MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF BOARD OF DIRECTORS  
SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 4J, LANE COUNTY, OREGON  

April 5, 2006

Meeting Convened

The Board of Directors of School District No. 4J, Lane County, Eugene, Oregon, held a regular meeting on April 5, 2006, at 7:10 p.m., at the Education Center, 200 North Monroe Street, Eugene, Oregon. Notice of the meeting was mailed to the media and posted in Education Center on March 31, 2006, and published in The Register-Guard on April 3, 2006.

ROLL CALL

BOARD MEMBERS:
Beth Gerot, Chair  
Tom Herrmann, Vice-Chair  
Eric Forrest  
Charles Martinez, Jr.  
Craig Smith  
Anette Spickard  
Virginia Thompson

STAFF:
George Russell, Superintendent of Schools and District Clerk  
Barbara Bellamy, Director, Communications and Intergovernmental Relations  
Tom Henry, Assistant Superintendent – Instructional Services & School Services K-8  
Hillary Kittleson, Director of Financial Services  
Kay Mehas, Director of School Services  
Susan Fahey, Operations and Reporting Manager  
Caroline Passerotti, Financial Analyst

STUDENT REPRESENTATIVES:
Katie Parker, Churchill High School  
Steven Brantley, IHS, All Campuses  
Jordan Ries, North Eugene High School  
Sarah Adler, South Eugene High School

CALL TO ORDER, ROLL CALL, AND FLAG SALUTE

Board Chair Beth Gerot called the meeting to order at 7:10 p.m. and led the salute to the flag. She noted that all board members were present.

INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS AND SUPERINTENDENT’S REPORT

Superintendent Russell welcomed everyone at the meeting.

Superintendent Russell commented on the following items in the red folders provided for board members:
• A CONCEPT PAPER for discussion purposes only on the Jefferson Academy of the Arts and Technology. Superintendent Russell emphasized that this was a concept paper and that most of the decisions and the direction would be made by groups at the school and the community for Jefferson and Magnet Arts.

• Action Plan from the Chalk Board Project – He noted that the Chalk Board Project was asking for additional input.

• Subject: Draft #6A – Superintendent Russell said that the district had entered into a legal suit against the State related to funding adequacy for schools which was covered under Article VIII, Section 8 which required the legislature to provide a report on the adequacy of K-12 education funding. Draft #6A was the legislature’s report stating why the State could not meet its requirements. He informed the board that a number of school districts across the State had sought to sign-on as litigants in the suit against the State.

• An article titled The New Integration, from the American School Board Journal. He said that the article focused on economics, achievement and the data around social/economic segregation, and what a number of school districts across the nation are doing to address integration around socio-economic status and poverty issues.

COMMENTS BY STUDENT REPRESENTATIVES

Sarah Adler, South Eugene High School, reported that the Student Government was working on the Junior/Senior prom, which would have a Greek theme and would feature authentic Greek rock music. The participants in the Mr. Axeman contest visited the ICU at the Children’s Hospital and were continuing to raise money for the hospital. A Recycling Committee and a Mural Committee were working to improve the environment at the high school. The Minority Student Achievement Network was meeting and working to inform the students about the experiences of different minority groups at the school. Ms. Adler also reported on the March to Math, Jazz Cabaret, the theater activities, and the attempt to create a stress-free environment.

Jordan Ries, North Eugene High School, said that AP and IB students were getting ready for exams. Students received confirmation of which small school they would be attending next year. The Jazz Ensemble would be attending the Pleasant Hill Jazz Festival on April 15. Mr. Ries said that students were talking about the proposed Wellness Policy and that most students were concerned about the soda issue and wanted to keep soda available in the machines. He said that the students could easily walk to a grocery store nearby to get a soda and that the students thought that it would cause more of a disturbance to remove soda from the schools than to leave it. The Juniors were planning a prom for May 13 at the MacDonald Theater.

Ms. Gerot encouraged the student representatives to attend the public hearing on the Wellness Policy.

Katie Parker, Churchill High School, said that Spring sports were off to a good start. There was a successful band concert with a guest musician. The Health Center hosted a well-attended open-house. A small group of Thespian Society members were going to State to watch the competition. There will be a joint production with North Eugene High School of the play, Leader of the Pack. Over $14,000 has been collected by participants in the Mr. Lancer Contest. A blood drive was scheduled for April 28. Ms. Parker said that Leadership was working on updating its constitution.

Steven Brantley, IHS, All Campuses, said that a Carnival was planned with clubs from the different campuses, information about IHS, videos from trips, and an auction to inform students about IHS. The t-shirts are ready for purchase. Elections for student government would be starting soon.
 COMMENTS BY EMPLOYEE GROUPS

Paul Duchin, President of the Eugene Education Association (EEA) and Merri Steele, Vice-President of the EEA, thanked the Wellness Committee for its work and said that they would like to comment on two parts of the proposed Wellness Policy: recess, and the use of food as a reward. Mr. Duchin began by saying that the assumption that recess was for physical activity might not be an accurate assumption. He said that the EEA strongly believed that every child should have physical education every day and has advocated for staffing for many years. He said that literacy was enhanced when there were physical education teachers at elementary schools. He noted that all children had different needs and that not all children wanted to be engaged in physical activity during recess. He emphasized again that the EEA thought physical activity was important and that it should happen every day. He related a story he heard about a master teacher who said that not keeping a child in from recess in order to help them learn to read would be more punishment than to miss recess. Mr. Duchin said that the EEA was not saying that recess should be withheld but noted that there might be occasions on which it was appropriate for a child to miss recess.

Ms. Steele addressed the part of the policy that dealt with food incentives. She suggested changing the wording from discouraging junk food or candy to encouraging healthy foods. She said that teachers did not want to have to be “food police” but would instead want to encourage healthy foods.

Mr. Duchin emphasized that the EEA did not think that the assumptions in the report were inaccurate, but that the EEA did think that there were other ways to ensure physical activity. He added that perhaps a softer approach in the policy to allow for some practices that had used for years regarding recess and rewards for students.

ITEMS FOR INFORMATION

Receive the Wellness Policy Committee Recommendations and Superintendent’s Response to the Wellness Policy

Superintendent Russell introduced Hillary Kittleson, Director of Financial Services, and Jenny Ulum, Chair of the Wellness Policy Committee, and asked them to introduce the topic.

Ms. Kittleson thanked Ms. Ulum for chairing the committee and the other members of the committee for their hard work on the process. She asked Ms. Ulum to comment on the process after which she would review the policy.

Ms. Ulum thanked Ms. Kittleson for guiding the committee through the process, Sedexo for its help, and the staff and board members for their sincere concern about kids and their health. Ms. Ulum acknowledged Mr. Ries comments on the controversy and interest among students about the policy. She read some letters that the committee had received from Spring Creek Elementary School students commenting on the proposed policy.

Ms. Ulum said that the committee had nine meetings in which it reviewed policies of other districts, had small group discussions, learned about policy versus rules, heard from a number of experts, and developed guiding principals and sample policy language. She commented that during the process there was a lot of consensus among committee members. Ms. Ulum said that she had reviewed Superintendent Russell’s recommended changes and that she thought that his changes were either improvements or neutral and did not significantly change the policy.
Ms. Ulum summarized the main items addressed by the committee in the policy:

- Eliminate foods with no nutritional value from the schools
- More physical activity in the schools
- Healthy snack and party guidelines
- The difference between junk food as a substitute for healthy food versus food as a valuable cultural and social expression
- Recommended an on-going committee to be able to recommend changes to the rules as new information or new issues arise

Ms. Ulum said that the committee solicited public comment through a public hearing on February 22, 2006, and through the 4J web site. She noted that the comments from the public were fairly consistent in consensus with the proposed policy.

Ms. Kittleson reviewed the six sections of the draft policy and noted the following recommendations:

**Goals** – Most people agreed on these

**Physical Activity** – To encourage the integration of physical activity with the academic curriculum.
- To withhold recess only on an occasional basis as part of an individual or school-wide behavior plan and not as punishment.
- To encourage students to participate in before and after school activities with the district working to reduce financial barriers to participation.
- To engage the parents and community in encouraging more physical activity.

**Nutrition Education** – To try to coordinate the nutrition messages to be the same in the classroom and the cafeteria.
- To encourage community involvement.

**Other Activities That Support Student Wellness** – To continue to support School-Based Health Clinics as fiscally possible.
- To encourage the creation and use of school gardens.

**Nutrition Standards** – divided into three categories

**National School Breakfast and Lunch Programs** - To look for opportunities to integrate local, organic foods into meals served to students.
- To recognize the importance of sufficient time to eat and of a pleasant, relaxed eating environment.

**Competitive Foods** – Everything sold or distributed at school outside of the national school lunch program.
- To have the superintendent set nutrition and portion size guidelines.
- No foods of Minimal Nutritional Value (soda, high sugar candies, and cough drops) as defined by the U.S. Department of Agriculture, should be distributed by staff or sold to students on school campuses during the school day.
- To develop “Healthy Snacks” and “Healthy Parties” nutrition guidelines.
- To offer high quality, nutritious food as a la Carte items in the cafeteria.
- To encourage fundraising activities that promote physical activity and provide healthy food and beverage options.
Vending Machines – Two options were offered. To include only nutritious food options that meet the Healthy Snack guidelines in K-8 with a transition period of three years in 9-12 or to make it apply to K-12 from the beginning.

Use of Food as Incentive or Reward – Ms. Ulum explained that the goal was to move away from junk food as a reward while allowing for flexibility for foods at social or cultural events.

After-School Events Sponsored by District – to include healthy options.

**Policy Implementation** – To have the superintendent responsible for implementation of this policy.

To appoint a Wellness Advisory Committee to advise the superintendent.

Board Member Craig Smith said that his daughter who was a teacher pointed out to him that teachers paid for rewards given out to students and that there was a difference in price between a big bag of candy with many pieces and some other option. Ms. Ulum said that the Healthy Snacks list would help give teachers other options.

Superintendent Russell reviewed his changes to the draft policy. He noted that most of the changes were minimal editorial changes to help clarify the policy. He commented on the following changes:

**Goals** – Add language to make it clear that the board was committed to providing *intellectually stimulating* school environments that promote and protect children’s health, *social and emotional* well-being . . .

Add language to clarify the health of the students was *essential to their academic success*.

**Physical Activity** – No proposed changes

Superintendent Russell said that in listening to the discussions about recess, he thought that it was clear that the committee had a concern about recess being withheld in general and thought that kids should get their recess.

**Parent and Community Support** – Change language to make it clear that the district would *seek* ways to have kids find healthier ways to get to school besides vehicular transportation.

**Nutrition Education** – Add language to clarify being consistent with the State curriculum guidelines on health education.

**Community Involvement** – Include school gardens in this section and remove it from **Other Activities That Support Student Wellness**.

**Nutrition Standards** – Page 4, third paragraph, under **Competitive Foods** – change the sentence to: *Foods of Minimal Nutritional Value, as defined by the U. S. Department of Agriculture shall not be distributed by staff or sold to students on school campuses during the school day.*

Superintendent Russell emphasized that saying that the district would not offer foods of minimal nutritional value set the stage for everything in the policy that followed.

**Vending Machines** – Recommended merging the two options to read: *Vending machines accessible to students on school campuses shall include only nutritious food options that meet the Healthy Snacks guidelines. The district will use strategies to promote healthy food choices such as setting lower prices for healthier options, and offering a high percentage of nutritious food options.*
Exception: High Schools will have up to three years to meet this provision and will use this transitional period as an opportunity for student involvement and education.

Superintendent Russell addressed the issue of removing certain foods from the vending machines that did not meet the Healthy Snacks guidelines. He acknowledged the fact that five years ago the argument from students, that if they were old enough to drive and to enter the military, they were old enough to make food choices had influenced the board’s decision to enter into contracts with soda companies for vending machines. He said that he was hearing the same argument from kids today but that his response was different now because more had been learned about wellness and good health in the last five years. He said that the question for him was whether the school district ought to enable what it believed to be bad choices. He said that the compelling arguments from the students did not hold the same weight today.

Use of Food as Incentive or Reward – In response to comments from teachers, principals, and the EEA, Superintendent Russell changed the draft policy to say that the use of candy as a reward was strongly discouraged rather than eliminated. He reminded the board that foods with minimal nutritional value were banned which would determine which candies could be used.

Superintendent Russell added that some Special Education teachers have used the practice of awarding candy to get certain behaviors or performance from special needs children and have raised the issue that this was a practice that made sense to them.

Policy Implementation – Recommended reducing the recommended size of the Wellness Advisory Committee and add ex officio members from each of the employee groups. Recommended modifying the role of the committee to advise the superintendent on responding to scientific findings related to student nutrition and wellness.

Ms. Adler reported that South had done a survey of 100 people throughout the 4J district about the Wellness Policy and junk food versus healthy food and had chosen 15 people who completely disagreed with putting healthy food into the district to participate in an experiment of eating a diet that did not include any saturated sugar and walking or riding a bike to school every day. She said that she participated along with other students from Parker, South, Sheldon, Roosevelt, and Harris. Ms. Adler said that the changes in the students over a three week period were astonishing. She said that they felt better and were more sustained throughout the day while eating less food. She said that she thought that if kids were given time they would change their minds about the policy recommendations.

Ms. Adler added that she rode her bike eight miles to school every day during the experiment and that she felt so good during first period. She said that kids who lived just two blocks from school said that just being outside before school was very beneficial to them. She thought that it was good that the policy was recommending that students get to school without vehicles.

Mr. Smith said that he was concerned about unintended consequences of the policy such as discouraging kids who were on free and reduced lunches from eating at school. He asked if the committee had any discussion about the eating habits of low-income students or any possible impact from the policy. Ms. Ulum said that the committee did not contemplate the idea that if the only choices available were healthy ones, the kids would choose not to eat. She said that there was some discussion of the high cost of organic foods and the impact of that on lunches. Ms. Kittleson said that the goal was that the main lunch line would be so healthy and so inviting and so tasty that kids, that no matter what their income level, would want to be there.
Board Member Tom Herrmann asked for clarification about the items offered in vending machines. Ms. Kittleson said that soda would not be sold in vending machines and that other items would have to meet the Healthy Snacks guidelines.

In response to a question from Superintendent Russell, Ms. Ulum said that the intention in Option A under Vending Machines was to have the soda out of the machines immediately. She said that the committee did understand that the district might be constrained by contractual agreements with the vending machine companies and did not expect the district to break any contract agreements but urged the district to begin negotiations with the companies about removing soda. Superintendent Russell said that he needed time to reflect to make sure that was clear in the policy.

Mr. Herrmann asked if the last sentence under Before and After School Activities about reducing financial barriers to participation in activities was meant as a financial commitment or an ephemeral goal. Superintendent Russell said that the discussion about this centered on working with groups such as Kids Sports for them to provide scholarships.

Superintendent Russell returned to the topic of removing soda from the vending machines and asked for clarification about the following sentence: *Within three years of adoption of this policy, the district shall include only nutritious food options that meet the Healthy Snacks guidelines on all campuses...* Ms. Kittleson said that once the decision was made to eliminate foods of minimal nutritional value, the decision was made on soda and that then the committee discussed what would be included in the vending machines. She said that the options presented were:

- K-12 would include only healthy options
- K-8 would include only healthy options and 9-12 would have three years to get only healthy options in their vending machines

Ms. Kittleson used as examples items such as sports drinks, potato chips, or chocolate bars that might not be listed as foods of minimal nutritional value so they could be in vending machines in the high schools, but might not be included on the Healthy Snacks list and so would be removed within the three year transition period.

Board Member Eric Forrest expressed his deep concern about the lack of requirements for physical activity in schools. He said that as a parent who was modeling physical activity for his children, it was hard to send his child to school where the same value was not modeled. He said that to have physical education (PE) as an elective among other electives such as Spanish, was not fair to a child. He said that while he understood that the answer was funding he thought that the district was abdicating its responsibility by talking about what it would like to see happen without being specific about how to make it happen. Ms. Ulum said that committee members expressed frustration about this issue also.

Superintendent Russell explained that the district met State standards for physical education but added that the State standards were not very high. He said that before Ballot Measure 5, school districts developed their own standards and required more PE. He said that as resources were cut, PE was cut. He pointed out that much of the PE offered now in the elementary schools was paid for out of City levy dollars. He acknowledged that the draft policy was not specific about how the district would provide more PE because it would mean taking resources away from another program. Mr. Forrest suggested that there were community resources on which the district could rely to help do some modeling for physical activity.
Mr. Forrest said that this was an issue that he was facing personally with his children in choosing classes for next year. He repeated that he thought that it was great to have ideas and aspirations for physical activity and that the district needed to include something more concrete about what it would do to implement those ideas.

Tom Henry, Assistant Superintendent – Instructional Services & School Services K-8, said that there were resources in the community. He added that changing the daily school schedules to include more PE would take a lot of planning and thought. He noted that trainings had been provided to teachers about how the importance of physical activity to learning and about how to include physical activity in their day. He said that there were lots of possibilities and that the district would need to be more systematic about how it thought about and implemented those possibilities. Mr. Forrest said that physical activity enhanced learning and also enhanced life span while allowing the community to remain vibrant and positive. He said that he thought that the district had to take the lead on that.

Ms. Parker said that she agreed with Mr. Forrest and gave several examples of how students had to choose between PE and important academic classes. She said that with her full schedule, she had never been able to take PE in high school.

Ms. Parker said that at Churchill High School, it was the freshman and sophomores who were expressing concern about removing soda from the vending machines because they were the ones who could not leave campus to buy sodas. She said that she agreed with Superintendent Russell that the district should not enable kids to make unhealthy food choices. She said that while she had supported the three-year transition period, she thought now that perhaps three years was a little long. She suggested that students be included in the decisions about what would be in vending machines by being able to vote on which healthy options would be sold. She added that she had heard that kids wanted real juice as a choice in the machines.

Board Member Charles Martinez wondered if there were other things on the list of foods of minimal nutritional value, such as the aforementioned cough drops, that might have potential ramifications in school. He said that he was also concerned about the ongoing implementation issues that could arise from using this list from the U. S. Department of Agriculture, noting that the list could be influenced or maneuvered by the political process. Ms. Kittleson said that the definition of minimal nutritional value had been used for quite a while and that lots of school districts in the country used it as one of their thresholds. She said that she did not think that it would change very often and that the odds were that it was going to continue to be a real low threshold. Ms. Ulum noted that an exception could be made for cough drops.

In response to a question from Dr. Martinez, a representative from Sedexo said that they were usually notified in advance by letter when a food was going to be added to the list of foods of minimal nutritional value. He added that he did not foresee it changing often. Mr. Smith suggested that the list be identified as of the day of the implementation of the policy.

Mr. Smith suggested adding language to the policy that would clarify that the vending machine policy would be subject to the negotiation of reasonable resolution on contractual restraints. He said that otherwise he thought that the district would be in breach of the contracts. Superintendent Russell said that he would investigate the possibilities of renegotiating what went in the vending machines or buying out the rest of the contracts.

There was a brief discussion about the committee’s intent in its recommendations in the two options under Vending Machines. Superintendent Russell pointed out that the provisions of the policy would go into effect as soon as the policy was implemented. Ms. Ulum acknowledged
that there was not consensus on the committee as to how the issue of contractual agreements would be handled. Board Member Anette Spickard said that she thought that the decision as to how to handle the contracts was up to the board.

Ms. Ulum said that this was meant to be a forward thinking, long-standing policy that would set a benchmark for wellness policies in the district and that everyone was on in agreement on the direction and message of the policy even if it did not happen this year or next year. Ms. Gerot pointed out that if the board set the draft into policy, it would go into effect next year. Mr. Smith repeated that he would like to have some preparatory language added to the policy about dealing with the contractual restraints.

Mr. Smith gave a brief historical perspective on why PE was not more easily available to students. He said that post Ballot Measure 5, the district was forced to make policy decisions to reflect Draconian cuts to the budget. He said that those decisions could be revisited and that it would mean taking something else away because of the limited resources available to the district. He noted that hundreds of teaching positions had been cut while the number of students remained about the same.

Ms. Spickard commented that the committee struggled with setting a broad policy while not being too prescriptive with how it would be implemented. She noted that a huge amount of details about implementation now rested with Superintendent Russell. She said that many committee members expressed concerns similar to Mr. Forrest’s, that this was a broad policy and not an action plan for implementing the policy. She said that the action plan would happen when the superintendent drafted the Administrative Rules. Superintendent Russell said that the difficult piece for him was to be clear about what the policy was. He noted that based on the conversation, it was not immediately clear as to what should be included in the Administrative Rules.

Mr. Herrmann said that given that there were two weeks before the public hearing at the next meeting, and two weeks after that before the board made a decision on the policy, he suggested that the staff begin contacting Pepsi and Coke in order to get a sense of the possibilities. He thought that the board would be able to do a better job of drafting the policy if those conversations began to take place. Ms. Gerot said that she would like to include asking about the contracts on the vending machines that had snacks in them.

Board Member Virginia Thompson said that she would oppose the district spending money to buy out contracts and would support looking for some negotiation.

Dr. Thompson said that in listening to some of the comments form students in their letters to the committee, she began to contemplate on unintended consequences. She said that there was a fine line between talking about wellness and obesity and putting some children in a very difficult position in terms of their own physical being. She said that she thought that the district needed to be very careful, particularly at the elementary grades, about how these conversations were approached so that students whose image might already be suffering did not suffer any more.

In response to a comment from Ms. Adler about the contracts with Pepsi and Coke, Susan Fahey, Operations and Reporting Manager, said that there were no provisions in the contracts about the exact percentages of soda to be included in the vending machines, however, there was a case sale commitment for drinks.
Ms. Gerot announced that a public hearing on the committee recommendation and the superintendent’s suggested amendments was scheduled for April 19, 2006 and board action was scheduled for May 3, 2006. She thanked Ms. Ulum for chairing the Wellness Policy Committee.

Receive a Report on the Wallace Grant

Kay Mehas, Director of School Services, presented a report on the Wallace Grant. She said that this was the fourth year of the five-year Wallace Foundation Leadership for Education Achievement in Districts (LEAD) project. She announced that the district had already been notified that it would be funded another $1 million next year. Ms. Mehas said that the district had been selected to participate in three Wallace Issue Groups to review and research specific issues known to impact schools. 4J School District would be participating in the Issue Groups focusing on (1) Assessing Leadership and Leadership Behaviors, (2) Resource Allocation and Incentives, and (3) High School Leadership. She noted that the issue groups would be doing work for three years which would mean that the district would be funded beyond next year in some way for this work.

Ms. Mehas said that every year the Wallace Grant changed. She said that last year the district centered some of its work on literacy and cultural competency and that this year the focus would be on a Cohesive Leadership System. She referred to two handouts:

- Wallace Foundation Lead Grant 2006-2006 Scope of Work Summary
- From Leadership to Learning – A Cohesive Leadership System

Ms. Mehas said that the Wallace Grant said that it was important to have the State working closely with the district to look at standards, training, and policies. She said that Oregon was one of the few states in the nation to include cultural competence in its TSPC and she noted that even before that, the district had included cultural competence as one of its guidelines for evaluating principals. She said that the belief was that to understand the needs of all students and to meet those needs, one needed to be culturally competent and proficient.

Ms. Mehas said that basically the district would be continuing its work from last year which would focus primarily on the development of principal level leadership. The grant’s scope of work this year included the continued development of our four regional K-12 Learning Communities, which were comprised of the principals and assistant principals from each region. Each K-12 Learning Community developed and followed a regional improvement plan for eliminating the achievement gap. This year, these plans continued an emphasis on using data to make informed instructional decisions and on developing cultural competence.

Ms. Mehas related a story from Mr. Henry about the attention that the district received at an Association of Curriculum and Development conference because it had created an Educational Leadership Tool. She said that other districts wanted to see it because it was cutting edge.

Ms. Mehas said that she would like to come back to the board to review the final report from the Educational Development Center which spent six days evaluating the district’s K-12 Learning Communities. She said that it would be exciting to see how an outside organization viewed the work the district was doing. Ms. Mehas said that she thought that the K-12 Learning Communities in 4J were unique and could be replicated around the United States. Ms. Mehas said that she thought that the literacy funds and the K-12 Learning Communities had contributed to the improvement in test scores.
Ms. Mehas said that the district would be having some exciting people come to Eugene during the final year of the grant. She said that it was great working with the board. She said that staff from other districts often commented on how fortunate 4J was to have a board that worked well together and with the district staff. She added that Superintendent Russell was considered one of the most valuable and knowledgeable superintendents.

Review the Progress the Superintendent is Making Toward His Annual Goals

Superintendent Russell reported that on October 9, 2005, he and the board agreed upon his goals for the 2005-2006 and 2006-2007 school years, along with the other criteria that would be used in his annual evaluation. The goals deal with student achievement, school choice access and options, accountability, legislative issues, and communication and intergovernmental relations. A copy of the progress report was included the agenda packet.

Superintendent Russell gave a brief overview of the report noting the following:

- Key results in closing the achievement gap
- Work of the Instructional Leadership Team
- K-12 Learning Communities
- How much the issue of school choice access and options had driven his work of the last few years

Superintendent Russell asked that the board review the report and let him know if there were any questions or concerns. He added that some things were moving forward such as the new school construction of Madison and Cal Young and the decision to move ahead with all-weather fields at those schools. He said that there had been some good conversations with the City to get some support for those fields. He said that he thought that the fields would be a strong asset for the school district as well as for the community. He pointed out that having this kind of facility for kids to be able to get physical activity tied in to the Wellness Policy. Superintendent Russell spoke to Mr. Forrest’s concerns about PE and noted that while the district had fallen back in requiring PE, it had strengthened its relationship with groups like Kids Sports and AYSO, etc. for after-school activities. He said that until the funding picture changed, the district would be required to look for community partnerships and ways to improve opportunities for kids to participate in physical activity.

Ms. Gerot said that reviewing the report, she was aware that it had been a very busy year. She commended the staff for the amazing amount of work that had been done with so few people. Superintendent Russell said that more work was coming with the strategic direction planning project. He said that he had been following the strategic planning work in Portland because that district had some of the same issues on a larger scale as the issues in Eugene.

Mr. Forrest asked Superintendent Russell how, as a school board member, he could answer people when they questioned the new plan for a K-8 school of 250 to 350 kids when the K-8 proposed school size was around 500 kids. Superintendent Russell said that he was still trying to figure out the strategic direction and how the different pieces like declining enrollment, alternative schools, and neighborhood schools fit together. He said that the reason there was specific focus on the Jefferson Magnet Arts School was the implication for Churchill High School if the district did not figure out some way to keep some of those kids in that region. He said that the district needed to do something immediately to address this issue and give the district time to do its strategic planning. He said that like Portland, the 4J district would have to look at the question of the feasibility of keeping smaller schools open knowing that they are being successful with kids.
CONSENT GROUP - ITEMS FOR ACTION

MOTION: Anette Spickard, seconded by Craig Smith, moved approval of the Consent Calendar.

VOTE: All members present voted yes (7-0).

Approve Board Meeting Minutes

Superintendent Russell recommended approval of the minutes of the work session held January 11, 2006 and the regular board meetings held January 18, 2006, February 1, 2006 and February 15, 2006.

Approve Contract for Backup and Disaster Recovery System

Proposals to provide a backup and disaster recovery system (System) were opened January 13, 2006 in response to a Request for Proposals (RFP) issued by the District. The RFP was issued to address the electronic storage needs and performance issues of the central servers servicing the students and staff of District. Proposers were requested to respond to District specifications and to submit information regarding their company, system diagrams and descriptions, pricing, and references.

The RFP was posted on the Oregon Procurement Information Network (ORPIN) and sent directly to five vendors. Information from ORPIN indicated that twenty interested vendors downloaded the RFP. Despite this vendor interest, the only proposal received was from PWI Technologies, an Incentra Solutions Company (PWI) of Beaverton, Oregon. Purchasing and CIS staff reviewed and evaluated the proposal. Representatives of PWI met with CIS representatives to answer additional questions regarding their proposal. The result was that PWI was determined to fully meet the requirements of the District.

PWI’s proposed cost was $234,033 for the System, which included maintenance for two years.

Superintendent Russell recommended contracting with PWI Technologies, an Incentra Solutions Company to purchase a back up and recovery system for $234,033.

Approve Memorandum of Understanding with OSEA – Classified Benefit Coordinator Position to Full Time

District and OSEA representatives had a tentative agreement to increase the Classified Benefit Coordinator position to full time. The funds for the full cost of this change would be paid from the classified employee insurance reserve fund. The district and OSEA agreed to new benefits (district paid and employee matching TSA and staff development) and the continuing need to administer existing benefits all of which needed special administrative attention. District and OSEA representatives thought the administrative attention the Classified Benefit Coordinator could provide with this .5 FTE would enhance the implementation of the new and existing benefits included in the 2005-07 contract. The continuation of the additional FTE was on a year-to-year basis.

Superintendent Russell recommended approval of the memorandum.
Approve Memorandum of Understanding with OSEA for Annual Pay Steps for Seasonal Positions  

District and OSEA representatives had a tentative agreement to expand the five annual pay steps for seasonal positions to include the existing steps for the similar classified employee classifications. The District regularly hired summer seasonal employees, with a preference for district employees who had less than 12 month work years, and casual summer unrepresented employees. The seasonal pay steps in many cases were lower than existing pay steps for regular employees doing similar work. Labor market conditions increasingly result in an inability to attract and retain summer seasonal employees. Therefore, the district wanted the ability to provide additional step placement and increase options for successful seasonal employees by adding the ability to advance to the pay steps of the same classified contract classifications.

Superintendent Russell recommended approval of the memorandum.

Approve Grant Application: School Health Index Implementation Mini-Grant  

Normally, the board did not receive information regarding grant applications that were less than $5,000. However, with the implementation of the wellness policy, staff from Parker Elementary and the Instruction Department thought the board would like to know about this grant in the amount of $3,496 to the CDC Foundation, American School Health Association.

Monies from the grant would enable the school to review, purchase, implement, and evaluate research-based nutrition materials to supplement the Michigan Model for Comprehensive Health Education resources. Staff would provide monthly newsletter articles that provided information on healthy eating and the importance of physical activity and would provide a special presentation for parents and community members by a nutritionist to encourage family eating together, healthy snack suggestions, and healthy recipes. Staff would provide a cooperative effort with food service staff, instructional, and site staff to provide “A-Z Vegetable” instruction and tasting, in which food service staff would visit the school and bring with them a wide array of healthy vegetables to taste.

Superintendent Russell recommended approval of the grant application.

Approve Personnel Items  

Superintendent Russell recommended approval of the personnel items included in the packet. These covered employment, resignations, and other routine personnel matters. (See attached)

ITEMS FOR ACTION AT A FUTURE MEETING  

Conduct a Public Hearing on the Superintendent’s Recommendations for the Wellness Policy  

At the April 19, 2006 board meeting, a public hearing would be held to hear community comments before a final draft of the policy was brought to the board for approval at the May 3, 2006 meeting. Superintendent Russell said that the staff would work to have answers to the questions raised in the earlier discussion about the draft Wellness Policy by the public hearing. He said that he hoped that students in particular would come to the meeting to testify. He also asked the student representatives to gather information from other students on their reactions to the proposed policy.
COMMENTS AND COMMITTEE REPORTS BY INDIVIDUAL BOARD MEMBERS

Dr. Martinez said that he had the privilege to spend time with the Spencer Butte teaching staff to hear about the inspiring diversity work being done in that school. He said that the information the board received during its work session on ELL was important and he said that he thought that the board had a lot more to talk about in terms of allocation and accountability for funding of ELL and what to do programmatically beyond language support, given the cultural needs of these kids.

Mr. Smith said that the ACE Awards event would be on May 17. He said that this was a new event being sponsored by the Eugene/Springfield Chambers of Commerce and was to recognize outstanding volunteers, teachers, administrators, and classified staff. He encouraged the board to attend the event at the Holt Center.

Dr. Thompson apologized for missing the work session.

Ms. Spickard said that her family was pleased to be hosting a teacher from Japan who was teaching at Kelly Middle School at the Yujin Gakuen Japanese Immersion Middle School.

Mr. Forrest reiterated his strong value of the importance of physical activity for kids. He said that if the district was going to take a leadership role in wellness, it needed to lead in all facets of wellness. He said that physical activity was a key life skill for kids to learn and that he thought that the district had somewhat abdicated its leadership on this issue. He said that he wanted the board to figure out a way to show leadership and to set standards that it thought were right for the district’s children.

Superintendent Russell commented that in 2008 the Olympic track trials would be coming to Eugene. He said that some local people were very interested in working with the schools to use that as a venue and a promotional piece to promote physical activity, running, etc. by having some of the athletes visit the schools. He said that the district had the opportunity to participate in this program.

ADJOURN

Ms. Gerot adjourned the open session at 9:10 p.m.

________________________________________________________________________
George Russell            Beth Gerot
District Clerk            Board Chair

(Recorded by Elise Self)
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