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

January 17, 2007

Meeting Convened

The Board of Directors of School District No. 4J, Lane County, Eugene, Oregon, held an Executive Session at 6 p.m. and a regular meeting at 7 p.m. on January 17, 2007, 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 January 12, 2007, and published in The Register-Guard on January 15, 2007.

ROLL CALL

BOARD MEMBERS:
Tom Herrmann, Chair
Charles Martinez, Jr., Vice Chair
Eric Forrest
Craig Smith
Yvette Webber-Davis

STAFF:
George Russell, Superintendent of Schools and district Clerk
Wally Bryant, Director of Human Resources
Ted Heid, Director of Labor Relations
Tom Henry, Assistant Superintendent – Instructional Services & School Services K-8
Hillary Kittleson, Director of Financial Services
Larry Sullivan, Director of Educational Support Services
Randy Bernstein, Principal, South Eugene High School

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 (1) (d)

REGULAR MEETING: The Executive Session recessed and the regular meeting convened with the above board members present, along with the following: (Ted Heid, Wally Bryant, Larry Sullivan, and Randy Bernstein excused themselves at the start of the regular meeting)

BOARD:
Alicia Hayes

STAFF:
Barbara Bellamy, Director, Communications and Intergovernmental Relations
Bill Hirsh, Director of Facilities and Transportation
Jon Lauch, Assistant Director of Facilities Management
Kay Mehas, Director of School Services
Caroline Passerotti, Financial Analyst
Susan Fahey, Operations and Reporting Manager
STUDENT ADVISORY PANEL MEMBERS:
Joseph Dombrosky, Churchill High School
Caitlin Monroe, South Eugene High School

MEDIA:
Randy Larsen, KRVM

CALL TO ORDER, ROLL CALL, AND FLAG SALUTE

Tom Hermann, Board Chair, called the meeting of the Eugene School District 4J Board of Directors to order. He led those present in the pledge of allegiance.

AGENDA REVIEW

Superintendent Russell noted that Item VII (1), Receive a Monthly Financial Report, was pulled from the agenda.

INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS AND SUPERINTENDENT’S REPORT

Superintendent Russell welcomed everyone.

Board Appreciation

Superintendent Russell announced that it was School Board Recognition Month. He read into the record a proclamation by Governor Ted Kulongoski that honored the work of the School Board. Cake and punch were provided in honor of the occasion.

Students to Read Martin Luther King Essays and Poems

Superintendent Russell introduced Crista Lawson, 5th grade teacher from Awbrey Park Elementary School, and Lisa Vreim, 5th grade teacher from Howard Elementary School, both of whom had been involved in the Martin Luther King, Jr. essay and poem contest.

Ms. Vreim said she was the Minority Affairs Committee co-chair, with Ms. Lawson, for the Eugene Education Association (EEA).

Ms. Lawson stated that she and Ms. Vreim had been conducting the contest for three years and the contest had been an annual event for the school district for 19 years. She noted that the contest was sponsored by the EEA, the School District 4J and the Bethel School District. She thanked Superintendent Russell and Bethel School District Superintendent Colt Gill for their contributions to the contest. She said the Skipping Stones magazine also sponsored the contest.

Arun Toké, editor of Skipping Stones magazine, explained that the magazine was a non-profit in the City of Eugene and that the magazine had been in publication for 19 years.

Allison Kreider stated that she taught 3rd grade at Howard Elementary School and was a member of the Minority Affairs Committee. She had enjoyed helping with the contest and reading the essays. Ms. Lawson noted that Ms. Kreider was one of the contest judges.

Ms. Vreim explained that Dr. King was being honored with a memorial in Washington, D.C., the only non-president and the only African-American to receive this honor. She said the theme of
the contest had been what accomplishments led to the establishment of this memorial and how this changed the history of the United States.

Ms. Vreim announced the winners for the elementary school division:
Honorable Mention – Brett Ellis, 5th Grade, Awbrey Park Elementary
Third Place – Galen Rogers, 5th Grade, Twin Oaks Elementary
Second Place – Hunter Briggs, 5th Grade, Awbrey Park Elementary
First Place – Madison Babb-Hackett, 5th Grade, Hillside International Elementary

Ms. Lawson announced the winners for the middle school division:
Honorable Mention – Brandon Seifking
Third Place – Reese Darren-Stanley
Second Place – Shawn Taggart-Murphy
First Place – Aslin Fykes
All four students attend Jefferson Middle School.

Ms. Kreider announced the winners for the high school division:
Honorable Mention – Pat White and Felicity Aguire
Third Place – Avery Lalondi
Second Place – Lisa Lyon
First Place – Zack Childers

Ms. Vreim presented the first place winners, who read their winning entries for the Board.

Ms. Kreider thanked everyone for coming and honoring Dr. King’s memory on behalf of the Minority Affairs Committee and the Eugene Education Association.

Superintendent Russell thanked everyone for coming to the meeting.

Superintendent Russell highlighted the additional materials provided for the board in the red folders. Regarding weather calls, he explained that he arose early and personally checked the road conditions when there was snow and/or ice. He would then communicate with Superintendent Gill and Superintendent for the Springfield School District, Nancy Golden, to find out how they planned to proceed in order to provide a coordinated response. He then conferred with Director of Facilities and Transportation, Bill Hirsh, and they jointly decided whether to proceed as usual or to delay or cancel school.

Dr. Martinez asked at what point time away from school added up to make a longer year. Tom Henry, Deputy Superintendent, responded that some time was built into the calendar. He said the district would have to reach a number of days out of school before it would have to add days at the end of the school year.

COMMENTS BY STUDENT REPRESENTATIVES

Caitlin Monroe, South Eugene High School, stated that the Martin Luther King, Jr. Assembly, postponed from the previous week due to the weather, would be held on January 18. She reported that it was Global Warming Awareness Week and the school had scheduled a showing of the movie An Inconvenient Truth.

Joseph Dombrosky, Churchill High School, announced that there would be a pep assembly for all winter sports on January 19.
ITEMS RAISED BY THE AUDIENCE

Nancy Willard likened approval of the superintendent’s recommendation regarding alternative schools to approval of segregation. She called it a “cruel irony” that this would occur in proximity to the birthday of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. She felt the district was ignoring data regarding the number of students who received free and reduced cost lunches and thus ignored the disproportionately small number of low-income students that attend certain alternative schools. Additionally, she supported offering foreign languages for all elementary schools.

Lisa Arkin, Executive Director of the Oregon Toxics Alliance, provided a handout for the School Board. She related that Superintendent Russell had asked her to talk about the relationship between air quality around the schools and children’s health. She stated the Oregon Toxics Alliance wished to partner with the School District 4j and other school districts to increase awareness of the health and environmental benefits a reduction in driving and idling motors would have on school environments. She said it would reduce the risk of cancer and other respiratory illnesses. She related that the reason car idling was the focus of the health project was because the exhaust from an idling cars included air pollutants such as benzene, a known carcinogen, and that elimination of idling would help reduce global warming. She noted that the alliance was already partnering with the Lane Regional Air Pollution Agency, the City of Eugene, the City of Portland, Senator Ron Wyden, and others. She said some schools had already ordered a placard that sought to remind people to reduce their idling time. She related that after ten seconds idling cost more money, wasted more gasoline, and put out more pollutants than turning off a motor and restarting it. She added that not topping off was another aspect of the campaign to reduce benzene, as topping off caused benzene to release into the air.

COMMENTS BY EMPLOYEE GROUPS

Paul Duchin, representative for the Eugene Education Association (EEA), thanked the board for allowing the EEA to making the Martin Luther King, Jr., awards a part of the board meeting. He felt it had been a lesson on why public schools were important and needed to be supported.

Merri Steel also thanked the School Board members for the time they gave away from their families and friends to do the work they do.

ITEMS FOR INFORMATION

Receive a Monthly Financial Report

This item was deferred.

Receive an Update on Bond Projects

Bill Hirsh, Director of Facilities and Transportation, explained that the State Department of Energy (DOE) had a program that provided private individuals and organizations the opportunity to apply for pass-through tax credit to assist public agencies that receive no tax credit benefits for energy conservation improvements over and above that which the current codes require. He said in designing the new buildings, the district had gone “beyond the code” and applied to DOE for the credits. He related that the district was partnered first with Nike and now was partnered with Sterling Bank. He stated that the benefit for the district was that it had added improvements in the mechanical systems, lighting, and others in the school buildings it had worked on that would reduce costs and improve the quality in the schools and the district was paid for it. He reported that Sterling Bank had paid the district approximately $82,000 for the
energy credit, a great deal for the school district and a worthwhile effort toward energy conservation on the part of the bank.

Mr. Hirsh also reported on the process staff proposed to use to continue partnership with the City for development of additional synthetic athletic fields. He noted that he included a report in Board packets regarding the partnership on the fields at Madison and Cal Young Middle Schools and how this partnership could continue for two additional school fields. He said in reviewing City bond requirements and staff’s proposal to the Board regarding what would make sense to the school district, staff recommended one new synthetic field at a middle school in each high school region. He conveyed the recommendation for installation of the synthetic fields for the Jefferson Middle School campus and for either the Roosevelt Middle School or Spencer Butte Middle School campuses. He noted that there were wetlands concerns and traffic issues at the Roosevelt Middle School campus. He said there would be community meetings for the field installations; staff would present the options to the community and Board members were welcome to attend. He said while there certainly was a need for new fields, the fields at Madison and Cal Young Middle Schools would provide some relief in that respect.

Receive a Legislative Report

Barbara Bellamy, Director of Communications and Intergovernmental Affairs) reported that the Legislature was two weeks into its session. She related that the Confederation of Oregon School Administrators (COSA) and the Oregon School Board Association (OSBA) hosted a briefing on Monday mornings every week and they spent approximately an hour reviewing key bills that had been introduced. She said the district relied on the two associations to track the bills and to talk to the district about what bills were going into hearings and where it would be most effective for districts to make contacts with legislators or to come to the Capitol. She noted one difference in the process in that the unions, the Oregon School Employees Association (OSEA) and the EEA, were now part of the briefing as well as the State Department of Education, the Education Service Districts, COSA, OSBA, the Parent Teacher Association (PTA), the Chalkboard Project, and Stand for Children. She underscored that while there were some differences in the organizations, they wanted to speak with one voice when it came to school funding issues.

Ms. Bellamy related that two bills had been proposed thus far that addressed the issue of interscholastic athletic leagues, one introduced by State Senator Vicki Walker and the other introduced by State Superintendent of the Schools. She predicted, given that Sen. Walker would be chairing the Senate Education Committee, a bill would likely be introduced there regarding that issue.

Superintendent Russell related that Superintendent Castillo and Pat Burke, of the Oregon Department of Education, had met with the County Superintendents Group to discuss graduation requirements. He felt the dialogue had been good, but nonetheless Ms. Castillo was certain that the new graduation requirements would be approved on January 18. He said she anticipated that a task group would be compiled to research implementation issues and costs.

ITEMS FOR ACTION

Approve Recommendations from the Superintendent in Response to the Alternative School Review Team’s Report

Superintendent Russell stated that a considerable amount of time had been spent on the report. He thanked the team for the amount of work they had done. He reviewed the general comments and recommendations that the team had provided.
Regarding grade level caps, Superintendent Russell said in the initial review of alternative schools in December, 2005, the team had concluded there was no strong educational justification for retaining grade level caps for alternative schools; the team thought grade level caps were problematic in terms of equitable access. He had agreed at that time and had recommended the elimination of grade caps for 2006-2007 in the four schools that were reviewed and in Corridor Elementary School, the other non-language immersion school scheduled for review in the present year. He had not included the language immersion school in the earlier recommendation because he was open to the possibility that the language immersion schools could put forth a strong educational rationale and justification for grade level caps in their schools. He said the review team had ascertained that there was not a strong enough determination to justify a continuance of grade level caps at Corridor and at the language immersion schools. He related that the team had recommended that grade level caps be eliminated for all of the alternative schools. He concurred with that recommendation.

Superintendent Russell agreed that tensions existed between the alternative schools and neighborhood schools that were collocated. He supported uncoupling the alternative schools from those schools. He said while the Board determined that no relocation decisions would be made for the present year, the Board did direct that the relocation and collocation of alternative schools be considered as a part of the district’s longer term planning for future school consolidation and the district's future.

Continuing, Superintendent Russell recalled that in the initial review concerns were raised regarding the alternative schools ability to meet educational needs for special needs students. He said this continued to be an important concern for all schools. He stated that the review team had paid attention to the relationship of special education with language immersion schools. He related that there had been some anecdotal reports that some alternative schools, including some of the immersion schools, had discouraged some special education students from attending or had counseled them out of the program.

Ms. Hayes arrived.

Superintendent Russell reported that the review team identified a compelling need to work with the immersion schools to ensure they maintained a culture that was perceived as welcoming to students and families with special needs. He said in addressing instructional challenges specific to language immersion schools, the review team had suggested creating stronger ties with the community as well as the University of Oregon experts in language immersion and special education advocacy. He supported that recommendation.

Superintendent Russell stated that the issue of diversity had been the fourth area reviewed by the team. He said the team pointed out that the district still was challenged to insure its school choice system facilitated the Board’s goal of providing excellent and equitable education for all students. He had shared the Board’s goals and consensus statements regarding school choice and equity. He believed that all alternative schools must be welcoming to any family that might desire specific educational programs for their children and must be ready to effectively teach those children.

The recommendations for the schools were, as follows:

**Buena Vista/Spanish Immersion School:** No change in status was recommended and no formal plan for improvement was being sought. This was the only school with no Kindergarten. The team believes the school should have one but currently there is a space issue. The school could be located elsewhere in order to provide more space, either to a stand-alone site or to collocate with another alternative school.
Charlemagne French Immersion School:  No change in status was recommended.  The review team thought there should develop a plan related to attracting and addressing the instructional needs of a more diverse student population including low-income students, special needs students, students of color, and that the district work with the school to promote a general school culture that was welcoming to students and families from all backgrounds and cultures. Additionally, he felt a discussion was warranted regarding the actual physical location of the school as he was uncertain whether the current location was the best place to promote some of the changes that were needed.

Yujin Gakuen Japanese Immersion School:  No change in status was recommended and no plan for improvement was being sought.  He said there was an expectation that the school would work to meet some of the findings.  He thought the Japanese Immersion School and Corridor Elementary School served as a model for collocating two alternative schools together. He felt the current location happened to be in one of the worst traffic areas in the school district, because there was a high school sharing one road with two elementary schools that had no school bus service.  He supported the concept but he did not believe it was prudent to collocate them at the Silver Lane location.

Corridor Elementary School:  No change in status was recommended and no plan for improvement was being sought.

Mr. Hermann thought the Board should have a discussion on the status of the analysis on grade level caps.

Kay Mehas, Director of School Services, reported that the team determined that grade level caps would create more difficulty for the upper grade level students to be in an immersion school.  She said the odds were greater that a student would be admitted with a grade level cap.  She reviewed the ratio of applicants to slots in the Buena Vista Spanish Immersion School.  She pointed out that disallowing grade caps would allow for greater numbers in the lower grades.

Jerry Henderson stated that in looking at the lottery it was heavily weighted on the Kindergarten and 1st Grade levels because the immersion schools would be difficult to enter at a later grade. He said there was a self-selection that happened that would continue regardless of any efforts to “try to make it more fair.”

Dr. Martinez commented that the lottery was a moving target.  He asked what happened with attrition.  He thought doing away with grade level caps could make it so that a student that left before the 5th grade would make room and a 1st grader would be added.

Mr. Forrest observed that this was much like the reality in a neighborhood school, as a neighborhood school could gain a number of third graders or experience a drop in second graders depending on neighborhood shifts.

Dr. Webber-Davis asked what the schools did in terms of assessment to aid the schools to help families make wise decisions in regard to the immersion standards.  Ms. Mehas replied that the principals made those types of assessment on a case by case basis.  She noted that four students had entered the Charlemagne French Immersion School in the third grade and the school staff had analyzed each one and determined what they needed and then worked with them individually.

MOTION:  Mr. Forrest, seconded by Dr. Martinez, moved to approve the Superintendent’s recommendation to remove grade level caps for Corridor Elementary School and the three language immersion schools.
Mr. Forrest averred that the recommendation was consistent with Board discussion in regard to evening the playing field.

Dr. Martinez commented that when the Board had moved on this issue in a different context in 2006. He felt the Board was responding to two issues related to access and equity. He thought many of the Board members felt strongly that an elimination of grade level caps would increase equity for applicants to the alternative schools. He thought the previous decision had been a response to the review team’s sense that by removing the grade level caps the Board was enhancing access at those schools because of the way the demographics looked at the lottery. Regarding the language immersion programs, he felt access was being pitted against equity. He believed the equity issues would persist and that there was not an educational justification to maintain the grade level caps. He wondered if there were alternatives that would address the equity concern in terms of removing caps but could create the potential to have some recognition of wanting to maintain access for students other than the entrance grade level for those schools. He expressed discomfort with the dilemma of having to evaluate access and equity in this way.

Ms. Hayes expressed appreciation for Dr. Martinez’ analysis of the issue. She echoed his concern regarding equity and what it meant not to be able to cap a grade level and to have a child in a class with more than an appropriate number of students. She noted that her son had attended Buena Vista. She related that students coming in at the fourth or fifth grade levels were usually the children of bilingual people. She did not believe there was a clear path to achieve what they hoped to achieve in terms of equity.

Mr. Forrest maintained that the Board needed to take a stance on this. He felt they needed to move ahead with the data at hand. He averred that this was a statement of action stemming from the Board’s feelings about equity for the different schools and how they were treated.

Mr. Smith observed that they were really talking about a small number of students at the higher grade levels. He said from an educational standpoint, a young person with no prior education in a language would not be able to go into an immersion school at a higher than entry level grade.

Dr. Martinez stressed that he was not suggesting inaction. He believed the Board had been strong on this issue. He said if they were not able to arrive at a more “elegant” solution he would have to err on the side of equity because it was an overriding concern.

Superintendent Russell asked Ms. Monroe, as a former student of the Charlemagne French Immersion School, to comment on her experience.

Ms. Monroe had liked the program. She related that she had gone to Europe in middle school as a result of her studies. She agreed that the make up of the school had not been very diverse.

Mr. Hermann agreed that decisive action should be taken. He averred that the case for lifting the grade level caps for these schools was weaker than the case that had been made in 2006. He indicated that he would oppose the motion.

Mr. Forrest reiterated that neighborhood schools routinely have to deal with “bubbles” in grade level population. He asserted that alternative schools could address these situations as well.

Dr. Webber-Davis said staff and the Board should carefully monitor the results, whatever the decision resulted in. She recommended revisiting the issue on a regular basis.

Dr. Martinez asked the Superintendent and staff if there were potential alternatives that would address the situation in a more sophisticated way. Superintendent Russell replied that staff
could attempt to posit some alternatives. He thought the real issue was that for the committee and the review team when everything else was stripped away it came down to an equity issue: what was fair and what were the implications for neighborhood versus alternative schools.

Mr. Henderson commented that school level caps would keep the spikes from being as high as a neighborhood school. He said a different possibly more elegant solution would not create that much variation in class level population.

Mr. Henderson averred that this was the “intersection” between access and equity. He conveyed the appreciation on behalf of the schools that had thought hard about this issue and had been battered over this issue for some time for the School Board’s thoughtful consideration of this issue. He asked that the Board, should it request another look at it, charge the committee in terms of the breadth of the work. He said the people of the non-immersion schools would argue that they had a more compelling situation regarding upper grade students as there were more of them applying to the schools. He stated that it made more sense for a fourth grader to enter a non-immersion school.

Dr. Martinez reiterated that he would choose to err on the side of equity. Mr. Smith concurred.

VOTE: The motion passed, 5:1; Mr. Hermann voting in opposition.

MOTION: Mr. Smith, seconded by Mr. Forrest, moved to adopt the Superintendent’s recommendation for Buena Vista/Spanish Immersion School, as follows:

1) No change in status; the school continues to be a strong, viable and effective language immersion school;

2) No formal plan for improvement, but an expectation that district staff will work with the school to develop strategies to address the key findings of the report related to attracting and addressing the instructional needs of a more diverse student population, specifically low Socio-Economic Status (SES), special education, and English Language Learner (ELL);

3) To direct staff to explore the addition of a kindergarten to Buena Vista in 2008-09;

4) To direct staff to consider future relocation of Buena Vista from Meadowlark Elementary to a standalone site or collocation with another alternative school as part of the current strategic planning process, *Shaping 4J's Future*.

Dr. Martinez commented that Buena Vista presented an interesting case of collocation with a neighborhood school. He believed it worked as well as it could and wanted to give credit to the administration for that “complex situation.”

VOTE: The motion passed unanimously, 6:0.

MOTION: Dr. Martinez, seconded by Dr. Webber-Davis, moved to adopt the Superintendent’s recommendation for Charlemagne French Immersion School, as follows:

1) No change in status; the Board supports the continuation of Charlemagne as a strong, viable, and effective language immersion school.

2) Direct district staff to work with Charlemagne to develop a Plan for Improvement to address the key findings of the report related to a) attracting and addressing the instructional needs of a more diverse student population, including low SES, special education, ELL, and students of color; b) providing a general school culture that is
welcoming to students and families from different backgrounds and cultures; and c) working with staff to ensure that they identify and serve their special needs children appropriately and well.

3) Direct staff to consider as part of the current strategic planning process, *Shaping 4J’s Future*, whether the current location of Charlemagne at the Fox Hollow site is the optimal location for ensuring equal access and diversity, and identify what other location options may be available for the future.

Mr. Hermann remarked that the school clearly lacked diversity but it was not without diversity. He noted his children had both attended the Charlemagne program and as a parent there he had witnessed numerous examples of people trying to make the school be a welcoming place.

**VOTE:** The motion passed unanimously, 6:0.

**MOTION:** Ms. Hayes, seconded by Mr. Forrest, moved to adopt the Superintendent’s recommendation for Yujin Gakuen Japanese Immersion School, as follows:

1) No change in status; the Board supports the continuation of Yujin Gakuen as a strong, viable, and effective language immersion school;

2) No formal plan for improvement, but an expressed expectation that district staff work with Yujin Gakuen to develop strategies to address the key findings of the report related to attracting and addressing the instructional needs of special education students;

3) Direct staff to consider as part of the current strategic planning process, *Shaping 4J’s Future*, whether the current location of Yujin Gakuen at the Silver Lea site is the optimal location, and identify what other location option may be available for the future. Also, include consideration of possible relocation of Yujin Gakuen from Silver Lea site to a standalone site, or retaining it at Silver Lea site as a standalone alternative school similar to Charlemagne at Fox Hollow.

Dr. Webber-Davis concurred with Superintendent Russell regarding the traffic safety issues the collocation of the two elementary schools. She hoped the district would move forward on looking at some solutions for the situation.

**VOTE:** The motion passed unanimously, 6:0.

**MOTION:** Dr. Martinez, seconded by Mr. Smith, moved to adopt the Superintendent’s recommendation for Corridor School, as follows:

1) No change in status;

2) No formal plan for improvement, but an expressed expectation that district staff work with Corridor to develop strategies to address the key findings of the report related to attracting and addressing the instructional needs of a more diverse student population, including low SES, ELL, and students of color;

3) Direct staff to consider as part of the current strategic planning process, *Shaping 4J’s Future*, whether the current location of Corridor at the Silver Lea site is the optimal location, and identify what other location option may be available for the future. Include consideration of possible relocation of Corridor from Silver Lea site to a standalone site, or retaining it at Silver Lea site as a standalone alternative school.

**VOTE:** The motion passed unanimously, 6:0.
Consider Approval of Agreement with Purchaser of Santa Clara Regarding Potential Real Property Value Added Charge

Jon Lauch, Assistant Director of Facilities Management, reported that the district was close to closing on the agreement with the purchaser.

Sue Prichard stated that the buyer had signed a document indicating they were happy with all of the information except for the potential value-added charge being considered by the City Council. She related that if the council enacted the charge, the buyer indicated he would terminate the transaction. She reported that a document had been drafted that would charge the district with paying the proposed value-added charge in order to complete the transaction. Staff had reviewed the document as had legal counsel to both parties and all were in agreement that the document was in order for the Board to review. She stated that if the Board agreed that the document was acceptable, the buyer would sign it, the district would sign it, and in theory the transaction would be closed in 30 days.

Mr. Lauch reviewed the document regarding the value-added charge.

Mr. Smith recused himself because of a perceived conflict of interest.

Dr. Martinez asked if the agreement with the Santa Clara Grange should be signed before the Board signed an agreement with the purchaser. Mr. Lauch replied that Mr. Frazier believed he could work it out with the Grange’s legal counsel. He said if the desire was to execute that agreement simultaneously or in advance of the purchase and sale agreement amendment it could delay that process. He expressed optimism that the agreements could come together simultaneously.

Superintendent Russell related that staff felt time was of the essence, particularly in regard to the sale agreement as the purchaser had financing issue they needed to start working on as soon as the agreement was signed. He believed the Grange agreement would “fall into place.”

MOTION: Dr. Martinez, seconded by Mr. Forrest, moved to approve the Superintendent’s recommendations to approve the agreement included as an amendment to the Purchase & Sale Agreement; to approve the amendment to the Agreement with the Santa Clara Grange; and to authorize the Superintendent to contest property values used in assessing the Value-Added Charge within the 30-day grace period, keeping the board informed of such action.

VOTE: The motion passed, 5:0:1; Mr. Smith abstaining.

CONSENT GROUP – ITEMS FOR ACTION

MOTION: Dr. Martinez, seconded by Mr. Smith, moved approval of the Consent Group.

VOTE: The motion passed unanimously, 6:0.

Approve Expenditures for December 2006

ORS 332.255 requires that the district school board approve all expenditures for funds. A summary of the expenditures for December 2006, totaling $17,298,095.08 was included in the board packet.

The superintendent recommended approval of the December 2006 expenditures.
ITEMS FOR ACTION AT A FUTURE MEETING

Approve Supplemental Budget #1

Ms. Kittleson stated that the board was scheduled to hold a public hearing on the supplemental budget at the meeting scheduled for February 7. She explained that the supplemental budget was in three categories: the reconciliation of working capital, the recognition of new funds, and transferring funds from contingency. She provided a brief overview of the supplemental budget, as outlined in the board packet.

COMMENTS AND COMMITTEE REPORTS

Ms. Hayes noted that she had been delayed because her work required her to participate in a meeting with the Lane Board of County Commissioners. She apologized for arriving late to the meeting.

Mr. Smith noted that Mr. Hermann had announced that he would not run again for the School Board position.

Dr. Martinez expressed some sadness at Mr. Hermann’s decision.

Dr. Martinez also wished to thank the Alternative School Review Team. He commended Carl Hermanns and district staff for an “amazing job” on the extra work put into answering some of the questions the Board had raised.

Mr. Hermann echoed Dr. Martinez’ gratitude for the work of the review team. He called the completion of the work a landmark.

XII. ADJOURN

Mr. Hermann adjourned the meeting at 9:12 p.m.

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George Russell                   Tom Herrmann
District Clerk                   Board Chair

(Recorded by Ruth Atcherson)