The Board of Directors of School District No. 4J, Lane County, Eugene, Oregon, held a work session at 6:00 p.m. followed by a regular board meeting at 7 p.m. on May 6, 2009, 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 May 1, 2009 and published in the Register-Guard on May 4, 2009.

ROLL CALL

BOARD MEMBERS:
Charles Martinez, Jr., Chair
Yvette Webber-Davis, Vice Chair
Eric Forrest
Alicia Hays
Craig Smith
Jim Torrey

STAFF:
George Russell, Superintendent of Schools and District Clerk
Barbara Bellamy, Chief of Staff and Communications Director
Laurie Moses, Director of High School Services

STUDENT REPRESENTATIVES:
Mallory Bray, Churchill High School
Lizzy Monroe, South Eugene High School
Linda Gai, IHS, All Campuses
Joe Kammerer, North Eugene High School
Jennifer Kerfoot, North Eugene High School

WORK SESSION WITH STUDENT REPRESENTATIVES TO THE BOARD: The board members met with the student representatives to discuss their experiences this year to gain insight on how to improve the experience for future student representatives to the board.

REGULAR MEETING: The work session recessed and the regular meeting convened with the above board members and staff present along with the following:

BOARD MEMBERS:
Beth Gerot

STAFF:
Susan Fahey, Chief Financial Officer
Tom Henry, Deputy Superintendent and Chief Academic Officer
Carl Hermanns, Assistant Superintendent/Chief Operating Officer
Chad Williams, Director of Food Services
Jeff Johnson, Principal, Arts and Technology Academy at Jefferson
Wally Bryant, Principal at Harris-Eastside Elementary
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 7:04 p.m. and led those present in the Pledge of Allegiance.

AGENDA REVIEW

Superintendent George Russell stated that he would show a video of U.S. Secretary of Education Arne Duncan's speech at the 2009 American Association of School Administrators (AASA) Conference during agenda item number VII – Items for Information, rather than during his Superintendent's Report.

INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS AND SUPERINTENDENT’S REPORT

Recognition of Eugene Education Association Diversity Training Cadre

Superintendent Russell introduced Paul Duchin and Merri Steele, Co-Presidents of the Eugene Education Association (EEA) to speak about EEA’s Diversity Training Cadre. Mr. Duchin spoke about EEA's Education for All CARE Strategies.

Ms. Steele explained that the Education for All cadres were started a number of years ago in response to observations of inadvertent insensitive speech and actions occurring inside classrooms. Ms. Steele explained that she and Mr. Duchin decided to bring some of their past sensitivity trainings, received through the National Education Association (NEA), to Eugene. The EEA received a grant from the NEA to conduct the trainings.

Mr. Duchin introduced cadre members Karen Lacey, Lisa Vreim, Crista Lawson, Linda Stork, Becki Fujii, Hazel Jones and Linda Smart. He stated that there were nine people actively involved in the training, which had taken place at 23 sites with over 800 district employees. He acknowledged Superintendent Russell's help and leadership in the process.

Ms. Steele explained that some members of the team were in a second cadre that was currently learning about strategies for use in the classroom.

Mr. Duchin explained that the trainings helped close the achievement gap and provided a more inclusive environment for everyone in the district’s schools.
In response to a question from Jennifer Kerfoot, North Eugene High School Student Representative, Mr. Duchin explained that the cadres hoped to involve Minority Student Achievement Network (MSAN) high schools in some of the seminars they provide, specifically in the CARE Strategies trainings.

In response to a question from Joel Iboa, Sheldon High School Student Representative, Mr. Duchin explained that the diversity trainings provided an awareness for individuals to understand and become knowledgeable about issues inside the classroom that may impact student achievement. He stated that the CARE Strategies were designed by Karen Lacey, who had explained that the success of students, particularly minority students, had to do with how they felt about school and about themselves. He reported that CARE Strategies were designed to enhance a student's feeling of self-worth and their attitudes towards school. He explained that it also provided teachers with specific strategies related to assisting students in achieving these thoughts and feelings.

In response to a question from Board Member Alicia Hays, Ms. Steele explained that cadre members were selected during an application process, and that a committee determined whether specific individuals fit within each cadre. Mr. Duchin explained that they are hoping to find new people, as new trainers were always needed. Ms. Hays stated her appreciation for the EEA's involvement in the process.

Dr. Martinez, speaking on behalf of the board, echoed Ms. Hays' comments, stating that the training contributed to the number of professional development opportunities available to employees in the district. He explained that there were many pathways toward a student's success, and that a diverse array of strategies was needed to engage teachers, specifically related to closing the achievement gap. He expressed an interest in seeing the trainings continue, and commented that the length of time the trainings had been available spoke to the deep commitment to lasting change held by the EEA and the district's teachers.

Mr. Duchin thanked Dr. Martinez, stating that part of the training was named after him and was called “the Martinez Hierarchy.”

Superintendent Russell explained that the NEA had long held anti-discriminatory stances with a history of supporting diversity. He stated that diversity and cultural competence were essential in closing the achievement gap.

Dr. Martinez presented certificates of appreciation to each member of the cadre, including one for Jennifer Scurlock, who was unable to attend the meeting.

**Teacher Appreciation Week and School Nurse Day Recognition**

Superintendent Russell read a proclamation recognizing May 3-9, 2009 as Teacher Appreciation Week, and thanked all teachers on behalf of the district. He then read a proclamation recognizing May 6, 2009 as School Nurse Day. He expressed his appreciation for school nurses on behalf of the community.

**Swine Flu School Closures**

Superintendent Russell directed the board’s attention to items related to the district's actions regarding the H1N1 (swine flu) virus. He stated that the district had closed some schools on
Tuesday, May 5, because they had confirmed cases of the virus, but would no longer be closing schools, as the Center for Disease Control and the Oregon Department of Human Services were no longer advising this action.

ACE Awards

Superintendent Russell stated that the A Champion in Education (ACE) Awards ceremony, which recognized outstanding educators in the community, was held on Tuesday, May 5. He recognized the nominees and the 4J winners of the ACE awards: Peter Lawson, Life Skills Teacher, Sheldon High School; Betsy Hoell, Career Center Assistant, Churchill High School; BJ Blake, Principal, Meadowlark/Buena Vista Elementary and Rebecca Kovach, Volunteer, South Eugene High School.

Resignation of Chad Williams, Director of Food Services

Superintendent Russell announced that Chad Williams, Director of Food Services, had accepted a promotion from Sodexo Services and would be leaving the district. He thanked Mr. Williams for his service.

David C. Berliner Presentation at the City Club of Eugene

Superintendent Russell directed the board's attention to a flyer about David C. Berliner’s upcoming speech entitled, “How the U.S. Is Narrowing Curriculum and Creating the Possibility of Economic Suicide” at the Mallard Banquet Hall, sponsored by the City Club of Eugene on May 8, 2009 at 11:50 a.m.

Using Stimulus to Drive Change: Opportunities for Oregon

Superintendent Russell directed the board's attention to an abstract entitled, Using Stimulus to Drive Change: Opportunities for Oregon. He explained that the abstract did a good job summarizing information around both competitive and non-competitive stimulus grants.

COMMENTS BY STUDENT REPRESENTATIVES

Joel Iboa explained that Sheldon High School would hold their prom on Saturday, May 9, 2009 at the Hilton, and the theme of the prom was “Willy Wonka.” He stated that Advanced Placement (AP) and International Baccalaureate (IB) testing was occurring for both IHS and non-IHS students. He stated that preparations for graduation were underway.

Mallory Bray, Churchill High School Student Representative, stated that student leadership groups were making cards for teachers as part of Teacher Appreciation Week. She explained that Powder Puff practices were starting for junior and senior girls. Spring Fest would occur during Powder Puff and would include spirit days and performances during lunch periods. She expressed a desire on behalf of Churchill students to hire one security guard for dances rather than two because of the expense. Superintendent Russell stated that Laurie Moses, Director of High School Services, would find out for them whether or not this could be done.
Jennifer Kerfoot noted that North Eugene High School had kicked off their annual math celebration night to honor the 127 students who had passed the Oregon Assessment of Knowledge and Skills (OAKS) math test. She explained that parents and guardians of incoming freshmen chose classes for their students as part of Parent-Student Forecasting Night. She stated that translators worked with incoming Latino families during the same type of event. She reported that she was working with North Eugene campus principal Laurie Henry and staff to review the English and Social Studies curricula in regard to equity and equal cultural representation. She said that the school had also held a pageant that had raised funds for the Children's Miracle Network.

Linda Gai, IHS Student Representative, explained that IB testing was occurring at IHS and that the program was similar to AP, but that the IB program offered tests accepted by universities around the world. She stated that the 10th grade Eurasian conference would occur on May 15 and would include students from Eugene IHS and North IHS. She explained that the conference was Eugene IHS’s own version of a Model UN, and included over 350 students. She stated that the IHS graduation ceremony would occur at the Hult Center on June 8. She explained that the first student recipients of the Eugene IHS endowment fund travel scholarship would travel abroad this summer. The fund was established last year by an alum to create scholarships for students with the greatest financial need and the least opportunity for travel.

Board Member Craig Smith, on behalf of Lizzy Monroe of South Eugene High School, stated that the South Eugene Spring Fest was coming up and would include a live band, henna tattoos and cotton candy. He said that students were also baking cookies and brownies for South Eugene teachers for Teacher Appreciation Day. He explained that South Eugene’s play, The Bad Seed, had closed on May 3 and had been successful and that another play, The Majestic Kid, would open soon.

ITEMS RAISED BY THE AUDIENCE

Libby Bottero, 2650 University Street, expressed her thanks to the board for their vote of confidence in the teachers, staff, students and parents who came together from both Harris and Eastside Elementary Schools to form the newly-named Camas Ridge Community School. She noted the continuing district budget issues, and expressed her realization of the possibility of school closures in the future, and thanked the board for giving Camas Ridge a chance. She also expressed her thanks for the board’s appreciation of teachers and school nurses and the approach the district took in dealing with the H1N1 virus. She also thanked the board for honoring Margaret Johnson Bailes.

Janet Heinonen, 1012 E. 21st Avenue, of the Oregon Track Club, thanked the board for the new track at Arts and Technology Academy at Jefferson. She stated that the timing could not have been better to give permanent recognition to Margaret Johnson Bailes, a person who had been lost in Eugene’s track history. She stated that Ms. Johnson Bailes had graduated from Jefferson Junior High School and had twice tied the world record in the women’s 100-meters as a senior at Churchill High School. She explained that Ms. Johnson Bailes had run the 4x100 meters in the Mexico City Olympics in the Summer of 1968, where she and her teammates set a world record and won the gold medal. She stated that to her knowledge, no other athlete who had come out of Eugene schools had this kind of record. Ms. Heinonen explained that in the 1960s, no one was speaking about diversity, and being poor, black and female was not a good recipe for receiving accolades for athletic accomplishment. She explained that she had been a teammate of Ms. Johnson Bailes and had attended her wedding. She said that Ms. Johnson
Bailes had moved back to Eugene so that her daughter could attend Churchill High School, and that she had coached track at the school.

COMMENTS BY EMPLOYEE GROUPS

There were no comments by employee groups.

ITEMS FOR INFORMATION

Receive an Update on a Proposal to Name the Track at the Jefferson Site for Margaret Johnson Bailes

Barbara Bellamy, Chief of Staff and Communications Director, explained that when the idea to name the track at Jefferson for Margaret Johnson Bailes was proposed, no process was in place for naming a track. Ms. Bellamy stated that she developed a process and obtained Superintendent Russell’s approval for it. She explained that the board was responsible for naming buildings, and that the district had an agreement with the City of Eugene related to naming fields, but no process existed for naming tracks. The district asked Jeff Johnson, Principal at Arts and Technology Academy at Jefferson, to talk to a site council made up of community stakeholders, and to collect letters of support.

Mr. Johnson explained that the council understood that a proposal to name the track after Margaret Johnson Bailes had been submitted, and had Ms. Heinonen, a member of Eugene’s track community, make a proposal. He stated that the council unanimously approved the proposal to name the track after Margaret Johnson Bailes. He explained that the council got input from the City of Eugene and Nike, who will install the track.

Dr. Martinez invited board members to comment, explaining that the naming decision was Superintendent Russell’s to make.

Board Vice Chair Yvette Webber-Davis thanked Mr. Johnson for his explanation of the naming process. She stated her belief that the naming of the track was a very high honor, and expressed her support.

Board Member Beth Gerot agreed with Dr. Webber-Davis and thanked Ms. Heinonen for the history she shared. She also expressed her strong support for the recommendation.

Board Member Jim Torrey expressed his hope that the board and the district would take the opportunity to display Ms. Johnson Bailes as a role model for young women and student athletes.

Mr. Johnson explained that the recognition would occur at the beginning of the next school year, and that students would be involved in the process.

Mr. Iboa expressed his support with a “two thumbs up” gesture, which was recognized by Dr. Martinez.

Superintendent Russell expressed his support for the recommendation from the site council and the City of Eugene and explained that he planned to move ahead to implement the track
naming. He expressed his desire to have Ms. Johnson Bailes at the ceremony, and that Senator Ron Wyden was also interested in attending.

**Receive an Update Regarding an Intergovernmental Agreement with Coburg**

Carl Hermanns, Assistant Superintendent and Chief Operating Officer, explained that the board was aware of the efforts made by the district and the City of Coburg to create an Intergovernmental Agreement (IGA). He referred to and reviewed the draft of the agreement, which was included in the red folder.

In response to a question from Mr. Smith, Mr. Hermanns explained that the extension of the agreement was contingent upon whether or not the school remained open.

Mr. Smith expressed a desire for the board to review the agreement at the end of the first year. He asked Mr. Hermanns to inform the board of past payments the district had received from the City of Coburg. Mr. Hermanns responded that he would email the board with the exact amounts and years.

Susan Fahey, Chief Financial Officer, explained that the first year's payment was $60,000 and that a subsequent year's payment was $25,000.

In response to a question from Mr. Smith, Mr. Hermanns explained that the payments were tiered over three years because of the City of Coburg's current lack of funding for the agreement. He explained that the amounts outlined in the IGA were not contingent upon the City of Coburg's upcoming city levy.

Mr. Hermanns also explained that the payment amounts were based on the operating costs of keeping schools open, which were affected by school sizes. He stated that the payment amounts were related to what was feasible for the City of Coburg.

In response to a question from Dr. Martinez, Mr. Hermanns explained that the City of Coburg had determined that they could feasibly pay the amounts outlined in the IGA, in a tiered timeframe. He stated that the City of Coburg had also offered to raise more funds in good faith.

Mr. Smith strongly suggested a review of the IGA in one year. Mr. Torrey, Ms. Gerot, Dr. Webber-Davis and Board Member Eric Forrest agreed.

**Receive a Legislative Report**

Ms. Bellamy briefed the board on legislative issues and board and staff communications with legislators.

**ITEMS FOR ACTION**

**Approve Harris and Eastside Elementary Closures and the Establishment of Camas Ridge Community Elementary School**

The board approved the consolidation of Harris and Eastside at the March 4, 2009 board meeting. The consolidation included the observation and understanding that, should more schools be closed in the future, the newly merged school may still be considered for closure just
as any other elementary school in the district. The merger Advisory Committee met on April 1 and selected two names from the thirty-one that were submitted. The names listed below were in order of preference by the Advisory Committee.

1. **Camas Ridge Community School**  
   Rationale: The Camas Lily is native to our neighborhood and campus site. The school building is built into a ridge. We are building a new community. With our emphasis on project-based learning our students will be out learning in the community and we will be bringing the community into our school.

2. **Mahonia Community School**  
   Rationale: Mahonia is the botanical name of the Oregon grape, the state flower. Mahonia Hall is the name of the Governor's mansion in Salem. Community is included for the same reasons as mentioned above.

The superintendent recommended closing Harris and Eastside Elementary Schools effective June 30, 2009.

   **MOTION:** Mr. Smith, seconded by Ms. Gerot, moved to close Harris and Eastside Elementary Schools effective June 30, 2009.  
   **VOTE:** The motion passed unanimously, 7:0.

The superintendent recommended the establishment of Camas Ridge Community Elementary School at the Harris site effective July 1, 2009.

   **MOTION:** Dr. Webber-Davis, seconded by Mr. Forrest, moved to establish Camas Ridge Community School at the Harris site effective July 1, 2009.  
   **VOTE:** The motion passed unanimously, 7:0.

**ARNE DUNCAN AASA SPEECH**

Superintendent Russell showed a video of U.S. Secretary of Education Arne Duncan's comments at the America Association of School Administrators 2009 Conference.

**CONSENT GROUP – ITEMS FOR ACTION**

**Approve Grant Application: Bike Education Certification**

Staff from the Instruction Department submitted a grant application to the Oregon Community Foundation for $4,500. The Bike Education Certification project will provide training and League of American Bicycles (LAB) certification for middle level teachers who wish to teach Bicycle Education. Training will be offered in the summer of 2009. Training will be provided by Safe Routes to School Coordinator Shane Rhodes.

The superintendent recommended approval of the grant application. A copy of the grant description form was included in the board packet.
Approve Board Meeting Minutes

The superintendent recommended approval of the minutes from the March 18, 2009, and April 1, 2009, regular board meetings. Copies of the minutes were included in the board packet.

Approve Personnel Items

The superintendent recommended approval of the personnel items included in the board packet. These covered employment, resignations, and other routine personnel matters.

**MOTION:** Mr. Torrey, seconded by Ms. Hays, moved to approve the consent items.

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

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

Mr. Torrey explained that he had participated in an Information Technology (IT) demonstration at Meadowlark/Buena Vista. He stated that he observed a first grade class working on sentences, and another class learning math with a smart board. He asked if the board should be looking for ways to increase the use of IT in all classrooms. He asked for a list of all K-3 classrooms in the district without smart boards. Tom Henry, Deputy Superintendent and Chief Academic Advisor, responded that he could obtain that information for Mr. Torrey. Mr. Torrey expressed his desire for more out-of-the-box ways to solve problems in the district.

Mr. Forrest expressed his frustration as a father with a high school-aged daughter in the district, saying that budget shortfalls meant a smaller course selection for her. He reiterated Mr. Torrey's comments, saying that budget issues were causing frustrations across the district.

Ms. Gerot stated that she had attended the ACE Awards, and spoke with some of the winners. She stated that she thought the awards spoke to the quality of the district's employees. She also explained that she had attended the ExEL two-day institute, and had spent a day with Liz City of Harvard, who had spoken about strategic resource decisions and actions. She stated that her comments could be helpful in the district's budget decisions.

Mr. Smith explained that he went to Spencer Butte Middle School's technology day, and had also observed smart boards. He noticed that the school had 210 donated laptops and thought about what would happen when the laptops wore out. He also expressed his belief in the value of IT staff at each school.

Dr. Webber-Davis stated that she had attended the Lane Education District's Budget Committee meeting. She explained that the Budget Committee had approved the suggested budget, with some contingencies based on what the final state appropriations would be. She said that it was a good process, and she enjoyed meeting and interacting with board members from other districts.

Dr. Martinez explained that he had attended and served as the keynote speaker at the Monroe Middle School honorable recognition ceremony. He thanked the staff, students and parents at the school, and expressed his appreciation for the level of diversity at the school and within the group of students who were recognized.

Dr. Martinez also spoke about the race and ethnicity classification system changes that were being implemented for the next U.S. census. He stated that the U.S. Department of Education
and the Oregon Department of Education were also making changes based on the new guidelines. He expressed his concerns about the new system, which no longer included an “other” box for race. He stated that this would mean potential data inaccuracies related to K-12 students, and could mean skewed data related to measuring the achievement gap among specific groups of students.

Ms. Hays reported that the district’s Equity Committee had addressed this issue, particularly as it related to closing the achievement gap.

**ADJOURN**

Dr. Martinez adjourned the regular meeting at 8:53 p.m.

_________________________________________________________________
George Russell     Charles Martinez, Jr.
District Clerk      Board Chair

(Recorded by Katie Dettman)

**Attachments to Official Minutes:**
1. Teacher Appreciation Week Proclamation
2. School Nurse Day Proclamation
3. Draft Intergovernmental Agreement with City of Coburg
4. Grant Application Form: Bike Education Certification
5. Personnel Action Items