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

March 3, 2010

The Board of Directors of School District No. 4J, Lane County, Eugene, Oregon, held an executive session at 5:30 p.m. followed by a regular board meeting at 7 p.m. on March 3, 2010, 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 26, 2010, and published in the Register-Guard on March 1, 2010.

ROLL CALL

BOARD MEMBERS:
Craig Smith, Chair
Jennifer Geller
Beth Gerot
Anne Marie Levis
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
Celia Feres-Johnson, Director of Human Resources
Christine Nesbit, Associate Director of Human Resources
Jeralynn Beghetto, Human Resources Administrator
Randy Bernstein, South Eugene High School Principal/District Bargaining Team Member

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).

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

BOARD MEMBER:
Alicia Hays, Vice Chair

STAFF:
Laurie Moses, Director of Secondary Education
Jon Lauch, Director of Facilities Management
Sara Cramer, Director of Elementary Education
Larry Sullivan, Director of Educational Support Services
Pamela Irvine, Adams Elementary School Principal
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 Pamela Irvine, Adams Elementary School Principal, to the meeting and asked her to tell the board about the Green Power project at Adams, included for approval as part of the consent items. He recalled that the board had asked Adams to make some program modifications and they came and shared with the board the direction they were starting to take, particularly around sustainability. He said Adams was doing some pretty unique things.

Principal Irvine explained that Adams Elementary School was one of five finalists for a Eugene Water & Electric Board (EWEB) Greenpower grant, of which two $100,000 grants would be awarded. She discussed the Greenpower Program, which allows people to purchase green power at a slightly higher rate. She said those who are green power rate payers can vote on which projects should be awarded the grants. She passed out cards about the Greenpower Program and encouraged people to become participants and to vote for the Adams project.

Superintendent Russell discussed several other topics. He said staff had been busy conducting budget forums and a hearing on Civic Stadium. He thought they had gone well and had provided an opportunity for the community to give feedback about the budget and some of the scenarios that were proposed and about the possible sale of the Civic Stadium property. He added that staff was conducting an online survey about the latter. He felt that the clicker exercise had gone well in the budget forums. He related that staff planned to do a similar type of exercise with the Superintendent’s Student Advisory Council (SSAC) in the next week. He also intended to ask the SSAC for their key ideas in regard to the budget.

Superintendent Russell noted that the African-American Parent and Family Conference had been mentioned at the NAACP Freedom Fund dinner. He said the event was scheduled for March 20 at Lane Community College (LCC) from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. He stated that everyone interested in closing the African-American achievement gap was invited to participate. He added that Marcus Mundy, Director of the Urban League of Portland, planned to hold a symposium to look at the State of Black Oregon Report from 4:30 to 8:30 p.m. on March 16 at the University of Oregon. This symposium would look at conditions in Lane County with respect
to education from kindergarten to the age of 20 and would feature a panel on child welfare and youth justice. He invited board members to participate.

Superintendent Russell reported that the district had received an email from Gov. Kulongoski and State School Superintendent Susan Castillo earlier in the day regarding Race to the Top Phase 1 finalists. He related that they indicated that the U.S. Department of Education would announce on the following day which states would be finalists, with grants to be awarded in early April. He said they anticipated that the list of states would be short; Oregon needed to be prepared to make a presentation and also be prepared for the possibility that Oregon would not make the list of finalists. He stated that if Oregon was not selected as a finalist, they would start work on revisions and refinements to the original application that would position Oregon to be successful in Phase 2 of the process.

COMMENTS BY STUDENT REPRESENTATIVES

Yuki Partridge, North Eugene High School, reported that progress reports would be coming out the next week and students were focused in class and doing homework. Seniors were working hard and those who wanted to take the International Baccalaureate (IB) literature tests would take their oral test in the next week. She said this test was comprised of a 20-minute period of time to analyze a piece of literature and then students were to give a 12-minute speech on it. She stated that the school had held a small school introductory night for new students, and incoming students were to submit their choice forms this week. She also reported that the boys' basketball team had made it to the playoffs and the girls' swim team had placed 4th in the state. She said the Mr. North events continued with a dinner at Tio Pepe's and a dance to be held the following week. She added that the winter formal had not been as successful as had been projected and they hoped the Mr. North dance would make up for it. Those people participating in Mr. North activities, including herself, planned to tour the hospital Neo-natal Intensive Care Unit that is the beneficiary of the funds raised at the events.

Sasha Johnson-Freyd, South Eugene High School, stated that student government was still working on the constitutional amendment process, but it was almost completed. She said it was written and the petition for it had been signed by 15 percent of the student body, which meant it would go to a vote. She felt that the process had been good for them and had provoked meaningful discussions. She related that recently they had discussed how to bring more equity into student government. She commended the work of Lizzie Monroe, the Associated Student Body (ASB) Vice President, saying that she had done a good job of being a leader. She noted that Ms. Monroe had been the student liaison to the board in 2008-09 and that she was also likely to become the next ASB President.

ITEMS RAISED BY THE AUDIENCE

There were no items raised by the audience.

COMMENTS BY EMPLOYEE GROUPS

There were no comments offered by employee groups.
ITEMS FOR INFORMATION

Classified School Employee Appreciation Recognition

Governor Ted Kulongoski proclaimed March 1 through 5, 2010, as Classified School Employee Week.

Superintendent Russell read a resolution commemorating Classified School Employee Week into the record and encouraged all members of the community to join in this observance, recognizing the dedication and hard work of the district’s classified employees. A copy of the resolution was included in the board packet.

MOTION: Board Member Jim Torrey, seconded by Board Member Anne Marie Levis, moved to adopt the resolution commemorating Classified School Employee Week.
VOTE: The motion passed unanimously; 7:0.

Superintendent Russell emphasized how much classified employees were appreciated by students, parents, and school district staff.

Receive a Report on the Safe Routes to School Program

The Eugene Safe Routes to School (SRTS) Program has grown stronger over the past three years. The current program, started as a pilot at Roosevelt Middle School in 2006, expanded to the South Region feeder schools in late 2007 with the hiring of the current Program Manager, Shane Rhodes and, since then, developed into a stronger presence throughout the district and the community. The program built off the history in Eugene of encouraging active transportation modes and, with the support of many community partners including the city of Eugene, Lane Transit District (LTD), and Point2point Solutions/School Solutions (previously called Smart Ways to School), the University of Oregon, and Lane Coalitions for Healthy and Active Youth (LCHAY), a lot of work was underway to get more kids walking and biking to school safely.

Through the “five E’s” of the national SRTS program (Education, Encouragement, Enforcement, Engineering, and Evaluation) the district’s SRTS Program Manager has been helping to create a safe, healthy, and encouraging environment for local families to choose active transportation to get to and from school.

Superintendent Russell noted that the National Safe Routes to School Committee, on which he served as an alternate on behalf of the American Association of School Administrators, had met earlier in the day.

Mr. Rhodes introduced Lisa VanWinkle, a team member from LTD’s point2point Solutions. He noted that his position was funded through the Oregon Department of Transportation (ODOT) SRTS Program which is federally funded through the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA). He explained that it was a non-infrastructure grant, but the district had other infrastructure programs to fund it. He had started working in January 2008, for the district and he now led the local team consisting of members from the City of Eugene Public Works Department, its Recreation Division, the Eugene Area Riders, LCHAY, and various University of Oregon departments. He noted that he was originally from Eugene and had walked to school as a youth. He shared some slides that featured the program.

Mr. Rhodes stated that Roosevelt Middle School was the pilot school. He related that the first program was motivational in nature and was called the Freiker Program (standing for Frequent
Biker). He explained that bicycling to school was monitored and at the end of the year they had given out ten iPods and cameras for people who had ridden bicycles to school 90 percent of the time. He discussed a number of events planned around bicycle riding for district youth and their families. He said Adams Elementary had a walking school bus program and another program, called Kidical Mass, which occurred every third Saturday of the month and involved a bicycle ride to a fun destination such as an ice cream store or a baseball game. He related that the Bicycle Transportation Alliance (BTA) had an educational program but had only been able to reach about four to six schools in this area per year. He said through the Life Grant and with some support from the Oregon Community Foundation they were working on a sustainable program to purchase a fleet of bicycles and to certify physical education teachers to teach bicycle safety (the grant application was included in the consent items for this meeting). He stated that they also held Confidence Cycling for Families classes throughout the area and through Gears they taught several other classes. He listed other events they participated in, which included speaking to neighborhood groups. The Eugene www.eugenesrts.org web site is available as an educational resource with news information, a calendar of events, a toolkit for schools, and an option to subscribe to the monthly newsletter.

Mr. Rhodes also reported that they had worked with the city to write a grant for infrastructure funding through seven local schools. He said the grant funding would be used to make improvements around the schools and they had worked with the city to prepare the pieces to apply for the grant, which included doing parent surveys, student tallies, and creating an action plan for each school. He noted that the work had also created interest in the SRTS Program and other activities. Schools involved with the project were Roosevelt and Monroe Middle Schools, and César Chavez, McCormack, Edison, Camas Ridge, Buena Vista/Meadowlark Elementary Schools. He related that they knew from studies that the two main deterrents to families walking and biking were distance and concerns about traffic safety. He said by working with the city to address crossing challenges and to improve access for walkers and bikers on campus and off they hoped to increase the likelihood of families to choose active transportation. He acknowledged that distance was a factor; the farther a family lived from school, the less likely they were to walk or bike. He related that the LTD transit passes provided to students, Park and Stride Lots, and Rideshares were programs that sought to reduce the number of people taking cars to schools. He was also excited to be working with Design Bridge, which had created a bike parking area for Edison Elementary and was working on a second project at Roosevelt Middle School, which would provide covered parking for about 60 bicycles. He stated that the Safe Routes Program would continue to be a resource for the district, with the current funding through October 2010, in this grant cycle. He said they were also looking at future funding options, including some flexible transportation funds with the city and a possible ODOT Safe Routes to School non-infrastructure grant. He believed the program would continue to provide the district a valuable resource.

Ms. VanWinkle applauded Mr. Rhodes’ work. She said she served as Chair of the Oregon Safe Routes to School Advisory Committee, which helped to guide the distribution of funds throughout the state. She had been pleased that Eugene and Springfield had done well. She noted that the Springfield School District had received one of the first infrastructure grants, for bicycle amenities at a new elementary school, and this was the first such grant to be completed in the state. She said grant money had come to Monroe Middle School, for the physical education teacher and infrastructure, and the education encouragement provided that made Mr. Rhodes’ role possible. She related that the most recent infrastructure grant application that the city had submitted on behalf of the district had been ranked as the highest application over 28 others. While she considered the work to be slow and grass roots, it was growing. She related that the Bethel School District had a research project called Community and Schools Together...
(CAST), a group that sought to promote exercise and nutrition for K-5 students. She said she had come to the board meeting to show support and also to help the board to realize how much they were achieving and how much potential there was to take this effort to the next level.

**Receive a Report on the 2010 Legislative Special Session**

The Oregon Legislature had been meeting in special session. Barb Bellamy, Chief of Staff and Communications Director, provided a report on issues related to education.

Ms. Bellamy said they knew the legislature would be in session after the passage of the ballot measures. She thought she had spoken to all of the education-related bills that they were aware of, most importantly the action taken to ensure the whole $6 billion budgeted for the State School Fund was actually allocated. She stated that the $200 million that had not been released was now assured, which meant the district would receive $6 million. She considered this to be the most important outcome from the session for the district.

Ms. Bellamy stated that the statute that prohibited public school teachers from wearing religious clothing had been repealed and there was language in the bill that reinforced and required public schools to maintain a neutral position in regard to religion. The law would go into effect in July 2011. She had also talked about a legislative concept in regard to virtual charter schools at a previous meeting and she wanted to let the board know that those concepts did end up in a bill backed by both houses. She said the State Board of Education had the responsibility to develop a governance model for it, to look at levels and methods of funding, and to consider how to address special needs children. Additionally, she noted that the legislature had passed a bill that required all school campuses to have defibrillators in place by 2015.

Superintendent Russell confirmed that Ms. Bellamy had copied the letter she had sent to the local legislators to the board members. He explained that the letter had been precipitated by a phone call from State Representative Phil Barnhart regarding a story in the *Register Guard* regarding the budget forum. He related that Rep. Barnhart had wanted clarification about why, given that both ballot measures had passed and the legislature had released the funds, the district was keeping its reserves at the five percent level and why the district was considering proposed cuts. He said Rep. Barnhart better understood the situation, which was that the budgetary impact was due to declining enrollment, after their conversation. He thought Rep. Barnhart also wanted to share that it would be important for some of his colleagues to understand that notwithstanding the passage of Ballot Measures 66 and 67 and the additional $200 million from state reserves, most districts were facing reductions in the next year.

Mr. Smith noted that one state senator had informed the Oregon Business Association Education Committee that no school district would have to shorten the school year. He remarked that it seemed that legislators were sometimes distant from the school districts.

Board Vice Chair Alicia Hays suggested that they consider meeting with state legislators during their off season to help inform them about the state of the district.

**ITEMS FOR ACTION AT THIS MEETING**

**Approve New Board Policy JGAB – Use of Restraint and Seclusion**

On December 8, 2006, the State Board of Education adopted new provisions on the use of physical restraint and seclusion in Oregon public schools. The revisions in OAR 581-021-0061
and OAR 581-021-0062 required a number of procedural changes. As of September 1, 2007, school district boards were to have established written policies and procedures addressing the use of restraint and seclusion. School District 4J developed procedures and protocols for the use of restraint and seclusion, which the board had not yet adopted. A copy of the new Policy JGAB was included in the board packet.

Larry Sullivan, Director or Educational Support Services, reiterated that the policy would bring the district in line with state requirements. He said staff had spent nearly two years putting the policies and procedures together to ensure the safety of all students and to also address behavioral issues.

**MOTION:** Board Member Beth Gerot, seconded by Ms. Hays, moved to approve Board Policy JGAB, a policy in regard to the use of restraint and seclusion.

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

**CONSENT GROUP – ITEMS FOR ACTION**

Board Member Mary Walston disclosed that the second grant application was to her employer, United Way. She did not think it would affect her impartiality.

**Approve Grant Application: The Wider Net Project**

Staff from the Health Services Department submitted a grant application to the Oregon Department of Human Services for $25,000. This grant would allow the district’s School-Based Health Centers (SBHCs) to expand outreach and translation services to provide primary health care services, including physical, oral, mental, and vision health care to an estimated 75 children between the ages of 0 and 19 years, not currently eligible for the Health Care for All Oregon’s Children Program, and who did not currently have access to health services or had inconsistent access.

The superintendent recommended approval of the grant application. A copy of the grant description form was provided in the board packet.

**Approve Grant Application: Community Dental Health Program**

Staff from the Health Services Department submitted a grant application to United Way for $12,000. The Community Dental Health Programs for low-income youth provides dental health education, dental wellness programs, and dental restorative care and orthodontics to low income children who do not have access to dental health services. The program, which had been partially funded by United Way since 2007, would be able to expand geographically to include low income youth in the Springfield, Bethel and rural areas.

The superintendent recommended approval of the grant application. A copy of the grant description form was provided in the board packet.

**Approve Grant Application: Best/Arts Umbrella After School Music Program**

Staff from the Instruction Department submitted a grant application to the Muzak Foundation Music Matters Program for $11,200. The Best/Arts Umbrella After School Strings program was established in the fall of 2008 with 55 students participating in the program’s first year. During
the 2009-10 school year, the number of students participating in the program increased to 95. Student interest and participation in the music program continues to grow, resulting in the need for more instruments, books, and music supplies. The three schools slated to take part in the Muzak Best/Arts Umbrella program are Chavez, Howard, and River Road/Camino del Rio Elementary Schools. The grant will fund the purchase of cellos and basses, music books, and instructional supplies.

The superintendent recommended approval of the grant application. A copy of the grant description form was provided in the board packet.

**Approve Grant Application: Solar Initiative at Adams**

Staff from Adams Elementary School submitted a grant application to the Eugene Water & Electric Board (EWEB) Greenpower Program for $100,000. The primary purpose of Adams’ solar project would be to create a school-wide and community-based educational tool for generating renewable energy while reducing the school’s own energy footprint. The project is comprised of three components: 1) A solar energy installation; 2) an educational program incorporating renewable energy into the school’s curriculum; and 3) a community outreach program, including a wheelchair-accessible educational kiosk on the school’s grounds. The school’s vision and commitment is complemented by the expertise and dedication of its partners – Lane Community College’s Energy Management Program, the University of Oregon’s Environmental Leadership Program, and the Friendly Area Neighborhood Association. The project was vetted by the district’s engineers and found to be viable and an acceptable addition to Adams’ energy management program.

The superintendent recommended approval of the grant application. A copy of the grant description form was provided in the board packet.

**Approve Grant Application: Bike Education Project**

Staff from the Instruction Department submitted a grant application to the Oregon Community Foundation for $23,952. This project would support the Learning to Improve Functional Fitness in Eugene (LIFE) Project, an effort to improve student fitness that had been currently supported by a federal grant. The federal grant provided bicycles that could be shared for bike education. This grant would provide support and training for the bike education component of the project. The grant would also fund two cargo trailers, provide funds for bike maintenance the first year, and provide stipends to encourage and compensate teachers for the hours they spend in training.

The superintendent recommended approval of the grant application. A copy of the grant description form was provided in the board packet.

**Approve Board Meeting Minutes**

The superintendent recommended approval of the minutes from the December 2, 2009, and January 13, 2010, 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 items cover employment, resignations, and other routine personnel matters. The board may adjourn to executive session for matters dealing with employment if it desired to do so per ORS 192.660(2)(a).

**MOTION:** Ms. Levis, seconded by Board Member Jennifer Geller, moved to approve the consent items.

Mr. Smith commented that it appeared that all of the grant applications would require no additional financial obligation on the part of the district. He wanted to be careful not to take on burdens or expectations that they could not reasonably meet after the grant had expired.

**VOTE:** The motion passed unanimously and the consent items were approved; 7:0.

**ITEMS FOR ACTION AT A FUTURE MEETING**

**Approve K-8 Mathematics Instructional Materials Adoption for the 2010-2016 Adoption Cycle**

**Background**

The district follows the Oregon Department of Education state instructional materials adoption schedule. Due to the district’s financial situation, the K-8 Mathematics Instructional Materials Adoption scheduled for 2008-2009 was postponed for one year; the adoption of 2009-2012 mathematics materials was postponed for a projected two years.

At the time the K-8 adoption was postponed, the K-5 and 6-8 Mathematics Instructional Materials Adoption Committees were deadlocked due to the committees’ perceptions that the state adopted materials were unbalanced: that is, the curriculums were either too concept-development oriented, or too process oriented.

This year the district is proposing to go forward with the K-8 adoption. To address the concerns of last year’s adoption committees, an adoption committee consisting of teams of teachers from each grade level, K through 8, worked with district staff to create a curriculum that would provide an effective balance in mathematics concept development and process development, and that would align to state and district standards. For grades K-5, practice materials from the *enVisions* curriculum would be integrated with the *Investigations* curriculum. For grades 6-8, *Prentice Hall Middle Grade Mathematics* had been integrated with the *Connected Math Project* material. Recommendations from the adoption committee have been vetted by the Instructional Policy Council and the Instructional Leadership Team. District staff has worked with Pearson Publishing to custom-publish this curriculum.

**Discussion**

1. **Rationale:** OAKS data indicates that many 4J students are struggling with mathematics. For example, between 60% and 70% of the district’s American Indian, Black, and Latino students were not meeting or exceeding math achievement standards as measured by the 2009 OAKS assessment. Teachers are also struggling with inadequate mathematics curriculum materials that were not aligned to standards. This lack of appropriate materials has resulted in frustration among many of our classroom teachers, and an increased workload for our teachers due to the need to create their own materials. In order to better meet the needs of our students and teachers, our curriculum teams have developed a curriculum that would combine concept-building and practice materials and...
would support teachers to more effectively teach concepts in depth and would better prepare our students to meet grade-level benchmarks and the new graduation requirements.

2. **Options and Alternatives:** The other option at this time would be to not adopt the new curriculum. A decision not to adopt would put the district a second year behind the adoption cycle, thereby pushing back other adoptions as well, and would leave teachers and students without an adequate mathematics curriculum.

3. **Budget/Resource Implications:** District staff estimate a total cost for implementation of approximately $1.5 million. This would include costs for purchasing all materials and professional development throughout the first year of implementation.

4. **Board and Superintendent Goals:** This adoption would directly address the board and superintendent goal to increase achievement for all students and close the achievement gap. The proposed curriculum materials include resources for teaching, re-teaching, enriching, and scaffolding to help support all students.

**Recommendation:** The superintendent will recommend the adoption of K-8 Mathematics Instructional Materials for the 2010-2016 Adoption Cycle:

- For K-5, Charlemagne: Independent Adoption of Pearson *Cheneliere Mathematiques*.

Carl Hermanns, Assistant Superintendent/Chief Academic Officer, summarized the math adoption and the discussion to date. He stated that the change was being driven, in part, by increased graduation requirements in mathematics. He noted that it was looking like Oregon would adopt the national mathematics standard and the new curriculum could be tweaked to meet that standard. Staff had met with the Budget Committee and with the Instructional Policy Council, comprised of a group of constituents including staff, board representation, and parents. He said the council had recommended adoption. He also stated that if the curriculum was ordered in the spring, initial professional development could be undertaken in the current school year.

Regarding the argument that the math curriculum purchase should be postponed and the money put into protecting Full Time Equivalent (FTE) employees, he underscored that the one-time expense would come from the Fleet Fund and not the General Fund. He reiterated that they would be buying a curriculum that would meet the needs of teachers and students and would be with the district for at least seven years. He said placing the one-time Fleet Fund money into FTE would help protect them for one year and no longer and then, in facing the potential $11.4 million deficit in 2011-2012, there would be more difficult decisions to make. He acknowledged that approval would be a difficult decision, given the current budgetary circumstances, but staff felt approval was the right course of action.

Ms. Levis understood there had been some anxiety about implementing the new curriculum last year and asked how people felt about its implementation in the coming year. Mr. Hermanns responded that everything they had heard so far was positive and indicated that people were looking forward to having a solid math curriculum.
Mr. Torrey asked if staff considered the math curriculum to be a good program without taking into consideration the cost. Marna Knoer, mathematics teacher for Roosevelt Middle School, said many teachers had spent a lot of time on the curriculum and she was confident that the curriculum was the best of both worlds. She said they had picked the inquiry-based instruction that reached to the deep concepts and they had added the additional practice that was missing from that instruction. She related that teachers were excited about it and noted that they had been struggling this year to meet the new math standards with existing resources.

Ms. Gerot asked if they predicted any issues between what they were considering and the national standards. Ms. Knoer assured her that she had been following the new standards closely. She said earlier in the day the standards had been released to the state education departments and the Oregon Department of Education intended to release the draft to the Educational Service Districts (ESDs). She noted that the district had a meeting with Lane ESD to review them. She stated that as they reviewed the changes, each time they made a change it had come down more aligned with the Oregon standards, which were aligned with the national focal points.

Ms. Gerot supported the adoption. She stated that if they were going to get kids to meet the state standards and graduate, they needed to adopt the curriculum.

Ms. Levis also supported the adoption. She asked for a little more detail on the mobility issue so that kids who were moving around in the district would not fall through the cracks. Janis Swan, Federal Programs Coordinator, replied that when they had designed the curriculum they had set a course for all teachers to follow so that they would be in the same general place and students who had to move from one school to another would not lose their place. She added that they had also designed it so that there was enough material available through the curriculum that the teachers would not have to go out and look for it.

Ms. Levis appreciated that they had built professional development into the cost of the curriculum.

Ms. Hays had been surprised at the last budget discussion by how many people had not understood how high the number was for students who had to move from school to school. She had been especially surprised at the number of teachers who did not seem aware of it. She recommended that the district provide that information to teaching staff.

Mr. Torrey expressed his support for the curriculum. He had been particularly impressed by the time it would save for teaching staff. He asked if the Budget Committee would be asked to weigh in on the curriculum at its next meeting. His colleagues indicated that they favored discussing it there.

Ms. Geller stated she was surprised that some high school students did not receive the curriculum covered on the 10th grade OAKS test until the 11th grade.

Mr. Hermanns said while a lot of discussion had focused on the OAKS test and meeting the standards, the curriculum would help students to apply math skills in a variety of settings and to think critically and analytically.

Ms. Walston supported the curriculum. She related that in her visits at the various schools she had heard comments from teachers and principals in support of adopting the new curriculum.
Ms. Johnson-Freyd asked if the new curriculum would affect students who wanted to take higher level math classes. Ms. Knoer assured her that it would not.

Mr. Smith was pleased that staff would be able to work with the publisher to adapt the curriculum for the district.

**Accept the Audit Report from Grove, Mueller, and Swank, PC for the Fiscal Year 2008-09**

The firm of Grove, Mueller, and Swank, PC completed the annual audit in accordance with Oregon Revised Statutes. The District’s Financial Policy Committee, of which Mr. Torrey was a member, reviewed the Comprehensive Annual Financial Report, the KRVM-FM Radio of Lane County School District 4J Financial Statement, the report to management, and the staff response to the management report. Copies of the materials were included in the board packet.

As part of a memorandum of agreement between the district and the Eugene Education Association, completed May 13, 2009, the parties agreed that: “The District will report annually to the board the amount by which the actual costs to employ licensed personnel fell short of, or exceeded, the projected costs. This report will be provided at a board meeting scheduled in the spring, and will be noted in the summary of the audit report.” The projected amount was $50,230,820 and the actual expenditures were $50,044,849, falling short of the projected expenditure by $185,971 or .37%.

The superintendent will recommend acceptance of the audit report for fiscal year 2008-09.

Phil Scrima, Financial Operations and Reporting Manager, stated that the report gave an unqualified opinion, which was the best opinion possible. He said the management letter included management points made for the district by the auditor to improve processes the district had in place. The report also included a governance letter that talked about significant issues, management representation, and other audit findings, how they planned the audit and how it proceeded. He considered most important to be the staff response to the management letter items. He pointed out that one reportable condition regarding the reconciliation of bank payroll accounts had been noted and the auditors had indicated that the reconciliations were not completed in a timely fashion. He said they had communicated with staff regarding the monitoring of such reconciliations to ensure they were completed on a timely basis and the financial staff were investigating this and determining how to resolve the issues. He was pleased to report that they were caught up as of January. He believed they had made the corrections and were proceeding accordingly.

Mr. Torrey stated that he appreciated the direct way that Mr. Scrima had approached the reportable condition situation. He thought it was important for everyone to recognize that attached to the federal stimulus money was a requirement that the district do a very in-depth report. He said if they reviewed Project Chalkboard’s analysis of the district, they would see that the report expressed concern about the capacity of the district’s financial staff to deal with the workload. He said after listening to the audit report, he felt very strongly that the staff was doing great work using the resources available. He commended them.

Ms. Walston acknowledged that the audit was a lot of work. She said it was a very important part of the district’s function and that staff should keep up the good work.
COMMENTS AND COMMITTEE REPORTS BY INDIVIDUAL BOARD MEMBERS

Ms. Levis praised the report on the SRTS Program. She had attended a transit conference and had sat in on a session that talked about obesity and how it hooked in with infrastructure and other programs. She thought SRTS was a great program to be involved with and she appreciated the work that went into it.

Ms. Levis reported that the Equity Committee had focused on narrowing down its goals on things they could do to really affect student achievement. She said there would be a presentation at the Budget Committee meeting.

Additionally, Ms. Levis had attended the Budget Forum. She expressed appreciation for the feedback that was given and for the courage that it took for some of the teachers to participate and give their opinions and ask questions. She wanted to ensure that people knew they could still give feedback through the online survey and emails to board members.

Ms. Levis stated that there would be a webinar on Facebook, scheduled for March 16, sponsored by the National School Boards Association (NSBA). She had signed up for it.

Ms. Levis acknowledged the work of the student representatives to the board, noting that Ms. Partridge was participating in a fundraiser and the students did other good work as well.

Ms. Levis announced that that the Eugene Fire & Emergency Medical Services Department was holding a career day on April 9. She indicated she would provide more information on this event.

Ms. Gerot noted that she had signed up for the NSBA webinar. She stated that she had found Nicaragua to be a very interesting country and she had seen some of the same kinds of disagreements regarding leadership that people in this country were having. She had spoken with people about education and the literacy rate had gone from 30 percent to 80 percent under the current administration, but many students were still being excluded from getting an education. She said she would highly recommend visiting Nicaragua.

Ms. Gerot stated that she was chairing the Cost Panel for the Quality Education Commission, which was updating the model for the next legislative session. She said they had an interesting presentation by Colleen Mileham, Oregon Department of Education (ODE), and Vickie Fleming, Redmond School District Superintendent. She commented that they had spoken about the importance of getting people to recognize and buy into the philosophical shift that needed to happen early on and the professional development demands for teachers to implement proficiency based instruction assessment in the classroom. She related that as they talked further it appeared that many of the initial investments would be mitigated because this would be a change in the way they did business and not an overlay on what was already happening. She stated that Brian Reeder, ODE, had set up a facility component for the model. She noted that she had invited Hillary Kittleson to be a part of the Cost Panel because they were looking for someone with a background in district finances.

Ms. Hays echoed appreciation expressed to the SRTS staff. She challenged the board to have a bicycle to board meeting day. She also wanted to honor the great job done by staff on the public forums. She said it had given people the chance to participate and an opportunity to be more educated about the situations. She had found the interactive process to be very helpful.
Ms. Walston thanked the classified staff in honor of Classified Employee Week. She said every time she went on a school visit she was always introduced to the school secretary, who seemed to run everything. She also wanted to express thanks to the legislators for releasing the $200 million to be allocated to the School Fund.

Ms. Walston had visited Cal Young Middle School and had given the morning announcements and attended an alcohol awareness class given by the principal. She had been joined by Ms. Geller and visited Willagillespie Elementary School where they had talked with Stella Dadson about the strategic planning process. She noted that Ms. Dadson had mentioned the new math curriculum. On the following day she had gone to McCornack Elementary School and had read aloud to a first grade class and had enjoyed it. She noted that the budget forums had occurred in between her school visit days and echoed appreciation to staff for the work that went into them. She had visited César Chavez Elementary School and had visited Spencer Butte Middle School, with Ms. Geller joining her at the latter. She said they had a great conversation with principal, BJ Blake, about the structure of middle schools and what the Equity Committee had drawn up from their retreat. She had also visited Madison and Monroe Middle Schools. On the preceding day she had participated in Read Across America by reading to a first grade class.

Ms. Geller also thanked staff for the work that had gone into the forums that were held in a very short time frame. She announced that the next Budget Committee meeting would be held on March 15.

Ms. Geller said she had posted the link to the Civic Stadium survey on her Facebook page.

Mr. Smith related that his daughter had been named Teacher of the Year for her district in Washington. His colleagues applauded.

**ADJOURN**

Mr. Smith adjourned the meeting at 8:35 p.m.

_____________________________   _____________________________
George Russell     Craig Smith
Superintendent     Board Chair

*(Recorded by Ruth Atcherson)*

**Attachments to Official Minutes:**
1. Classified Employee Appreciation Week Resolution
2. Board Policy JGAB – Use of Restraint and Seclusion
3. Grant Application Form: The Wider Net Project
4. Grant Application Form: Community Dental Health Program
5. Grant Application Form: Best/Arts Umbrella After School Music Program
6. Grant Application Form: Solar Initiative at Adams
7. Grant Application Form: Bike Education Project
8. Personnel Action Items
9. 2008-09 Financial Audit Materials