MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS
SCHOOL DISTRICT 4J, LANE COUNTY, OREGON

August 20, 2008

The Board of Directors of School District No. 4J, Lane County, Eugene, Oregon, held a regular board meeting at 7 p.m. on August 20, 2008, 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 August 15, 2008, and published in The Register-Guard on August 18, 2008.

ROLL CALL

BOARD MEMBERS:
Charles Martinez, Jr., Chair
Yvette Webber-Davis, Vice Chair
Beth Gerot
Craig Smith (arrived at 7:40 p.m.)
Eric Forrest
Alicia Hays
Jim Torrey

STAFF:
George Russell, Superintendent of Schools and District Clerk
Tom Henry, Deputy Superintendent and Chief Academic Officer
Barbara Bellamy, Chief of Staff and Communications Director
Celia Feres-Johnson, Director of Human Resources

MEDIA:
KRVM

CALL TO ORDER, ROLL CALL, AND FLAG SALUTE

Board Chair Charles Martinez called the meeting of the School District 4J Board of Directors to order at 7:00 p.m., noting that Craig Smith would be arriving later in the meeting. Dr. Martinez led those present in the Pledge of Allegiance.

AGENDA REVIEW

Superintendent George Russell noted that board members and staff had no changes to make to the agenda.

INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS AND SUPERINTENDENT’S REPORT

Superintendent Russell expressed thanks on behalf of the board to Sheldon High School graduate Alex Rice of KVRM for his work broadcasting board meetings to the public. He indicated Mr. Rice was leaving KVRM to attend Reed College in the fall.

COMMENTS BY STUDENT REPRESENTATIVES

No student representatives were in attendance.
ITEMS RAISED BY THE AUDIENCE

No audience members were present.

COMMENTS BY EMPLOYEE GROUPS

No comments were offered by employee groups.

ITEMS FOR INFORMATION

Receive the Annual Report on Superintendent’s Goals for 2007-08

Superintendent Russell indicated there would not be much new information from the progress report given to the board at the April 16, 2008 board meeting.

Superintendent Russell proceeded to summarize and highlight elements from the Annual Report, focusing on the goals of increased student achievement, prudent stewardship of district resources, and increased stakeholder engagement.

As part of his report summary, Superintendent Russell commented that Carl Hermanns, Assistant Superintendent and Chief Operating Officer, would be leading an equity coordinating committee, a cross-functional team that was one of the recommendations made as a result of the diversity mapping project conducted by John Lenssen.

Board Member Beth Gerot asked if there had been any discussion about the impact of the budget shortfall at Coburg Elementary School. Superintendent Russell answered that he had discussed with Barb Bellamy, Chief of Staff and Communications Director, the possibility of creating an inter-governmental agreement with Coburg Elementary to help offset some of the budget shortfall. He added he would be discussing the issue with the core team on August 25 to discuss the matter in more detail.

Superintendent Russell, responding to a question from Ms. Gerot, said that the board would have the opportunity to review Mr. Lenssen’s diversity mapping project report.

Board Member Jim Torrey asked if it would be possible to get an update on student populations at the next board meeting. Superintendent Russell did not know if that would be feasible and asked Tom Henry, Deputy Superintendent and Chief Academic Officer, when he would have accurate data on student enrollment and demographics. Mr. Henry replied he could have the data finalized and ready to present to the board some time in September.

Dr. Martinez commented the board had been expecting an official report on the population statistics in November. Mr. Henry said he could provide a basic update on student populations by the end of the second week of the school year.

Mr. Torrey requested a status update on the survey regarding Adams Elementary School. Superintendent Russell replied that the survey had been completed and returned. Ms. Bellamy added that results were currently being compiled and would be released shortly. She also indicated the results of the survey would be discussed at the next board meeting.

Board Member Alicia Hays asked if it would be possible to get an update on enrollment figures at Churchill High School and if the incoming ninth grade class would be as small as previous projections had indicated.
**ITEMS FOR ACTION AT THIS MEETING**

**Approve Resolution Opposing State Ballot Measure Regarding English as a Second Language (ESL) Instruction – Measure 58**

The Oregon School Boards Association prepared a resolution opposing Measure 58, a measure placed on the November 4, 2008 election ballot through initiative petition. The measure would require that no public school student receive instruction in a language other than English for more than two years, except for classes teaching foreign language to English-speaking students. Instruction for non-English speaking students in a language other than English is limited to 1 year for students in kindergarten through grade 4, 1.5 years for students in grades 5-8, and 2 years for students in grades 9-12. After that, students must be taught exclusively in English.

The OSBA resolution states that "current, district-specified courses being taught to assist non-English speaking students who are unable to benefit from classes taught in English would effectively be eliminated" and therefore "strongly opposes Measure 58 because it severely reduces our authority and ability to meet the unique needs of our students who must learn English - while also learning academic skills."

A copy of the resolution was included in the board packet. The explanatory statement, financial impact statement, and financial impact explanation that were prepared for the Oregon Voter Pamphlet were also included.

Ms. Bellamy reviewed the specifics of Ballot Measure 58 for the board.

Ms. Bellamy called attention to the financial impact statement section of the Oregon Voter Pamphlet materials. She called further attention to a passage from the materials describing how a similar ballot measure passed in Arizona in 2006 had cost the state an average of $2,741 per student in additional implementation costs.

Ms. Gerot felt legislation such as that proposed in Measure 58 went against best practices and what research showed in terms of the success of non-English speaking students in public schools.

Ms. Gerot informed the board that the officers of the Oregon School Boards Association would be preparing a statement for the voter pamphlet materials opposing Measure 58.

**MOTION:** Ms. Hays, seconded by Board Vice Chair Yvette Webber-Davis, moved to accept the resolution opposing Ballot Measure 58 regarding English as a second language.

Ms. Hays appreciated Ms. Bellamy’s presentation on the matter and agreed that Measure 58 made no sense. She felt it was a very mean-spirited piece of legislation that was completely inappropriate for what the district was trying to accomplish with the education of its students.

Board Member Eric Forrest commented he had heard testimony from some River Road/El Camino del Rio Elementary School parents and teachers that affected him deeply. He felt a ballot measure such as Measure 58 must have been created out of ignorance.

Mr. Torrey said his opposition to Measure 58 was grounded in two perspectives; that the district had a responsibility to provide a quality education for every child, and that regardless of
Measure 58’s inherent undertones it would be a mistake to assume that passage of such legislation would make children better students or better citizens. He also felt that a practical interpretation of the implications of Measure 58 would demonstrate a severely diminished ability for teachers to provide services to English speaking children as well as non-English speaking children.

Dr. Martinez agreed with the earlier comments of the board members regarding Measure 58.

Dr. Martinez asked why there was no specific mention of how Measure 58 was inconsistent with nationally recognized best practices within the proposed resolution, and suggested strengthening the resolution by adding a new section to reflect the board’s commitment to the use of best practices in serving English language learning (ELL) students.

Ms. Hays said she supported Dr. Martinez’s suggestion to add language concerning best practices to the resolution.

Superintendent Russell said that Dr. Martinez’s suggestion was consistent with the conversation superintendents had been having regarding Measure 58.

**AMENDED MOTION:** Ms. Gerot, seconded by Mr. Torrey, moved for a friendly amendment to Ms. Hays’ motion to include language in the proposed resolution which would read, “WHEREAS, Ballot Measure 58 and its impact is not consistent with nationally recognized best practices for serving non-English speaking students.”

**VOTE:** The motion passed unanimously; 6:0.

**VOTE:** Dr. Martinez called for a vote on Ms. Hays’ original motion to accept the resolution opposing Ballot Measure 58 regarding English as a second language with amendment. The motion passed unanimously; 6:0.

**Approve Resolution Opposing Federal Income Tax Deduction – Measure 59**

Mr. Smith arrived to the meeting at 7:40 p.m.

The Oregon School Boards Association prepared a resolution opposing Measure 59, a measure placed on the November 4, 2008 election ballot by initiative petition. Measure 58 proposes to increase the amount of federal incomes taxes that can be deducted from an individual taxpayer’s Oregon taxable income.

The OSBA resolution states that "the state relies on personal income taxes for almost 90% of all state revenues, making public services, including public education, highly sensitive to any changes in personal income tax collections. The changes proposed in Measure 59 are estimated by the Legislative Revenue Office to result in a $1.244 billion loss of state revenue in the 2009-11 biennium and a $2.268 billion reduction in the 2011-13 biennium." The OSBA resolution further states that "such a dramatic reduction and instability in state revenues would likely result in a direct reduction in revenues for public education" and therefore "strongly opposes the passage of Measure 59 and its efforts to destabilize and dramatically reduce revenues available for public services".

A copy of the resolution was included in the board packet. The explanatory statement, financial impact statement, and financial impact explanation that were prepared for the Oregon Voter Pamphlet were also included in the board packet.
Ms. Bellamy reviewed the specifics of Ballot Measure 59 for the board.

Ms. Bellamy commented that the Oregon Center for Public Policy (OCPP) had been the subject of a recent newspaper article wherein it was revealed that a $1.1 billion revenue reduction was projected as opposed to the $2.4 billion reduction estimated by the secretary of state. Ms. Bellamy stated that either projection would make a large impact on what services could be provided and funded.

Ms. Bellamy further stated that, applied to the district, passage of Measure 59 would mean a potential loss to the district of between $7 million and $16 million, which represented the equivalent of 70-100 full-time teaching positions.

**MOTION:** Ms. Gerot, seconded by Mr. Smith moved to approve the resolution opposing Ballot Measure 59 regarding federal income tax deductibility.

Ms. Gerot indicated she had met with Oregon State Representative Nancy Nathanson and discussed the significant budget cuts that passage of Measure 59 would represent.

Mr. Smith asked Ms. Gerot what Representative Nathanson was doing to oppose Measure 59.

Ms. Gerot answered she did not ask Ms. Nathanson for any information in that regard.

**VOTE:** Dr. Martinez called for a vote on Ms. Gerot's motion to approve the resolution opposing Ballot Measure 59 regarding federal income tax deductibility. The motion passed unanimously; 7:0.

Mr. Smith indicated he had been listening to the board meeting on KVRM during his commute. He agreed with the board’s vote to approve the resolution regarding Measure 58 with the friendly amendment previously discussed.

Mr. Smith added he had recently discussed Measure 58 with members of the Oregon Business Association (OBA) Education Committee at their meeting on August 15, 2008. He asked to have the final draft of the resolution forwarded to him so that he could then forward that information on to the OBA Education Committee.

Dr. Martinez felt there was unanimous support for the board’s previously passed motion regarding Measure 58, despite Mr. Smith’s absence from the vote regarding same. Mr. Smith concurred with Dr. Martinez.

**Approve Revisions to Board Policy JO and New Board Policies IGBAB/JO, JOA and JOB Regarding Education Records/Records of Students with Disabilities**

Board policies JO - Educational Records and IGBAB - Records of Students with Disabilities, have been revised and combined into one double-coded policy to address the required revisions within the Special Education and educational records state and federal requirements. Districts were required to adopt either the Oregon School Boards Association (OSBA) or Oregon Department of Education (ODE) version of this double-coded student records policy by April 15, 2008. As the OSBA version was not available in April, the district temporarily adopted Section 8: Student Education Records, Access and Confidentiality of the ODE policy and Procedures for Special Education. The OSBA version is now available and Education Support Services recommended adoption of the OSBA version of the required records policies.
Copies of the revised board policies were included in the board packet. The superintendent recommended approval of the revised board policies.

Mr. Henry said the district’s special education staff believed that the OSBA policies were clearer and were recommending to the board that they adopt them.

Mr. Torrey asked Mr. Henry if anyone listening to the KVRM broadcast would understand any of the information he had just communicated and asked him to clarify the nature of the policies being discussed for the listening public.

Mr. Henry summarized policy IGBAB/JO saying it clarified the procedures regarding the release and keeping of educational records for students with disabilities. He summarized policy JOA saying it addressed when and how the district would release directory information. He summarized policy JOB saying it addressed how the district dealt with personally identifiable information.

**MOTION**: Ms. Hays, seconded by Mr. Torrey, moved to approve the revisions to Board Policy JO and new Board Policies IGBAB/JO, JOA and JOB regarding education records/records of students with disabilities.

**VOTE**: The motion passed unanimously; 7:0.

**CONSENT GROUP – ITEM FOR ACTION**

**Approve Board Meeting Minutes**

The superintendent recommended approval of the minutes from the February 20, February 27, March 8 and June 18, 2008 regular board meetings and work sessions, and the revised minutes from the March 19, 2008 regular board meeting. Copies of the February 20, February 27, March 8 and June 18 meeting minutes and the corrected page from the March 19 meeting minutes were included in the board packet.

**MOTION**: Ms. Gerot, seconded by Mr. Forrest, moved to approve the consent item.

**VOTE**: The motion passed unanimously; 7:0.

**COMMENTS AND COMMITTEE REPORTS BY INDIVIDUAL BOARD MEMBERS**

Mr. Torrey commented it would be helpful to have a percentage rather than base figures with regard to how Measure 59 would adversely affect education budgets within both the State of Oregon and the district.

Mr. Forrest commented his daughter would be playing volleyball for Sheldon High School.

Ms. Gerot said she had taken the American Association of School Administrators (AASA) resolution that Superintendent Russell had presented at the previous board meeting to the OSBA, who had then forwarded the resolution to the National School Boards Association (NSBA) for further input and feedback.

Ms. Gerot also commented she had recently participated in a Coaching for Educational Equity seminar and that it was an excellent opportunity for her to interact with her colleagues. She commented the seminar would provide a nice compliment to the work that the Eugene
Education Association (EEA) had been doing in the district, particularly with regard to diversity issues. She suggested that the board participate in the additional seminar training sessions that will be offered in January and February of 2009.

Mr. Smith said he had discussed the issue of the state budget with a member of Oregon Governor Ted Kulongoski’s staff at the recent OBA Education Committee meeting where he asked if school improvement funding would be included as part of the base of the budget. He said that the governor’s staff indicated that it would be included.

Ms. Hays commented she had recently attended a lunch meeting with various community members regarding the “Connected by 25” youth initiative out of Portland and informed the board of the various goals and strategies of that initiative.

Ms. Hays reminded the board that campaign season was once again upon them. She said there had been good discussions with various board members regarding campaign materials and urged the board to continue their efforts to present a consistent and unified campaign presence in the community. She said the next campaign meeting would be at Countryside Pizza on August 27.

Dr. Webber-Davis expressed a welcome to all students, families, teachers and administrators within the district.

Dr. Martinez expressed a similar welcoming sentiment, noting that he would not be able to attend any back-to-school events the following week.

Dr. Martinez noted he had attended a recent meeting of individuals and organizations opposed to Measure 58 where his colleague, University of Oregon Department of Education Professor Edward Olivos, presented information about the impact of the measure in terms of best practices. Dr. Martinez said he would be circulating the information regarding the board’s passing of the resolution regarding Measure 58 to Dr. Olivos and his colleagues from the meeting.

Kelly Middle School representative Rosemary Villanueva commented she had attended a meeting for the Stand For Children group, a community-based organization that opposes Measure 58. Ms. Villanueva thanked the board for their public opposition to Measure 58.

**ADJOURN**

Dr. Martinez adjourned the regular meeting at 8:02 p.m.

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George Russell                 Charles Martinez, Jr.
District Clerk                Board Chair

(Recorded by Wade Hicks)

**Attachments to Official Minutes:**
1. Annual Report on Superintendent’s Goals for 2007-08
2. Resolution Opposing State Ballot Measure Regarding English as a Second Language (ESL) Instruction – Measure 58
4. Draft Board Policy IGBAB/JO – Education Records/Records of Students with Disabilities
5. Draft Board Policy JOA – Directory Information
6. Draft Board Policy JOB – Personally Identifiable Information