr. Jeff Eichenbusch, District Safety Coordinator

The Board enthusiastically welcomed our new Safety Coordinator, Mr. Jeff Eichenbusch, who has joined our ranks after a long history of serving in law enforcement and partnering with the district in the capacity of SRO

and PIO. After 28 years with Roseburg Police Department as an officer, SRO, detective, corporal, sergeant and public relations officer/training coordinator, Jeff is now ready for a new opportunity and will complete his final graveyard shift tonight, acknowledging that it's definitely a bittersweet moment being on 9.11.2024. He thanked the Board of Directors for the opportunity to work with Roseburg Public Schools.

CONSIDER APPROVAL OF PROPOSED FINDINGS SUPPORTING AN EXEMPTION FROM TRADITIONAL BIDDING REQUIREMENTS AND USE OF THE CM/GC METHOD OF PROCUREMENT FOR THE ROSEBURG HIGH SCHOOL VO-TECH EAST BUILDING SEISMIC RENOVATION

Director of Finance and Operations, Cheryl Northam, shared that her memo outlines the alternative procurement method requested to be used for the RHS seismic renovation. In summary, the grant award for the RHS Vo-Tech East Building is \$2,499,420 to seismically strengthen the east wing area to both life safety and immediate occupancy standards. There is a not-to-exceed amount to complete the seismic rehabilitation work and all prospective contractors submitting a proposal are proposing to do that work for that price.

Director Keith Cubic moved to approve the Findings supporting an Exemption from traditional bidding requirements and Use of the CM/GC Method of Procurement for the Roseburg High School Vo-Tech East Building Seismic Renovation. Director Steve Hammerson seconded. The Motion passed unanimously. Director Cubic noted his appreciation for the “not to exceed” provision and confirmed that this is a value practice for public entities. Vice-Chair Rodney Cotton also confirmed that the district has successfully embarked on seismic projects over the last 8-9 years and it has worked very well.

M6-17 Approved Findings Supporting Exemption from traditional bidding and Use of the CM/GC Method of Procurement for the Roseburg High School East Building Seismic Renovation
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COMMUNICATIONS UPDATE -

- **NEW PARENTSQUARE PROGRAM**
- **2024-25 UPDATED STRATEGIC PLAN**

ParentSquare

Communications Coordinator Chelsea Duncan summarized that ParentSquare is the new school-to-home communication platform that has replaced One Call Now, Remind and Peachjar. This consolidation is intended to modernize communication platforms across the district, increasing consistency and ease of use for families and staff. Another goal is to increase engagement with families leading to improved outcomes for students. Future potential uses include:

- ✚ Secure docs feature for sending report cards (saving money on postage)
- ✚ Parent-teacher conference sign ups
- ✚ Volunteer sign ups

All parents, guardians and district employees are automatically assigned ParentSquare accounts. While registering is not required, it does allow users to update their notification and language preferences. Communications may be received via email, text, or the ParentSquare app, although emergency/urgent alerts can override preferences to ensure reachability. Some schools are utilizing the “groups” function to communicate with school clubs, athletic teams and other tailored messaging such as the newsletter, forms and calendar features. RHS will be using the app to communicate directly with students through the app or email. The program does allow the option of adding guests to the system. Most staff and families have reacted

positively to the transition, as ParentSquare is the leading platform around the country and has a positive reputation, serving over 20 million students.

Strategic Plan

Chelsea presented refreshed designs for posters used to keep our Strategic Plan illustrations and messaging both current and engaging. Director Steve Hammerson moved to approve the updated Strategic Plan for 2024-2025 as proposed. Director Michael Leone seconded, and the Motion passed unanimously.

M6-18 Approved updates of the district Strategic Plan as presented for 2024-2025
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PHOENIX CHARTER SCHOOL REPORT

Phoenix Charter Interim Executive Director (former Phoenix board member), Laurie Newton, and Principal Corrie Bernard were present to share their student data. Other Phoenix staff including Marie Leary and Hope Assink were also present.

Mrs. Newton stated that boards of both organizations agree that student performance needs to improve significantly. Consequently, Laurie stepped down from their board of directors to volunteer her time and services to assist with the charter school. She suggested that her 36 years of experience in education, part as a charter school superintendent, provides the background needed to serve in this capacity. The focus is now on increasing student attendance and academic participation. They have also completed a deep dive into the financial status of the charter. She thanked RPS for partnering financially with Phoenix and maintaining a solid financial foundation. Phoenix is now participating in leadership and staff development activities with RPS as they desire to be a part of Roseburg Public Schools.

Principal Corrie Bernard reviewed student attendance numbers for the 2023-24 school year and staff are reaching out to families to address any barriers their students are experiencing in attending, with many of them attending from out of area. She confirmed that only 21% of students are attending more than 90% of their enrolled school days, a 4% increase over the previous year. After reviewing 180 student transcripts, it was determined that 36.84% of tenth grade students are on track for graduation; 25.45% of 11th graders (14 out of 55 students); and 28.85% of 12th graders (15 out of 52 students) are on track.

Corrie shared that they feel pretty good about Science, and are close to the state average in ELA. However, in Math, no students are meeting standard. Math curriculum has now been adopted and teachers are being required to use the state-adopted common core curriculum that she pointed out is the same as that being used at Sutherlin SD. They are also using the financial algebra materials used by RHS in consumer math. Teachers are now being held accountable for students meeting standards, which had not been the case in the past. Staff have not been successful in verifying previously shared data, but Corrie assured the Board that she and Laurie are very confident in the numbers they are presenting tonight.

Laurie noted that they have implemented more structure and emphasis on academics, increasing course offerings and teaching staff while building CTE and Steam programs. Offerings now include construction and welding and expanded Youth Corps employment programs. They offer mental health supports and have expanded the counselor position to full-time. She further pointed out that Phoenix is aligned with RPS policies for students and staff and they are committed to participating in leadership opportunities offered through the district.

Vice-Chair Cotton felt it was important to state for the record that it was actually much earlier than last spring that the boards of both Phoenix and Roseburg Public Schools recognized that PCS student performance data needed to improve significantly. He also confirmed with Principal Bernard that the Phoenix Board was not involved in their recent math adoption and he believes that is problematic. The confirmation that staff cannot substantiate numbers previously reported to the district is concerning as well.

ADOPTION OF THE 2025-2026 SCHOOL YEAR CALENDAR

Assistant Superintendent Michelle Knee reported that last Wednesday the district Calendar Committee met to review two versions of a proposal school year calendar for 2025-2026. The options presented reflected both pre-and post-Labor Day start dates. As a representative of the Administration and Personnel Committee, Director Rodney Cotton, was in attendance, along with principals and representatives of both the licensed and classified staff.

The Calendar Committee is proposing to accept the post-Labor Day holiday version of the school calendar for the 2025-2026 school year.

Director Andrew Shirtcliff moved to adopt the post-Labor Day holiday option of the school year calendar for the 2025-2026 school year as proposed. Director Ann Krimetz seconded, and the Motion passed unanimously.

M6-19 Adopted the 2025-2026 School Year Calendar as recommended by the Calendar Committee

Vice-Chair Rodney Cotton noted that this is the earliest in the school year in his recollection that we have adopted a calendar and believes it will help parents in planning for vacations, etc. He did caution that in 2026, Labor Day moves to the second week of the month, and we may need to consider an earlier start date as we have done in the past. He thanked Michelle and everyone who worked on accomplishing this. Director Hammerson shared that he is a fan of post-Labor Day start dates as it seems to be easier on parents, helps us when dealing with wildfires, smoke and temperatures as well. Good job!

REPORTS

DIRECTOR’S REPORTS

HUMAN RESOURCES UPDATE – ASST. SUPERINTENDENT, MICHELLE KNEE

Asst. Superintendent Michelle Knee presented a back to school staffing update from Human Resources. It all starts with the Strategic Plan for the care, support and instruction for staff as well as students. The district currently employs 783 staff with 362 in the classified ranks (98% filled positions), 35 administrative (97% filled), 378 licensed (99.7% filled) and 8 confidential, with no unfilled positions. The 2024-25 school year brings us 36 new or returning teachers, 11 who are new to teaching, and 25 with teaching experience. Four instructional assistants have moved into teaching positions this year as we continue working on “growing our own”. We have 37 new or returning classified employees. A vacancy remains in the Student Services Coordinator position, created when Lisa Dickover left to go to Winston-Dillard to be a principal. Michelle pointed out that it’s a difficult time of year to find administrators.

Michelle also wanted to highlight some of the ongoing professional learning opportunities offered to staff that begin prior to the start of school, and continuing with support for our principals and teachers from our Teaching and Learning staff. Recent offerings included Dyslexia, Classroom Organization and Management, ELA Best

Practices, Crisis Prevention, Mathematics, Introduction to Canvas, Science Best Practices, 504 Paperwork, Suicide Prevention, Restraint & Seclusion, Synergy, SPED Paperwork, IRLA Refresher, Phonics First, and BLAST.

Asst. Supt. Knee shared our appreciation for the strong employee contracts put in place by our Board of Directors that is continuing to increase the years of experience of our staff members coming in. She also confirmed for the Board that safety and security drills are scheduled at all sites. After acknowledging his disappointment in the necessity of schools needing to practice safety protocols, Vice-Chair Cotton also shared that he had the opportunity to participate in a lock-down drill and encouraged other directors to make arrangements to observe one if they have any concerns about the process.

SUPERINTENDENT REPORT

As is his practice, Superintendent Cordon gave a shout out to all the great people working in this District who are focused on our kids. In honor of 9.11 Jared shared how proud he is to live in this country and how thankful he is for the freedoms we enjoy, being grateful to be an American. He also expressed gratitude for the staff who at times act as first responders for our kids. As we think about this country and freedoms, and those keeping our most precious possessions, our kids, safe, we can't forget to think about the staff.

Superintendent Cordon reported that the 2024-25 school year is off to a great start, with staff and students engaged and digging right into lessons. He was able to visit all schools, where it did not feel like the first week of school. In a first-grade classroom, he saw a teacher giving kids "jitter-juice". Kids are getting their sea legs back, with kids and staff involved in athletics, clubs, and extra-curricular activities that are already in full swing. Jared also thanked the Board for the beautiful new lights at Finlay Field.

We continue working to improve outcomes for students by offering free access to athletics and extra-curricular activities; offering increased opportunities for AP classes, college credits and career pathways; and improved communication tools to increase parent involvement. He shared something he considers to be profound; you have to increase access for students, because it's not an achievement gap, it's an access gap. All students can be successful when the right things are helping support their success. If students have access and we increase academic rigor, students will be successful. Increasing growth will be a combination of both opportunities and rigor. In Roseburg, we see value in a diploma only if it's rigorous – it's not about compliance. We are seeing upward momentum in achievement data in all schools as we make sure students have a relevant and rigorous experience.

Jared thanked students, staff, and families for their patience during the recent hot weather. To accomplish what we said we would do with our Strategic Plan, a long-term investment in air quality district-wide will be necessary to keep schools in operation in the future as we continue to experience excessive heat. In compliance with OSHA guidance, we provide daily updates to administrators when conditions such as heat and smoke impact air quality. Superintendent Cordon shared a quote from Henry Ford, *"Coming together is the beginning. Keeping together is progress. Working together is success."* He expressed gratitude for working together with each other and the district. This is just the beginning. Thank you all for leaning into this work!

DIRECTOR REPORTS

Director Ann Krimetz shared that the Curriculum and Instruction Committee is meeting with Dr. Weber and setting up a committee meeting schedule. She is anticipating getting to see some new curriculum this year that the committee and community will have an opportunity to look at.

Director Andrew Shirtcliff is happy that school is back in session. Kids are out of the house and on the bus. He expressed gratitude for our teachers and administrators.

Director Keith Cubic shared that he and Director Michael Leone toured the Melrose Elementary School campus in August, viewing the new septic system and security vestibule. They also saw how the new tables in the gym operate. They noted that the campus appeared clean and in good condition, and had a positive conversation with the principal. He reported that the student release process at the elementary schools is efficient, safe and secure, and he complimented the district on their process.

Vice-Chair Rodney Cotton had observed that the school buses going by his home appeared to be empty, but has learned that the children are so small that only the tops of their heads are visible! He appreciated the work session on August 28th where board members viewed properties owned by the district and learned some of the history of those purchases. Director Cotton expressed the importance of the community knowing that the Board is paying attention, especially considering potential growth in Charter Oaks. He took the opportunity to thank the Roseburg High School band members who performed this evening, sharing that Roseburg has one of the largest marching bands in the state. He encouraged people to attend the football games to have an opportunity to see them perform. He recollected that at one time we are close to losing that program. Then RHS principal Karen Goirigolzarri went out and found a young music teacher, Branden Hansen, and look what he has done!

ADJOURNMENT: With business before the Board concluded, Vice-Chair Rodney D. Cotton indicated that with no objection, the meeting was adjourned at 7:22 p.m.

Jared P. Cordon, Superintendent

JPC/jlk

Next Meeting: School Board Work Session, September 25, 2024, at 6:00 p.m. in the central office Board Room located at 1419 NW Valley View Drive in Roseburg, Oregon and available via Zoom.