Excellence, equity and choice are the core values that have shaped the board’s direction and actions over the last ten years. These core values, described in more detail during the Shaping 4J’s Future process of 2006-08, continue to drive board goals and the outcomes that the district strives to attain.

In School District 4J, we believe that every student in every school can excel and that it is our responsibility as a board to ensure that all students have that opportunity. While our district has many strengths and successes to build on, we also must improve in a number of areas to make this vision a reality. In our current system, inequalities exist among schools in terms of their ability to address students’ educational needs. These inequalities affect student performance and contribute to an achievement gap.

The agenda for the Eugene School District 4J Board of Directors is established in accordance with district policy as a statement of those issues that the board believes are the highest priority for action in the coming year and beyond. It is also a statement of the outcomes and results against which the board will evaluate the district’s and the board’s success, and reflects the expectations consistent with state and federal requirements. The agenda will be reviewed, and as appropriate, modified at the beginning of each school year. We recognize that implementing the agenda and achieving the board goals will be affected by the availability of district financial and staff resources.

KEY RESULTS are the specific changes in behavior, knowledge, skills, status and level of functioning that will be observable and measurable and should allow us to answer the question: “How will we know we were successful?” Our outcome goals should be attainable within 1 to 4 years, while longer-term goals should be achievable within a 4 to 7 year timeframe.

These outcome goals and key results are about helping us focus our efforts where improvement is most needed. It does not describe everything we are dedicated to doing. Though not all programs and services are specifically addressed in these goals and key results, we are committed to providing a comprehensive education that meets the needs of each student. In order to reach this ultimate goal, we need to set incremental key results and hold ourselves accountable for achieving them.

These Board Goals and Key Results and the subsequent superintendent’s outcome goals will allow us to focus our attention on a few key priorities to ensure that we can succeed; that we continue to work within our means; and that we can measure our progress along the way. Upon the board’s adoption of these goals and key results, the superintendent will develop district, department, and school-level outcome goals that will help achieve the key results.
Context: These 2010-11 goals are approved in a time of serious financial challenge. The district has over the past two years cut about $36 million dollars from its operating budget. Without significant changes in the way we conduct business in the coming years, we will be unable to sustain a strong educational system and move ahead aggressively on the achievement of these goals. We remain strongly committed to our guiding values and beliefs, and it is through these goals and key results that we will continue to move forward as we embrace excellence, equity and choice.

I. STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT

Goal: Increase achievement for all students and close the achievement gap.

The board is committed to providing equal opportunities for all students to succeed. Every school must focus on improving teaching and learning to increase achievement for all students. All students should have the support needed to reach their full potential. And, all students should graduate from high school prepared to succeed in postsecondary education and chosen careers, and to participate actively as citizens in a democratic society. Some schools may require additional resources to achieve district and state academic goals and close the achievement gap.

Key Results

1. By 2011-12, the district will implement state-adopted content and performance standards, and outline the knowledge and essential skills that students will demonstrate at the critical transition stages of elementary and middle school, in order to achieve the Oregon diploma.

2. By 2012-13, the district will provide targeted resources for elementary and middle school students who are not on track to demonstrate the knowledge and essential skills needed upon entry to high school, and for high school students needing additional support to meet the new graduation requirements.

3. By 2012-13, the district’s overall percentage of 4J students who meet the Oregon Assessment of Knowledge and Skills (OAKS) benchmarks in reading, writing and math will increase by 10% from 2007-08, and the gaps for racial/ethnic subgroups – African American, Hispanic, and Native American – will be cut in half (currently 10-20%).

4. By 2013-14, the overall four-year cohort graduation rate for 4J students will improve by 8% from the 2008-09 graduation rate with the rates for African American, Hispanic, and Native Americans increasing at double the rate to narrow the gaps for racial/ethnic subgroups.

5. By 2012-13, develop and implement a more rigorous performance evaluation system for all employees with the purpose of developing and retaining a highly skilled and high performing workforce.
II. STEWARDSHIP OF DISTRICT RESOURCES

Goal: Provide prudent stewardship of district resources to best support student success, educational equity and choice.

The board will direct district resources to support the instructional core and to provide educational equity and choice while maximizing administrative and operational efficiency within a sustainable budget. The district must also respond to declining enrollment, regional enrollment patterns, a student population with more diverse needs, uncertain revenue streams and escalating costs.

Key Results

1. In 2010-11, the district will determine a timeline for a capital bond measure in 2011 or 2012 and will take final actions on the disposition of Civic Stadium through the RFP process.

2. By 2012-13, the district will implement a sustainable budget strategy that maintains reserves at or above board targets, minimizes the use of one-time funds for ongoing expenses, optimizes the use of short-term resources to improve student achievement, and increases operational efficiency while reducing long-term capital needs.

3. By June 2012, the district will implement the Shaping 4J’s Future adopted recommendations related to enrollment transfers for middle and high schools and differentiated staffing.

III. STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT

Goal: Engage the community, staff, families, students, elected officials and other stakeholders in supporting our schools and improving educational outcomes for all 4J students.

In order for the board to provide effective leadership, it must communicate with and establish working relationships with the community, other governmental agencies, staff, families, and students, and engage these stakeholders in supporting our students and schools.

Key Results

1. In the 2010-11, the board will work with other local school districts, the Lane County legislative delegation, the Superintendent of Public Instruction, other elected officials, OSBA and other groups to secure adequate and stable state school funding for the 2011-13 biennium and to advocate for legislation in support of increased student achievement and the local control of schools.

2. The board and staff will work with community stakeholders and organizations to increase the opportunities for all 4J students to receive the public education and related services that they need to succeed in school.
3. The board will establish a search committee and conduct a broad and inclusive process that engages representatives from our community, parents, students, staff and other stakeholders to assist and advise the board, and result in selection of a new superintendent for 2011-12 by April 2011.