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

December 2, 2009

The Board of Directors of School District No. 4J, Lane County, Eugene, Oregon, held a regular
board meeting at 7 p.m. on December 2, 2009, at the Education Center, 200 North Monroe
Street, Eugene, Oregon. Notice of the meeting was mailed to the media, posted in the
Education Center, and published in the Register-Guard on November 30, 2009.

ROLL CALL

BOARD MEMBERS:
Craig Smith, Chair
Beth Gerot, Vice Chair
Jennifer Geller
Alicia Hays
Jim Torrey
Mary Walston

STAFF:
George Russell, Superintendent of Schools and District Clerk
Barbara Bellamy, Chief of Staff and Communications Director
Susan Fahey, Chief Financial Officer
Carl Hermanns, Assistant Superintendent/Chief Academic Officer
Jon Lauch, Director of Facilities Management

STUDENT REPRESENTATIVES:
Linda Gai, IHS, All Campuses
Hannah Roseberg, Sheldon High School
Yuki Partridge, North Eugene High School

MEDIA:
KRVM

CALL TO ORDER, ROLL CALL, AND FLAG SALUTE

Board Chair Craig Smith called the meeting of the Eugene School District 4J Board of Directors
to order, called the roll, 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 noted that the Charlemagne French Immersion School choir,
under the direction of 4J Music Specialist Giulie Smith, had performed several songs for the
board prior to the meeting. He said the board was joined by an audience of parents, friends, and family members. Superintendent Russell commended the choir for its outstanding presentation.

Superintendent Russell called the board’s attention to a communication from him to Ben Van Dusen of South Eugene High School recognizing Mr. Van Dusen’s good work as an Albert Einstein Distinguished Fellow and congratulating him for the honor and the work he was doing in Washington, DC.

COMMENTS FROM STUDENT REPRESENTATIVES

Hannah Rosenberg of Sheldon High School reported that the first Irish Day of Giving had taken place the previous week, and the event was so successful another would occur before winter break which would include more clubs. She said that the freshmen had finished their OSAT standardized testing and the sophomores were preparing for their state standardized tests later in the month. She said that advisor meetings had occurred that day and students had received their first quarter reports and updated their four-year plan and profile. Ms. Rosenberg concluded by saying that the Sheldon football team would compete in the state semi-finals at PGE Park later in the week.

Yuki Partridge of North Eugene High School stated that the seniors were busy with their senior project papers, due earlier that day. Seniors got to choose their topics, and she selected Japanese internment camps for her project. She reported on two fundraisers being conducted at the school, the “Soles for Souls” event to provide lightly worn shoes to children in other countries and the “Project Give” assembly. She reported that the North International High School leadership group was producing a talent show with an entry fee of two cans of food or a donation to Food for Lane County. Ms. Partridge noted the upcoming annual Hideous Sweater contest and noted the commencement of the upcoming basketball, wrestling, and swimming seasons.

Linda Gai, IHS All Campuses, reported that senior papers were turned in the previous Monday and seniors held a party to commemorate the event. Student government settled on t-shirt designs for the year and were considering putting out more merchandise featuring student art. She invited those interested in supporting the school to keep an eye out for details. She said the school’s literary magazine, Swan Song, will be holding an open mic night the following night at Tsunami Books. Talented writers will bring poetry and prose and read their work aloud. The International High School will hold an art benefit sale on December 10 at the cafeteria. All proceeds will go to the Peace One Day Organization.

ITEMS RAISED BY THE AUDIENCE

Mr. Smith reviewed the rules for offering public comment.

Ed Capelle discussed his complaint regarding Planned Parenthood being brought into the classroom, recalling that he first raised the issue when his children were at Edison Elementary. He believed he and the district had reached an agreement that Planned Parenthood would not be introduced into the classroom as such and it would not identify its “brand” to students, but rather would come into the classroom as a local expert. Mr. Capelle said that he became aware last year that Planned Parenthood had been introduced into two classrooms with contact information placed on the blackboard and students were encouraged to contact the agency.
Mr. Capelle said he had reviewed the relevant OARs and identified three different areas he believed were in clear violation. He said part of his objection was based on the bias of the organization as expressed through its national lobbying in support of allowing minors to receive abortions without parental notification. Mr. Capelle also noted his concerns about the factual nature of the information presented in the agency’s health and reproduction science curriculum and indicated he had raised concerns about the information provided by the organization with Tom Maloney, Edison Elementary School Principal, but had received no response addressing his complaint.

Mr. Capelle reiterated his understanding of the agreement he believed had been reached, which was for the organization to remain anonymous and stick to the curriculum. He believed the spirit of that agreement had been violated, which led him to examine the relevant OARs. He acknowledged he was conservative in outlook and said he would like to be able to have his church come in and present, but he knew that was inappropriate due to the natural bias the church would have. In that same vein, he believed that the bias demonstrated by Planned Parenthood created a conflict. Mr. Capelle said he had detailed in his communication where he believed the OARs were violated and called on the board to revisit the issue of whether Planned Parenthood should be allowed to come into the schools.

COMMENTS BY EMPLOYEE GROUPS

There were none.

ITEMS FOR INFORMATION

Receive an Update on Howard and River Road Elementary Schools’ Super-Boundary Approach

Paco Furlan, River Road/Camino del Rio Principal, and Suzy Price, Howard Principal, provided the board with a brief update on how the new super-boundary approach was working for their schools thus far. The presentation included enrollment data, kindergarten demographics, school highlights, and future considerations. A copy of the PowerPoint presentation was included in the board packet. Board members asked questions clarifying the information provided.

ITEMS FOR ACTION AT THIS MEETING

Vote on Oregon School Boards Association Officers and Resolutions

The 2010 Oregon School Boards Association (OSBA) Board-Elect nominated the following candidates for the open officer positions:
- Secretary/Treasurer – Kris Howatt
- Vice President – Randy Tweten
- President-Elect – Bobbie Regan

Officers are to be elected by member boards with each board casting one vote for each office. Larger sized districts have more than one vote under the governance model for votes on resolutions, legislative policies and priorities, constitutional amendments and officers. School
District 4J has two votes based on the weighted formula. Officers serve one-year terms. President and past-president positions are filled automatically by the current president-elect and president respectively.

The OSBA Board and Legislative Policy Committee have referred the following four resolutions to member boards for voting:

- **Resolution 1** amends the OSBA constitution to establish that when a member district, education service district or community college boundary spans more than one OSBA region, that member board must declare in which region it intends to vote and vote only in that region.

- **Resolution 2** establishes a finance committee in the OSBA constitution to monitor, review and recommend investments, investment policy and the financial practices of the association.

- **Resolution 3** amends the OSBA constitution to allow the OSBA board to select its officers and discontinue the practice of referring a slate of officers to the membership for ratification.

- **Resolution 4** amends the OSBA constitution to add two OSBA board of director positions to represent the regions of the immediate past president and president, respectively, during their terms in those offices when those officers come from regions that have only one representative.

Voting in the 2009 OSBA Officer and Resolution Election opened on November 16, 2009 and will run through December 15, 2009.

Barb Bellamy, Chief of Staff and Communications Director, called the board’s attention to the slate of officers proposed for the OSBA. She referred any board questions to Board Vice Chair Beth Gerot, who is a member of the OSBA.

**MOTION:** Ms. Gerot, seconded by Board Member Jennifer Geller, moved to approve the slate of officers and resolutions.

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

**Consider Whether to Hear an Appeal of a Complaint Filed by a Parent Under Board Policy IIA, Selection of Instruction Materials, Section on Controversial Issues**

The superintendent has received a complaint alleging that the district is in violation of OAR 581-022-1440. The complaint asserts that Planned Parenthood is allowed to make presentations in the schools in which it identifies itself and has shared contact information with students. The complainant also asserts that as a parent with joint custody, he is entitled to equal notification when the human sexuality education curriculum is being taught with outside presenters.

The superintendent has responded that the district does allow guest presenters to be introduced and identify the organization they represent as part of the introduction. The notification regarding the human sexuality curriculum is sent home with the student to be returned with a required signature by the parent or guardian. Current procedure does not require signoff by both parents.

Superintendent Russell reviewed the complaint and his response, which was included in the meeting packet. He termed the complaint unusual in that most complaints filed under the policy cited regarded individual personnel items and those were generally addressed by the board in
an executive session. The issue concerned policy and its implementation, so discussion did not need to occur in an executive session. Superintendent Russell recommended that the board deny the request for a hearing.

**MOTION:** Ms. Gerot, seconded by Board Member Mary Walston, moved to deny the request.

Board Member Jim Torrey asked if there had been an agreement reached between the district and the complainant, Ed Capelle, as had been implied, and if that agreement had been changed. Superintendent Russell said he had been unable to find any written documentation of the issue and noted the Oregon Department of Education had requested any written documentation supporting the existence of such an agreement. He said that Mr. Capelle had discussed the issue with many district staff members, including himself. However, he could not recall that any formal agreement had been reached, and noted that the board's initial correspondence to Mr. Capelle had made it clear that the district would continue to allow Planned Parenthood and other presenters to identify themselves. Superintendent Russell recalled that the board agreed that it would communicate to the schools that such presenters could identify themselves, but would not provide contact information unless it was requested by a student.

Ms. Geller questioned the classification of the complaint as she did not think that the cited sections addressed the issue. Superintendent Russell concurred, saying he had struggled with that issue as well because most complaints made citing the policy regarded personnel matters. He suggested that the district might have to consider whether it needed a complaint process related to district policies.

**VOTE:** The motion passed 5-1; Mr. Torrey voting no.

**CONSENT GROUP – ITEMS FOR ACTION**

**Approve Ratification of CIP Contract Awards**

On September 18, 2002, the Board of Directors affirmed the 1993 district policy for delegating Contract Award authority for Bond Funded CIP contracts of $500,000 or less to the superintendent, or designee, subject to subsequent ratification by the board. The designee was Jon Lauch, Director of Facilities and Transportation. Contracts in excess of $500,000 will continue to require board approval. The purpose of the board item is to summarize all CIP contract award activity requiring a formal bid or formal competitive selection and for the board to ratify those awards that have been made by authorized staff since the last ratification.

The summary sheet in the board packet identified all contracts that have been awarded as of the status date indicated in accordance with delegated authority. The summary also identified who awarded the project and will indicate board ratification data of said award as applicable.

The CIP management staff will continue to provide the board with Contract Award Status updates for ratification, pursuant to School Board Policy DI (Capital Improvement Contracts Financed by Bond Levy Funds-previously Policy 6610.5)

The superintendent recommended ratification of awards for CIP GO Bond funded projects as indicated on the summary sheet.
MOTION: Board Member Alicia Hays, seconded by Ms. Walston, moved to approve the consent items.
VOTE: The motion passed unanimously; 6-0.

COMMENTS AND COMMITTEE REPORTS BY INDIVIDUAL BOARD MEMBERS

Ms. Hays noted her attendance at the recent district Equity Committee meeting.

Ms. Walston said that she and Ms. Geller went to Meadowlark Elementary School and had a good time attending the school’s Harvest Day Lunch. She appreciated the visit. She looked forward to the upcoming Graduation Requirements Committee meeting the following week. She commended the work the high schools were doing in reaching out to the community and giving back.

Ms. Geller said she attended the most recent Equity Committee meeting and the bulk of the discussion was about preparation for the committee’s January meeting with the board. She believed the January discussion between the board and committee would be productive.

Ms. Geller reported she had attended and enjoyed a performance at Roosevelt Middle School. She commended teachers Judy Wenger and Richard Leebrick for their work in helping students to stage three Shakespeare plays over the course of two weeks.

Mr. Torrey commended Jon Lauch, Director of Facilities Management, for his quick response to the City of Eugene in regard to access and right-of-way at Civic Stadium. He also commended staff for its approach to Civic Stadium as a major district asset.

Ms. Gerot reported that she, Ms. Bellamy, and Superintendent Russell would attend the In-State Institute for ExEL the next day and she hoped to bring back something to incorporate into the January 2010 retreat.

ADJOURN

Mr. Smith adjourned the meeting at 8:02 p.m.

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George Russell     Craig Smith.
District Clerk      Board Chair

(Recorded by Katie Dettman)

Attachments to Official Minutes:
1. Howard and River Road Elementary Super-Boundary Update PowerPoint Presentation
2. Instructional Materials Complaint Correspondence
3. CIP Contract Award Status Summary