

ROSEBURG PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Regular School Board Meeting & Executive Session

Green Elementary School Library

4498 Carnes Road

Roseburg, Oregon 97471

Available via Zoom

Vol 6 No. 9

December 11, 2024

Board Members:

Rodney D. Cotton, Vice-Chair
Keith Cubic
Steve Hammerson
Ann Krimetz
Michael Leone Exc
Andrea Miner, Madam Chair
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, December 11, 2024, at 6:00 p.m. in the Green Elementary School library located at 4498 Carnes Road in Roseburg, Oregon, in person and available via Zoom link.

CALL TO ORDER / PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE: Board Chair, Andrea Miner, called the regular meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. and thanked the Green School Principal Rasmussen and school staff for hosting the meeting, and especially for highlighting student artwork in the room this evening. Director Steve Hammerson was invited to lead the Pledge of Allegiance.

PRINCIPAL REPORT – GREEN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Green Elementary School Principal, Tammy Rasmussen shared a poem about the Green Dragon.

*Green dragon with your gnarly ways; Eating asparagus all your days
Biting harsh straws within your rays; Writing your Shakespearean plays
Ice cold snow has turned you blue; Wrens in your ears cheering you and me too;
Sweet of them not to make us shoo; Dragon your loyalty to me is true.
Green dragon of the ice and snow; With your extra-terrestrial happy glow,
Poet of my heart, as you know; Do take to the skies;
Now please, safe go.*

Advising that the district Strategic Plan guides goals for the school, Mrs. Rasmussen shared that daily messages to students include striving for safe minds, hearts and bodies; working on kindness by taking care of friends in the hallways; taking care of themselves when having a big emotion; noticing when there is a problem and doing something about it; and working to be a positive, resilient and engaged learner. Teachers are aware there is a lot of work to do, and are providing structure, routines and systems to help staff and children.

Principal Rasmussen and her team agree that improvement can't happen if staff don't come together around common goals, and took pride in relating that Green had the highest level of teachers participating in summer professional development before the start of the school year. This year's plans to meet goals in the areas of Literacy, Math and Path to Graduation were presented. Student first-hour needs are met by the Breakfast Club

and Lunch Bunch. The school has become a gathering place with Garden Club, Choir, Robotics, and Clubs before school. On Friday, families are invited to a family game night including a visit from Santa. At Green Elementary School, the Vision for Student Learning states:

“All Green students feel safe and valued and have the ability to learn. They can thrive with high expectations and compassion that will lead to a positive, resilient and engaged learner.”

STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE REPORT:

RHS leadership students Alivia Shirtcliff (who was seated next to her father and Board Member, Andrew Shirtcliff) and Emma Rethwill reported that leading up to Winter Break, students will enjoy dress-up days and lunchtime activities during Winter Week. Leadership students participated in a conference held in Grants Pass last Thursday. After closing the first grant club cycle of the year, a new cycle opens in February. Funding helped FBLA students attend regional competition as well as service club and Angel Tree programs.

Basketball season is just beginning. Sixty dedicated wrestling team members are spending long hours practicing at the end of the school day. Competition begins this Friday. The swim team includes 52 athletes this season, with the first meet tomorrow. December 7th marked the last SAT testing opportunity for the year. Nearly 800 cans of food have been donated to the FCCLA canned food drive. Key Cub members are busy ringing bells for the Salvation Army. The Umpqua Valley Arts Center is displaying student artwork through December 20th. Choir and band programs are getting ready for upcoming Winter Concerts. A school musical based on “A Christmas Carol” and created by drama director, Mr. Pennington, opened last week. On January 11, 2025, the semi-formal Winter Dance will take place, featuring a “Winter Wonderland” theme.

STUDENT / STAFF RECOGNITION

Director Keith Cubic had the honor and privilege of recognizing worthy students this evening. Recipients received certificates and McDonald’s gift cards. Honorees this evening included:

Kalyna Rodriguez, Fifth Grade Student at Green Elementary School

Kalyna is student of the year at Green Elementary. She is the perfect example of the BRAVE values the school works on each day. Her teacher, Mrs. Johnson, states that Kalyna is dedicated, determined and resilient in pursuing her goals. Her willingness to overcome challenges, embrace learning, and strive for success is commendable. The school is happy to celebrate her hard work and hopes this inspires her to continue to push boundaries and pursue her goals. Kalyna brightens the Green community with her thoughtful actions, encouraging words, and commitment to excellence.

Congratulations, Kalyna!

Gideon Lander, Seventh Grade Student at Fremont Middle School

Gideon is a tremendously talented and intelligent student who is funny, kind, curious, and delightful to teach. He loves to challenge himself with advanced classes like 8th grade honors math and Epiphony (Fremont’s top choir). He studies piano and bassoon, and he is active in his church. He has a great sense of humor and enjoys making people laugh. Gideon is also an outstanding student! He is a leader, responsible, and hardworking. Gideon consistently shows a commitment to excellence. He comes to class on time and is ready to go for learning each day, setting a good example for others. He comes in with a smile and positive attitude every day. Gideon deserves this award, for he always has the EPIC qualities Fremont is looking for in all students. Fremont is lucky to have Gideon as part of the school family.

Congratulations, Gideon!

Briana Smith, Ninth Grade Student at Roseburg High School

Briana exemplifies the ideal student-athlete, balancing academics and athletics with remarkable dedication. A freshman, she maintains high grades, including an A in Physics, while excelling in Cross Country and preparing for track. Briana's work ethic is outstanding—she embraces challenges, seeks clarification when needed, and always aims for improvement. She is considerate, courteous to peers, and a genuine contributor to group success. Her enthusiasm for learning, combined with her thoughtful questions, inspires those around her. Teachers and classmates value Briana's positive attitude, patience, and leadership. She approaches each day with gratitude and a desire to grow, embodying the qualities of a seasoned, motivated student despite being early in her high school journey. Teachers feel privileged to have her in their classes and are excited about her promising future. Briana's dedication, kindness, and humility make her a standout example of what it means to thrive both academically and personally.

Congratulations, Briana!

Extraordinary staff members were also recognized and honored by Chair Andrea Miner, who presented them with Crystal Apple Awards:

Lori Pederson, Instructional Assistant at Green Elementary School

When Green staff consider the impact that Lori has had on the school, they have to complete a lot of math. With 44 years of service to this district, they believe she has had the opportunity to reach over 11,000 students how to read, be safe on the playground, be respectful, and have lots of fun. She supports students in the Title classroom but can be found in the cafeteria helping supervise lunch routines. She is the #1 referee for basketball or Gaga ball, and she is always there to encourage and support students in the halls. Her stories are legendary, her instruction is always engaging, and her love for Green Elementary will carry on because of her steadfast support to this community.

Congratulations, Lori!

Crystal Apple: "A lifetime dedicated to students – 44 Years a Dragon."

Ellie Wycaver, DLC Teacher at Green Elementary School

Ellie has created a community at Green that is committed to noticing every child for their strengths. She builds her instructional program in the Developmental Learning Center based upon each child. This helps her see the unique and propound ways they can build connections and community within and outside of her classroom. Green staff have all been a witness to many celebrations of student growth this year. Ellie's smile and laugh help the school see the joy that learning can bring. She is masterful collaborator who is able to help all teachers find tools and supports to maximize the potential of every child. Her belief in everyone at Green is helping to grow an inclusive community we can all be proud of.

Congratulations, Ellie!

Crystal Apple: "Kind, Caring, and So Inclusive"

BRIEF RECESS: On behalf of the Board, Chair Miner thanked the attendees for coming tonight to support the honorees and offered a brief break to provide an opportunity for those who wished to depart for the evening. The meeting was recessed at 6:30 p.m. and reconvened at 6:34 p.m.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION: Assistant Superintendent Michelle Knee confirmed that no attendees, either in person or via Zoom, had expressed interest in addressing the Board.

ACTION / DISCUSSION ITEMS

ATTENDANCE: Members of the Board were present with Director Michael Leone excused. All Cabinet members were present. No media representatives were in attendance.

COMMUNICATIONS TO THE BOARD / REVIEW OF AGENDA

Superintendent Cordon welcomed everyone present in person, as well as those who are joining the meeting via Zoom. He further noted that since initial publication, we have added a new hire, RHS math teacher Charroll Bailey, within the Consent Agenda. He also wished Director Leone safe travels as he is away this evening.

CONSENT AGENDA:

The Consent Agenda was presented for consideration, including approval of the Consent Agenda, Minutes from the November 13th Board Meeting; Curriculum and Instruction Committee Minutes; Surplus Items listing and Gifts to the District with Chair Miner taking the opportunity to publicly thank those individuals who contributed gifts to the district. Personnel actions including the recommendation for hire are listed below:

Recommendation for Hire:

Licensed Staff:

Roseburg High School –

- Charroll Bailey, Math Teacher

Resignations / Retirements:

Licensed Staff:

Roseburg High School –

- Susan Valente, LRC Teacher, resigning after one year effective January 24, 2025; and
- Rachel Jackson, Language Arts Teacher, resigning for PERS retirement purposes and wishing to remain in her current position for the remainder of the 2024-2025 school year.

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

M6-029 Approved the Consent Agenda

OSBA BOARD OF DIRECTORS POSITION NO. 9, DOUGLAS/SOUTH COAST REGION

The Board considered a request from OSBA to consider approval of three recommended resolutions;

1. Resolution to Amend the OSBA Dues Schedule;
2. Resolution to Amend Oregon School Boards Association’s Bylaws relating to Composition of the Board of Directors; and
3. Resolution to Amend the OSBA 2023 Bylaws.

Madam Chair Andrea Miner asked for a Motion for each of the three proposed OSBA resolutions. All three failed unanimously for lack of a Motion and a second.

M6-030

OSBA Resolution No. 1 – Failed for lack of Motion and second;

OSBA Resolution No. 2 – Failed for lack of Motion and second;

OSBA Resolution No. 3 – Failed for lack of Motion and second

PHOENIX CHARTER SCHOOL CHECK-IN

Interim Executive Director Laurie Newton, Principal Corrie Bernard and Asst. Executive Director, Hope Assink were present to share attendance data (21% of students are attending more than 90% of their school days); and state assessment data in the areas of Science, ELA and Math. Student achievement levels were below state average in all areas. It was confirmed that student attendance has not improved from last school year. To prepare for state assessments, some students utilize the STAR 360 assessment tool that teachers use to personalize learning plans for students. Oregon State assessments will take place in March 2025 for 8th and 11th grade students in Science, April 2025 for ELA, and May 2025 for Math.

The presenters thanked the school district and board for supporting the charter school, including formal leadership training and availability to answer daily questions.

Director Ann Krimetz noted the difficulty in seeing how student credits can be high when assessment scores are so low. Phoenix intends to move toward a semester schedule from their current trimester schedule next school year. Ms. Assink added that the addition of driver education and welding courses have been added to build student enrollment and retention.

PRESENTATION AND ACCEPTANCE OF THE 2023-2024 FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

School districts are required to follow general accounting rules and regulations in how we receive and disperse fund as we have accountability for those funds. Roseburg Public Schools contracts with independent auditing firm, KDP Certified Public Accountants, LLPs to perform a review to assure that policies and procedures are in place to assure compliance with auditing standards.

KDP CPA and Partner, Aria Bettinger, confirmed that the Board had received advance copies of the annual financial audit. She provided an overview of the audit summary, sharing that the district has been provided with an “Unmodified” or clean opinion, the highest rating a district may receive. Additional reports reviewed included the Government Standards (scope of testing of internal controls and results) and the federal awards Single Audit Report (essentially a second audit performed in conjunction with the financial audit) with no signs of deficiencies or material weakness or non-compliance discovered.

On page 56 of the audit, Ms. Bettinger shared that the test of compliance of Oregon minimum standards and Local Budget Law was met. She summarized in the Communication of Governance to the Board that this is what is considered to be a very clean audit, and very clean report. It was pointed out that there were no disagreements with district management, and the auditing firm appreciates district personnel responsiveness and collaboration as they provided this year’s audit oversight for Roseburg Public Schools. Ms. Bettinger

offered her opinion that the team here displays integrity while working hard to assure that they are doing the right job.

Chair Andrea Miner thanked Ms. Bettinger for her report, and RPS Director of Finance and Operations, Cheryl Northam and her team for their diligence. She acknowledged further that our Budget and Accounting Manager, Danielle Littlefield, oversaw the audit for the 2023-2024 year, and thanked her for her work with Ms. Bettinger and the KDP audit team.

ACCEPTANCE OF LONG-RANGE FACILITIES REPORT

Superintendent Cordon welcomed Susan Miller of the Woolpert Group, here with us from Denver to be available for any questions the board may have about the updated long-range facilities report. Susan congratulated the board on planning ahead to meet the anticipated needs of the district, adding that it has been an honor working with them.

Director Keith Cubic moved to accept the Long-Range Facilities Report as presented, adding that it will assist in continuing our work on the plan; use the report information as appropriate; and continue our submission to ODE for funding opportunities. Director Andrew Shirtcliff seconded, and the Motion passed unanimously. On behalf of the Board, Chair Miner expressed her appreciation for Susan making the trip.

M6-031 Approved acceptance of the Long-Range Facilities Report
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CONSIDER APPOINTMENT OF BUDGET COMMITTEE CANDIDATES

A Budget Committee vacancy occurred when Director Keith Cubic was appointed to the board to complete Director Howard Johnson's term that was due to expire June 30, 2025. The district publicized the vacancy, requesting that letters of interest be submitted prior to December 2, 2024. Two qualified individuals responded to the notification of vacancy, Mr. David Campos and Mr. Mike Schofield.

Director Steve Hammerson nominated Mr. Mike Schofield to fill the remaining term through June 30, 2025. Director Ann Krimetz seconded, and the Motion passed unanimously. Vice-Chair Rodney D. Cotton stated out that both individuals were excellent candidates, and it is unfortunate that we have only one opening. He encouraged the remaining candidate to reapply in the future as openings occur, as we value top-notch folks who want to come on board. Director Keith Cubic expressed that both gentlemen were within district boundaries, and well qualified possessing process and accounting backgrounds. Mr. Schofield does have more school-related background, and school finance is complicated. He commended both Mr. Campos and Mr. Schofield for their willingness to volunteer.

M6-032 Approved Mr. Mike Schofield to fill Budget Committee position vacated by Mr. Keith Cubic

CONSIDER REAPPOINTMENT OF BUDGET COMMITTEE MEMBERS

We also have two Budget Committee members who have confirmed their interest in continuing their volunteer service on this essential committee. Mrs. Micki Hall has served since 2023 and Mr. Thomas Nelson has served since 2014.

Director Keith Cubic moved to approve both Micki Hall and Thomas Nelson to additional three-year terms on the Budget Committee. Director Andrew Shirtcliff seconded, and the Motion passed unanimously.

M6-033 Approved Budget Committee members Micki Hall and Thomas Nelson to additional three-year terms.

COMMITTEE REPORT – CURRICULUM AND INSTRUCTION

Committee Chair Ann Krimetz shared that the C & I Committee met November 20th to talk about curriculum updates. Updated K-5 reading curriculum is being reviewed with a strong emphasis on phonics, a tried and true method for reading. Options are scheduled to be piloted this spring with recommendations coming to board at the end of this school year. The committee and piloting teachers will look at the materials very carefully with literacy/phonics in mind considering that 4 out of 5 students enter kindergarten without reading readiness skills.

We are also continuing to review updated curriculum for health grades 6-12 and will prioritize curriculum that meets the standards, but also aligned with the district’s Strategic Plan. Another aspect of paramount importance is transparency for the parents, who will be provided adequate opportunity to review the curriculum options and share their input. The committee will be working with Dr. Jill Weber and Asst. Superintendent Knee throughout the process this spring to be sure we receive the best possible materials available.

SUPERINTENDENT REPORT *(slide deck follows)*

Superintendent Cordon expressed appreciation for all the attendees this evening, and for the Green staff for being great hosts. We know the amount of work that goes into the preparations and the board appreciates being close to the kids’ work. Thank you as well to Loran in Nutrition Services for the board dinner and especially the special thanksgiving meals provided to kids district-wide. Over 1,100 RHS students welcomed 17 Vietnam veterans who shared their personal stories and experiences during a Living History event, enjoying a multi-generational learning opportunity. Melrose students marked November’s Native American Heritage Month by creating “button blankets”, traditionally used as ceremonial robes. RHS Team Leo placed first and Team Scorpio placed third in the Southern Oregon Area Robotics League Meet.

Safety is a core foundational expectation of our board and they have directed significant funds to fulfill our responsibility to earn the trust parents place in us as we provide care, support and instruction for all kids. City of Roseburg School Resource Officer support has waned due to recruitment issues, but they will continue to provide support through RPD. To provide consistency in coverage throughout the district, we are continuing our safety priority by adding two Douglas County Sheriff’s deputies, allowing security planning and training to take place. Superintendent Cordon stated that he is grateful for a community that doesn’t shy away from officer presence in our schools and community.

Last spring, our Board led the process of creating a plan to address infrastructure and building needs to maintain our commitment to the long-term success of our district and community. Susan Miller of the Woolpert Group, joined us in working with our community to talk about our focus in terms of our aging facility needs as we create a plan to address infrastructure and building needs.

Jared also shared Gov. Kotek’s proposed budget that will become the starting point for budget conversations with Legislators as districts grapple with a sudden escalation in PERS costs. Her proposed budget included three

priority areas for investment:

1. Homelessness and Housing
2. Mental Health, Behavioral Health, and Addiction Treatment
3. Education

There is also a transportation package “placeholder” to be negotiated during the Legislative Session. After final PERS rates were set in October, costs to K-12 employers in 2025-27 are projected to be \$670 million gross and \$565 million net, counteracting the majority of budget gains proposed by the Governor. In addition, investments not included in the Governor’s recommended budget are special education funding such as the Special Education Cap, High Cost Disability Account, Early Intervention, Early Childhood Special Education, and Regional Inclusive Services.

BOARD OF EDUCATION REPORTS

Director Ann Krimetz wished everyone a Merry Christmas and also thanked everyone for joining us and trusting in what we do here. It’s important to us that we partner together in the work.

Vice-Chair Rodney D. Cotton thanked Principal Rasmussen for hosting us tonight. He shared that the Green staff is wonderful and Mrs. Rasmussen is the right person for this building. He complimented the district on the school’s new safety vestibule. And congratulations to Cheryl Northam and Danielle Littlefield and their team in the business office for the fabulous work done on the audit. We appreciate how hard they all work. Director Cotton noted that the Building and Sites Committee will meet in January. Have a great Christmas everyone!

Chair Andrea Miner also thanked Principal Rasmussen, sharing that she had a wonderful time as always, especially appreciating the student artwork presented throughout the library. Echoing Director Cotton’s comments, she reflected that we have really fabulous staff here, and we are thankful for Superintendent Cordon who is very fiscally minded and runs a tight ship while remaining dedicated to our children’s safety and education.

ADJOURNMENT: With business before the Board concluded, and with no objections, Chair Miner adjourned the meeting at 7:32 p.m. and announced that the next meeting will take place at Eastwood Elementary School on January 8, 2025 at 6:00 p.m. with a facility tour at 4:45 p.m. She announced that the board will be convening in Executive Session pursuant to ORS 192.660(2)(i) after a brief recess.

EXECUTIVE SESSION **Pursuant to ORS 192.660 (2) (i)**

Chair Andrea Miner convened an Executive Session at 7:40 p.m. pursuant to ORS 192.660 (2)(i) with board members attending.

ADJOURNMENT: The executive session was adjourned at 9:05 p.m.

Jared P. Cordon, Superintendent
JPC/jlk

Next Meeting: Regular Board Meeting, January 8, 2025, at 6:00 p.m. at Eastwood Elementary School, located at 2550 SE Waldon Avenue, Roseburg, Oregon and available via Zoom.