The Board of Directors of School District No. 4J, Lane County, Eugene, Oregon, held an Executive Session at 6 p.m. and a work session at 7 p.m. on August 3, 2011, at the Education Center, 200 North Monroe Street, Eugene, Oregon. Notice of the meeting was mailed to the media and posted in the Education Center on February 4, 2011, and published in The Register-Guard on February 7, 2011.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Under provisions of ORS 192.610 - 192.690, Open Meeting Laws, the Board of Directors conducted an Executive Session for the following purpose:

To conduct deliberations with persons designated by the governing body to carry on labor negotiations, pursuant to ORS 192.660 (2) (d).

WORK SESSION

ROLL CALL

BOARD MEMBERS:

Alicia Hays, Chair
Jennifer Geller, Vice Chair
Beth Gerot via telephone
Craig Smith
Jim Torrey
Mary Walston

STAFF:

Sheldon Berman, Superintendent of Schools and District Clerk
Barbara Bellamy, Director of Communications & Intergovernmental Relations
Jill Corrigan, Special Education, North Eugene High School
Sarah Cramer, Director of Elementary Education
Kerry Delf, Communications Coordinator
Eliza Drummond, Executive Assistant to the Superintendent
Susan Fahey, Chief Financial Officer
Tia Holliday, Student Achievement Specialist, North Eugene High School
Brad New, Secondary Education Administrator
Mary Nickelson-Hill, Financial Operations and Reporting Manager, Financial Services
Rick Sherman, Director, Nutrition Services
Janis Swan, Federal Programs Coordinator
Denisa Taylor, Principal, Chavez Elementary
Marilyn Williams, Secondary Staff Development Specialist

MEDIA:
KRVM
Call to Order, Roll Call and Flag Salute

Ms. Hays called the regular meeting of the School District 4J Board of Directors to order at 7:01 p.m. and led the flag salute.

Agenda Review

There were no changes to the agenda.

Introduction of Guests and Superintendent's Report

Superintendent Berman said it was wonderful to be at 4J. The district had made real progress in the past month, and he felt settled in.

1. Acknowledgement and Recognitions

The district had received the Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting for its Comprehensive Annual Financial Report (CAFR). The award was given by the Government Financiers Association and it was the highest recognition a district could receive in financial reporting and accounting. The district recognized Financial Operations and Reporting Manager Mary Nickelson-Hill and her staff.

The Board congratulated Ms. Nickelson-Hill and her staff.

Ms. Bellamy mentioned Chief Financial Officer Susan Fahey's dedication and commitment to the district. This was her last Board meeting. The district and the Board had relied on her financial acumen and her wise counsel. She presented Ms. Fahey with a plaque that read: “In recognition of Susan Fahey in appreciation for 20 years of service to the students, staff and school board of the Eugene School District.”

The board members individually thanked Ms. Fahey for her 20 years of service and acknowledged that she would be greatly missed.

2. Preliminary Annual Yearly Progress (AYP) Results

Superintendent Berman said that the district had received its preliminary Annual Yearly Progress (AYP) Results. In the preliminary results, 13 schools and one charter school did not meet AYP. There might be a chance a few of these ratings to be changed by the end of the month as data was checked to ensure schools’ ratings did not include students who did not spend 60 percent of their time in a classroom, and therefore should not have been counted in the score.

Ms. Bellamy noted that the benchmarks required to meet AYP had increased as the state increased its standards and expectations. Overall, student achievement did improve.

Superintendent Berman said there was a great deal of discussion going on about AYP. That day, the possibility of Oregon applying for a waiver had been discussed at the Oregon Department of Education/Confederation of Oregon School Administrators (ODE/COSA) 2011 Oregon Summer Assessment Institute.

3. Sale of Construction Bonds

Ms. Fahey said that on July 26 the district had competitively sold three bond issues, totaling $35
million. This was the first half of the general obligation bond that voters had approved in May. The interest rate was favorable, which reduces the cost to taxpayers over the life of the bonds.

**Items Raised by the Audience**

**Dennis Hebert** represented Save Civic Stadium. Save Civic Stadium had been working hard to develop a plan and program for historic Civic Stadium because of its viable past. The organization welcomed Superintendent Berman to the community and hoped that he welcomed them in continuing the discussions on Civic.

**Juan Carlos Valle** was at the meeting as a private resident and was also the Board President of Centro LatinoAmericano, Chair of the Eugene Police Commission and new member of the board of the City Club of Eugene. He thanked the board members for their service and welcomed Dr. Berman.

**Comments by Employee Groups**

Dayna Mitchell, President of Eugene Education Association (EEA), said the EEA wanted to extend its congratulations to Ms. Hays and Ms. Geller in their new roles. The EEA welcomed Superintendent Berman to the 4J district and his new position. The EEA wished the best to Ms. Fahey in her new position. Ms. Mitchell said that throughout the coming year, she would be introducing members of the EEA Executive Board, and explained the work of the Executive Board.

**Items for Information**

1) Report on Summer Bridge and Summer Schools

In its fifth year of operation, Summer Bridge provided 150 to 200 eighth grade students district-wide an opportunity to experience high school during the summer prior to 9th grade. Each of the four high schools hosted a Summer Bridge program. Activities focused on building a connection to school and enhancing students’ ability to handle both the academic and social challenges of high school. Summer Bridge teachers and counselors used this time to form important relationships that students could rely on for support that continued throughout freshman year. Middle school staff recommended students for Summer Bridge on the basis of a wide set of criteria, all of which suggested that an early start would be critical to success in high school.

Secondary Education also led an online Summer Academy. This served students from all four high schools, Ed Options programs and, at times, students from outside the district. The program provided credit recovery online for students who had failed courses in regular high school curriculum. The 4J Summer Academy was used to build capacity with technical infrastructure, logistical support and measurement of the effectiveness of various online approaches as they related to student needs. Staff had worked with a lot of students with many different needs in the online Summer Academy, which was being used as a laboratory for a larger roll-out of the 4J Online Academy, which would be available this coming school year. He introduced Melly Holloway, the coordinator and teacher/mentor for the 4J online Summer Academy.

Ms. Holloway said she had been the teacher, coordinator and program manager of the online Summer Academy for two years. She was also a science teacher at Madison Middle School. The Online Academy was used primarily for credit recovery for students who had failed a course in a core subject or a required course. Last year, 85 percent of students in the Online Academy passed the offering of Biology, PE and Health. This year, 79 percent of students were expected to pass. Additions to the offerings this year included History, English, Geometry, Chemistry, Physical Science and Earth
Science.

Tia Holliday thanked the Board and superintendent for their continued support of the Summer Bridge Program. It had been instrumental in helping staff give a strong start to students who would have trouble at the beginning of ninth grade. One of the challenges faced, particularly at North Eugene, was getting students in the building. More than 120 students that would benefit from the program had been identified through various measures this year. In the past, about 30 students per year participated. This year, 44 students were participating (a 33 percent increase).

Ms. Corrigan introduced herself as the behavior specialist and a special education teacher at North Eugene High School and said she felt fortunate to be part of the program as a behavior specialist. Ms. Holliday introduced Summer Bridge students Katrina Vasquez and Jennifer Montez. Ms. Montez said she loved the Summer Bridge program. She had met new friends and enjoyed the field trips. She knew most of the classrooms at North High School now, and especially loved Ms. Corrigan's class because she had helped students understand what credits they needed. She had gone to Kelly Middle School.

Ms. Vasquez had also attended Kelly Middle School. The Summer Bridge program was very helpful for her and her fellow students. Teachers were friendly and helpful, and Ms. Corrigan helped them understand their requirements.

Superintendent Berman asked the students why they participated in Summer Bridge.

Ms. Montez said she went because of the credit offered. She had had lots of fun, and it was more fun than she thought it would be.

Ms. Vasquez went for the credit and to get out of the house. She enjoyed the program a lot, and was glad she went.

Ms. Geller asked if the program was at capacity, or if it could accommodate more students.

Ms. Holliday believed the other three high schools could accommodate up to 60 students each, so more could be accommodated. She said the program stretched the budget pretty tight.

Mr. New said Summer Bridge had experienced proportionate cuts, which had been experienced across the district. Taking it to 60 students per school would take the program “right to the edge.”

Janis Swan said the 4J Middle School Summer Academy had started six years ago as an innovative program funded through Title 5. When Title 5 money was eliminated, support shifted to the General Fund. The program had continued to grow despite funding decreases. This year, the program served approximately 182 incoming sixth, seventh, and eighth grade students during a four-week session. Students were referred from their elementary or middle school and come together at Madison Middle School for instruction in math and language arts. Students also received breakfast and lunch each day of the program, which lasted 16 days (over four weeks).

Ms. Swan said parent surveys showed parents held the program in high regard.

Denisa Taylor, Principal at Chavez, reviewed a PowerPoint titled Title 1 Elementary Summer School 2011. She said the 4J Title 1 Summer School (elementary summer school) served more than 300 incoming kindergarten and first, second and third grade students during four weeks of half-day sessions this year. This was one of the highest numbers the program had served. Students were
referred from fifteen Title 1 elementary schools (charter, private and regular) and came together at Chavez Elementary School for instruction in reading and math.

Superintendent Berman thanked all for their presentations. He said it had been a pleasure to visit the programs. He thought summer support and intervention was key for the programs' participants, whether it be support programs instructionally or transition programs. He thought there was also high-quality instruction going on at the summer programs, and the student-to-teacher ratios were very good. He wished to thank all involved in the program for their work and dedication, which was an example of positive work going on at 4J.

Mr. Torrey asked Ms. Swan to find out how much the program cost per student. He was interested in talking to community groups who might help pay for additional students to participate. Ms. Swan said transportation was another huge, growing cost. She said she would incorporate this into a budget to present to the Board.

Superintendent Berman thanked Mr. Torrey for his suggestion, and said staff would work on some budgeting and analysis related to this issue.

Mr. Smith mentioned that the Eugene Education Fund might be avenue for fundraising.

Ms. Gerot encouraged all to email Board members to let them know when they could visit these programs. She thought visits were very powerful.

Superintendent Berman said he would have Mr. New and Ms. Swan do this.

2) Update on Food Service and Meal Prices for 2011-12

Superintendent Berman said that he had been studying the budget, and mentioned that all knew that the district was “not over the hurdle yet” In terms of balancing our budget. The most challenging hurdle had been handled, but the district was still looking for, potentially, $9 million more and where it would come from. He had found that the budget included $321,000 that could go to food service to underwrite meal costs. He felt that the district should have a self-sustaining food service program.

More detailed information about food services annual financial performance was available in the meeting packet.

Superintendent Berman thought the issue would probably result in an increase in meal prices. He asked that this be included as an Action Item before school started.

**Consent Group – Items for Action**

1. Approve Board Meeting Minutes

The superintendent recommended approval of the board meeting minutes of the regular board meeting held July 13, 2011.

**MOTION:** Mr. Smith, seconded by Ms. Geller, moved approval of the Consent Group.

**VOTE:** The motion passed unanimously; 6:0.
Comments and Committee Reports by Individual Board Members

Ms. Gerot said she was pleased to be a member of the LearnWorks Project, which was created to make recommendations to the governor regarding redesigning and transforming education. She is in a group of 30 individuals from around the state, most of whom she had worked with before, including Anne Erwin, Principal at North Eugene International High School. The project is a response to SB 909, which established the Oregon Education Investment Board to create a seamless system of education from ages 0-20. The charge for the LearnWorks Project is to identify outcomes and indicators that would signal successes.

Ms. Walston reminded Board members that they could help during Day of Caring on September 21 at Chávez Elementary School.

Mr. Smith thanked Ms. Fahey again for her work.

Mr. Torrey thought it was very important for the district to recognize the year it had left behind, and the intensity of it in terms of the number of meetings, as well as many of their decisions, particularly around school closures.

Ms. Hays thanked Ms. Fahey again for her work. She echoed Mr. Torrey's comments about an update on schools that had been consolidated and the students who were affected.

Adjourn

Ms. Hays adjourned the meeting at 8:30 p.m.

__________________________________________  __________________________
Sheldon Berman                   Alicia Hays
District Clerk                  Board Chair

(Recorded by Katie Dettman)