

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

September 16, 2009

The Board of Directors of School District No. 4J, Lane County, Eugene, Oregon, held a regular board meeting at 7 p.m. on September 16, 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 September 11, 2009, and published in *The Register-Guard* on September 14, 2009.

ROLL CALL

BOARD MEMBERS:

Craig Smith, Chair
Beth Gerot, Vice Chair
Jennifer Geller
Alicia Hays
Anne Marie Levis
Jim Torrey

STAFF:

George Russell, Superintendent of Schools and District Clerk
Barbara Bellamy, Chief of Staff and Communications Director
Susan Fahey, Chief Financial Officer
Celia Feres-Johnson, Director of Human Resources
Carl Hermanns, Assistant Superintendent/Chief Academic Officer
Laurie Moses, Director of Secondary Services
Larry Sullivan, Director of Educational Support Services
Caroline Passerotti, Financial Analysis Manager
Sara Cramer, Director of Elementary Services
Tim Carmichael, Athletic Director
Rick Sherman, Food Services Manager
Bob Bolden, Sheldon High School Principal

STUDENT REPRESENTATIVES:

Jenna Careccia, Churchill High School
Linda Gai, International High School, all campuses
Sarah Hankins, Academy of Arts, North Eugene High School
Jennifer Kerfoot, School of Ideas, North Eugene High School
Yuki Partridge, International High School, North Eugene High School
Hannah Rosenberg, Sheldon High School

MEDIA:

KRVM

OTHERS

Paul Duchin, Eugene Education Association, Co-President
Merri Steele, Eugene Education Association, Co-President
David Meredith, Eugene Education Association
Tim Heinrich, MetLife Representative

CALL TO ORDER AND FLAG SALUTE

Board Chair Craig Smith called the regular meeting of the School District 4J Board of Directors to order and led those present in the Pledge of Allegiance.

AGENDA REVIEW

There were no changes to the agenda.

INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS AND SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Superintendent George Russell welcomed the new and returning student representatives and stated he looks forward to their involvement in the board's discussions. He said the district would form a superintendent's student advisory council and he is working with all of the high schools to identify students who would be interested in participating in discussions of topics of significance and concern to students.

Superintendent Russell announced the upcoming dedication of the Margaret Johnson Bailes Track at the Arts & Technology Academy at Jefferson on September 25. He also invited members of the community to apply for vacancies on the 4J School Board and Budget Committee.

COMMENTS BY STUDENT REPRESENTATIVES

Sarah Hankins, Academy of Arts, North Eugene High School, described her site council and theater activities and a recent 9th grade orientation designed to improve students' success in high school. She said there would be a course of study on Northwest literature and history, with a kick-off on September 18.

Jennifer Kerfoot, School of IDEAS, North Eugene High School, said she is pleased to be a student representative again and described her involvement with the site council and the State Superintendent for Public Education's youth advisory team. She said the School of IDEAS had a summer reading program, with a quiz on the first day of school. Equity training for students was being developed.

Linda Gai, International High School, all campuses, said she is a senior at Sheldon High School and it is her second year as a student representative. She said the annual IHS picnic would be held on September 17. There would be an opening assembly on September 25 to introduce new students and welcome back returning students, coinciding with the International Day of Peace.

Hannah Rosenberg, Sheldon High School, said she is a senior in the honors program and a student body officer. She is also involved in tennis and water polo. She described freshman orientation activities and said the student body would hold a "Hello" assembly on September 18.

Yuki Partridge, International High School, North Eugene High School, said she is a senior. She described freshman orientation activities and noted there were over 100 freshmen in IHS alone. She said seniors were very focused on their senior projects, which were due in December.

Jenna Careccia, Churchill High School, said she is a senior and involved in site council and executive leadership activities. She said a large turnover in executive leadership is resulting in new ways of doing things. She said there would be a pep assembly, Hello Dance and football game on September 25. Freshman registration occurred last week and this is the largest freshman class with approximately 330 students.

ITEMS RAISED BY THE AUDIENCE

Mr. Smith determined there was no one in the audience who wished to speak.

COMMENTS BY EMPLOYEE GROUPS

There were no comments.

ITEMS FOR INFORMATION

Recognition of Bob Bolden as Oregon Principal of the Year

Bob Bolden, Sheldon High School Principal, was recognized for being selected as the Oregon Principal of the Year for 2009. Dr. Bolden was honored at the Annual Confederation of Oregon School Administrators (COSA) conference in June 2009 and invited to attend a Principals' Institute and Awards Banquet in Washington, D.C.

Laurie Moses, Director of Secondary Services, introduced Dr. Bolden and described the selection criteria for recognition as Principal of the Year. She said Dr. Bolden had been a steadfast leader for staff, students and the community for many years. She introduced Tim Heinrich of MetLife to present the award.

Mr. Heinrich congratulated Dr. Bolden and described his background and achievements over 22 years as a school administrator and his receipt of Martin Luther King Leadership and Social Justice awards from the Human Rights Commission.

Dr. Bolden thanked COSA and MetLife for the award and commended the efforts of district staff who served students every day. He said he had received accolades for the wonderful work that occurred daily and it was humbling to be a part of it. His message to students was that they could accomplish anything to which they set their minds.

Superintendent Russell thanked the award program partners for their participation. He remarked that Dr. Bolden was the most senior high school principal in the district. He listed the other positions Dr. Bolden had held in the district and thanked him for his legacy of dedication to multiculturalism, diversity and ensuring all students had an equal opportunity to be successful.

Ms. Gai thanked Dr. Bolden for the multicultural opportunities students experienced at Sheldon High School.

Receive a Report on Eugene Education Fund Activities

Eugene Education Fund (EEF) Director David Meredith reported that \$731,048 in revenue had been received during the fiscal year ending June 30, 2009, and distributed information about the activities that EEF had supported. He explained how the funds were allocated. He said the fund raising goal for 2009 was \$770,000 and invited board members to attend the back-to-

school gala on October 15, which was a major component of the campaign. He highlighted some of the activities that had been funded through EEF, including composting and gardening.

Board Member Anne Marie Levis issued a challenge to other board members to attend the back-to-school gala.

Ms. Kerfoot thanked EEF for funding clickers for the classroom and Ms. Gai thanked EEF for a grant to IHS.

Receive an Update on the Oregon School Activities Association (OSAA) League Proposals

Ms. Moses and Athletics Director Tim Carmichael provided an update on the proceedings of the Classification and Districting Committee of the Oregon School Activities Association (OSAA), which was preparing recommendations to the OSAA Executive Board regarding placement of schools in athletic districts for 2010-14.

Ms. Moses distributed an information packet on the proposed recommendations and explained that Mr. Carmichael not only spoke for the district as its athletic director, but was the lone athletic director on the OSAA Classification and Districting Committee and in that capacity, he represented the interests of all athletic directors in the state.

Ms. Moses said the enrollment cutoff between 5A and 6A had been revised from 1,520 to 1,480. A final public meeting of the committee was scheduled for September 28, with final recommendations to be considered by the OSAA Executive Board and delegate assembly on October 26. She reviewed the hybrid leagues proposal, which placed all district schools in the 5A-6A mid-western hybrid league, along with Thurston, Marist, Marshfield, Springfield and Willamette high schools. The hybrid league is an effort to respond to schools' concerns regarding safety, competitive equity, travel and enrollment.

Superintendent Russell asked if all 4J athletic directors supported the hybrid league proposal. Mr. Carmichael said they did because it reduced travel during the season and preserved local competition, but allowed schools to compete in their classifications at the end of the season for state championships.

Board Vice Chair Beth Gerot suggested sending a letter thanking the committee for listening to the district's concerns.

Mr. Smith determined there was consensus to have the district send a letter to the OSAA Classification and Districting Committee.

CONSENT GROUP – ITEMS FOR ACTION

Approve a One Year Extension of the Contract Between the Eugene Education Fund and School District 4J

In February of 1994, the board and the Eugene Education Fund (EEF) entered into a contract specifying how the district and EEF would work together and how donations given through the fund would be distributed. The board approved a revised contract in 2008, increasing the annual payment to EEF to reflect some of the increased costs associated with higher levels of fundraising performance. A copy of the contract was included in the board packet.

Since 1994, EEF raised over \$6.3 million in donations for school district programs plus an additional \$1.5 million in development funds that go to support fundraising efforts. Over \$1.2 million has been given to schools in annual discretionary grants, which help schools maintain and enhance educational programs. Direct donations to schools have been increasing each year. During the last campaign cycle alone, January through December 2008, the EEF raised \$785,635.

The superintendent recommended approval of a one-year extension of the contract between the Eugene Education Fund and School District 4J.

Approve Board Meeting Minutes

The superintendent recommended approval of the minutes from the August 5 and August 19, 2009, regular board meetings. Copies of minutes were included in the board packet.

MOTION: Ms. Gerot, seconded by Board Member Alicia Hays, moved to approve the consent items.

VOTE: The motion passed unanimously; 6:0.

ITEMS FOR ACTION

Request to Support Waiver Request and Modifications to Charter School Contract with The Village School

The Village School requested a waiver by the Oregon State Board of Education of ORS 338.125, which governs student admission to charter schools. The purpose of the waiver is to permit The Village School to offer priority admission for the children of its current staff. The school requested district approval and support for making the necessary modifications to the charter school contract between the district and the charter school should the waiver be granted. ORS 338.125 requires that public charter schools use an equitable lottery should the number of applications from district residents exceed the capacity of a program, class, grade level or building. Once a charter school has been in operation for one or more years, priority for admission may be given to district residents who were enrolled in the school in the prior year or who have siblings who are presently enrolled in the school and who were enrolled in the school in the prior year. ORS 338.025 permits waiver of this provision. According to Oregon Department of Education staff, this waiver request is among the most common submitted by charter schools.

The district does not offer priority admission to the children of staff for placement in neighborhood schools or alternative schools. However, no material negative effect is anticipated from permitting a district-sponsored charter school to offer this benefit to its employees. Further, in keeping with statutory direction for governing charter schools, the district offers latitude to its charter schools to operate in ways that differ from traditional district practices as long as they meet the requirements of federal and state laws and regulations. Copies of letters from The Village School to the State Board of Education and to the district, as well as draft minutes from The Village School board meeting documenting endorsement of this action were included in the board packet.

The superintendent recommended that the district neither support nor oppose the waiver request by The Village School, but agree to make necessary modification to the charter school contract should the State Board approve their request.

Caroline Passerotti, Financial Analysis Manager, explained that The Village School was not requesting support for the waiver, but did ask that the board be supportive of amending the contract between the district and the charter school if the waiver was granted by the Oregon State Board of Education.

MOTION: Board Member Jim Torrey, seconded by Ms. Levis, moved to make the necessary modifications to The Village School's charter school contract should the State Board approve the waiver request.

Mr. Smith did not find the reasons for the waiver compelling, but acknowledged there were differences in governance between the district and charter schools and agreed with the superintendent's recommendation.

Board Member Jennifer Geller agreed because it was a very narrow governance issue.

Ms. Gerot pointed out that priority admission for children of staff was not allowed in district schools, but recognized it was a governance issue and those types of decisions rested with the charter schools. Ms. Passerotti noted that the waiver was compliant with charter school law.

VOTE: The motion passed unanimously; 6:0.

Approve Revisions to Board Policy EFA, Local Wellness Program

The 2007 Legislature set standards for food and beverages sold in schools (House Bill 2650). The district's wellness policy, EFA Local Wellness Program adopted in 2006, already reflected most of those requirements. The new legislation, however, defined the "regular and extended school day" to include all before- and after-school activities sponsored by the district, except for activities at which adults are a significant part of an audience, such as a carnival, a play or a band or choir concert. The proposed revisions to Board Policy EFA - Local Wellness Program add a reference to the definition of the school day and other requirements that are now in Oregon Revised Statute 336.423. A copy of the proposed policy revision was included in the board packet.

The superintendent recommended adoption of Board Policy EFA, Local Wellness Program as revised.

MOTION: Ms. Levis, seconded by Ms. Geller, moved to approve revised Board Policy EFA, Local Wellness Program.

VOTE: The motion passed unanimously; 6:0.

Adopt the Board's Goals and Annual Agenda for 2009-10

School Board Policy BA requires that the board adopt an annual agenda to demonstrate how it will provide "leadership and direction for the district." Staff prepared an initial draft of the proposed 2009-10 Annual Agenda, and Goals for 2010 – 2013. Changes suggested by the board, and in subsequent meetings of superintendent's staff were incorporated into the revised draft, which was included in the board packet.

Barbara Bellamy, Chief of Staff and Communications Director, highlighted changes to key results based on the board's direction. Those changes related to the long-range plan for a capital bond measure and updating the Facilities Plan, the goal of a sustainable budget and removal of a key result related to the November 2008 local option levy election. She also noted a correction to key result No. 4 under Stewardship of District Resources that changed the date of June 2010 to June 2012. She also recommended revising that key result to clarify that enrollment transfers applied to middle and high schools.

The superintendent recommended adoption of the 2009-10 Board Goals and Annual Agenda.

MOTION: Mr. Torrey, seconded by Ms. Levis, moved to adopt the 2009-10 Board Goals and Annual Agenda.

VOTE: The motion passed unanimously; 6:0.

Vote on a Region 6 Representative for the Oregon School Boards Association Legislative Policy Committee

The 38-member Oregon School Boards Association (OSBA) Legislative Policy Committee (LPC) develops and recommends legislative policies and priorities, which it recommends to membership for approval at the annual membership meeting in November of even-numbered years. The committee also advises the executive director and staff during legislative sessions, acting on behalf of the association in accordance with the policies.

One candidate—Joe Berney, Lane Education Service District—was nominated by local boards for the Region 6 LPC position. LPC members elected in September 2009 will serve from January 1, 2010 through December 31, 2011.

MOTION: Mr. Torrey, seconded by Ms. Geller, moved to elect Joe Berney as the Region 6 Legislative Police Committee representative.

VOTE: The motion passed unanimously; 6:0.

Approve Proposed 2009-11 Addendum to the Superintendent's Contract

The contract between the superintendent and the board provides that the board will evaluate the superintendent at least once each year based on the goals and objectives agreed upon by the board and the superintendent, and the terms of their contract. The board conducted the evaluation in executive session on June 17, 2009, under the provisions of ORS 192.610-192.690 and determined that the superintendent's performance exceeded expectations.

The board requested the board chair and vice chair meet with the superintendent to develop a proposed addendum to the contract for consideration at a future meeting. The superintendent's current 2008-11 contract provides for a 3.25 percent COLA (cost-of-living adjustment) and up to a five percent performance bonus. The board and superintendent had previously agreed that in light of the district's financial situation, the superintendent would not receive the COLA or performance bonus as provided for in the current contract. The proposed 2009-11 contract addendum was provided in the board packet.

Mr. Smith said the addendum was consistent with the district's agreement with administrators to forego compensation adjustments.

MOTION: Mr. Torrey, seconded by Ms. Gerot, moved to approve the proposed 2009-11 addendum to the superintendent's contract.

VOTE: The motion passed unanimously; 6:0.

ITEMS FOR ACTION AT A FUTURE MEETING

Adopt the Revised Board's and Superintendent's Working Agreements

The board annually reviews and affirms or revises a set of group agreements that outline how the board, superintendent and executive leadership team will work together. Based on the board's discussion at its August 7 retreat, staff proposed revisions to the working agreements. In addition, in coming weeks the board plans to develop a set of guidelines regarding use of social media by board members for constituent communications. Any changes to the draft working agreements will be incorporated into the final draft that will be presented for approval at the October 7 board meeting. A copy of the proposed Working Agreements was included in the board packet.

Ms. Bellamy said that three changes had been proposed: Clarifying language in Item 6 under Governance Principles; the addition of Item 5 under Communication Agreements regarding requests for information and questions from the board; and additional language in Item 7 under Communication Agreements related to development of guidelines for the appropriate use of social media.

COMMENTS AND COMMITTEE REPORTS BY INDIVIDUAL BOARD MEMBERS

Ms. Hays congratulated Dr. Bolden on his selection as Principal of the Year for 2009 and welcomed the student representatives.

Ms. Levis welcomed the student representatives and discussed her visits to schools as she pursued her goal of visiting all district schools by December 31, 2009. She announced that as a member of the University of Oregon Alumni Association Board she would be leading a task force on diversity and would be working with former school board member Charles Martinez.

Ms. Gerot welcomed student representatives. She said the Oregon Department of Education had established work groups to review the federal Race to the Top funds and she would be serving on the work group related to low-performing schools. She said the Quality Education Commission was studying the relationship between courses and test scores on state assessments and preliminary data indicated that taking Algebra I prior to taking the 10th grade assessment did not predict success, but taking Algebra II did. She was also participating in a group looking at whether a cost per student to satisfy capital needs could be developed for inclusion in the model.

Ms. Geller attended an event celebrating Adams Elementary School's completion of its new garden and mentioned that Parker Elementary School students would be performing at Fiesta Latina. She commended the EEF for its many contributions to the district's schools and students and thanked student representatives for their participation in board meetings.

Mr. Torrey also welcomed the student representatives and complimented Ms. Kerfoot and Ms. Gai for speaking up at the meetings.

Mr. Smith also thanked the student representatives and looks forward to working with them this school year.

ADJOURN

Mr. Smith adjourned the meeting at 8:25 p.m.

George Russell
Superintendent

Craig Smith
Board Chair

(Recorded by Lynn Taylor)

Attachments to Official Minutes:

1. Contract Between Eugene Education Fund and School District 4J
2. Correspondence from The Village School and Draft Minutes from a Village School Board Meeting Regarding Waiver Request
3. Board Policy EFA – Local Wellness Program
4. 2009-10 Board Goals & Annual Agenda
5. Draft Board and Superintendent Working Agreements
6. Addendum to the Contract with the Superintendent of Schools for 2009-2011