Eugene School District 4J Board of Directors

2008 Fall Board Retreat
Meeting Notes

Friday, September 26, 2008
1:15-5:00 p.m. Ed Center - Parr Room

Attendees
4J board members: Charles Martinez, Jr., chair; Yvette Webber-Davis, vice chair; Eric Forrest, Beth Gerot, Alicia Hays, Craig Smith, Jim Torrey

Superintendent & Core Team: George Russell, Carl Hermanns, Barb Bellamy (Tom Henry absent)

ExEL team members: Paul Duchin, Merri Steele, Dayna Mitchell, Jill Simmons, Marshall Peter, Laurie Moses, Yvonne Curtis, Stella Dadson, Sara Cramer, Randy Bernstein

Other: Kay Mehas and Larry Sullivan, 4j Instruction Dept., and Harriett Rasmussen, ExEL coach, attend as a listener.

I. Welcome, introductions, and agenda review – Charles Martinez

II. ExEL update and discussion – George Russell

The ExEL team members joined the board for this agenda item.

Purpose:
• Provide an update and opportunity for board to ask questions.
• Connect ExEL to board goals and the board’s current work.
• What decisions or actions might the board be asked to take?
• Are there any “red flags” or questions?

ExEL Team Update Report - Yvonne Curtis presented a powerpoint reviewing the ExEL work.

Discussion included:
• Problem statement (slide 3) – concerns about wording, how it will be interpreted. We need different messages for different stakeholders.
• Board accountability to each student – How is the board accountable to making sure each students learn? How do we allocate our resources to make sure this happens?
• Need a paper that puts this all together and helps communicate all of this to the community.

Point of View 9/17/08 draft – Randy Bernstein presented draft (see attachment)

Purpose is to help inform our strategy to increase student achievement.
• Not clear how this directly links back to our problem statement? Not clear.
• How will this be used? How will we use to engage our stakeholders? (engage stakeholders in thinking about this as well as get input)
• How will we know that we’re successful?
• Continue this discussion in the future–need more time to review the document.
Theory of Action draft #4 – Dayna Mitchell

Theory of action description - If you do purposeful, relevant actions you will achieve an outcome.

What is the board’s role in all of this? Does the board approve or adopt the language at some point in the future? What actions does the board take?

George: budget and policy decisions, embrace the philosophical underpinnings that helps set the direction for management to move forward with implementation, give input back to the ExEL team.

ALSO to communicate with the community.

Discussion:
- Next steps
- How do we address increasing achievement for all students as well as closing the achievement gap and the need for all students to meet our new, higher standards?

Direction:
- Board leadership should discuss how to follow-up on board’s input today and how we next involve the board
- Summarize input we heard today–recognizing that board members made individual comments

III. Working Agreements – Barb Bellamy, facilitates

Reviewed the working agreements and discussed areas that there might be confusion or we could do better.
Saturday, September 27, 2008
8:00 a.m.-noon
Ed Center (Parr Room or Auditorium)

Margot Helphand facilitated on Saturday.

7:30-8:00 a.m. Breakfast available

8:00-9:00 a.m. Beliefs & Values
See notes on document regarding suggested edits

9:00-11:40 a.m. Board goals & key results for 2008-10
See notes on document regarding suggested edits

11:40 -11:45 a.m. De-brief and wrap up