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

August 4, 2010

The Board of Directors of School District No. 4J, Lane County, Eugene, Oregon, held an executive session at 6 p.m. and a regular board meeting at 7 p.m. on August 4, 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 July 30, 2010 and published in the Register-Guard on August 2, 2010.

ROLL CALL

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

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

MEDIA:
KRVM

EXECUTIVE SESSION

The Eugene School District 4J Board of Directors met in executive session in accordance with Oregon Revised Statute 192.610 – 192.690, Open Meeting Laws, the Board of Directors met for the following purpose:

To conduct the Annual Evaluation of the Superintendent to review and evaluate pursuant to standards, criteria, and policy directives adopted by the governing body, the employment-related performance of the executive officer pursuant to PRS 192.660 (2) (i), and to consider complaints or charges brought against a public officer, employee, staff member or individual agent, pursuant to ORS 192.660 (2) (b).

REGULAR BOARD MEETING

CALL TO ORDER, ROLL CALL, AND FLAG SALUTE

Mr. Smith called the meeting of the Eugene School District 4J Board of Directors to order, called the roll, and led the flag salute.
AGENDA REVIEW

There were no changes to the agenda.

INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS AND SUPERINTENDENTS REPORT

Superintendent Russell introduced Dayna Mitchell, the new president of the Eugene Education Association.

Superintendent Russell recalled reporting to the board on his involvement with the American Association of School Administrators, the national superintendents association. He said he and Beaverton Superintendent of Schools Jerry Colonna were the two Oregon representatives to the association’s governing board. He and Mr. Colonna had recently visited Washington, DC, to attend a board meeting, and they had also met with several members of the Oregon congressional delegation and their staff. Superintendent Russell noted he had provided the board with a copy of the board agenda in the meeting packet, which was focused on reauthorization of the Elementary Secondary Education Act (ESEA).

Superintendent Russell reported he had learned there was still the possibility that Congress would pass an education jobs bill providing additional stimulus funding to the states for use in the schools, which could mean $2.8 million to the district. He had been encouraged by the news.

Superintendent Russell reported that he had also discussed his concerns about AYP (Adequate Yearly Progress) and No Child Left Behind as well as possible changes to those measures with members of Congress. The delegation had indicated to him that nothing was likely to happen with ESEA for at least a year.

Carl Hermanns, Assistant Superintendent and Chief Academic Officer, reported on the results of the AYP report for the district, saying that all elementary schools continued to make progress and, for the first time this year, all four high schools met AYP. He attributed that success to 1) the district’s sustained focus on instructional priorities, graduation requirements, and appropriate interventions, and 2) the district’s sustained focus on students’ access to general education.

Mr. Hermanns reported that Kennedy and Madison middle schools also met AYP.

Mr. Hermanns acknowledged the district still had work to do and would keep a focus on its priorities, continue to refine its data capabilities, and refine interventions that help students achieve success.

Responding to a question from Ms. Walston, Mr. Hermanns said that Monroe had not met AYP although it had made progress. Monroe had strong leadership and a strong staff and the district continued to work with the school.

Mr. Smith suggested that one of the problems facing the district was that the goal posts were moving. Mr. Hermanns said that was another issue and had been a huge concern for the district. He said the district expected continued improvement from its students, but the question was, by what measure.
Ms. Levis commended the fact that the four high schools met AYP and said it suggested that the district was focusing on the right things. Ms. Gerot added that two principals from North Eugene High School with whom she was working found the news very affirming.

Superintendent Russell acknowledged he had mixed feelings about the news because of his concerns about whether AYP was the right direction. He agreed that it was important to show continued progress but thought more conversation at the national level needed to occur, and had shared that with the Congressional delegation. He suggested in some ways, "we’re worshiping a false god here."

Ms. Bellamy reported on the community thought leaders effort, saying that Superintendent Russell invited 18 community residents to join the district leadership in discussion about what was ahead for the district in light of Oregon’s slow economic recovery. She said a group of district representatives would have a similar discussion soon. She said that there was still a drive for excellence and expectation in the community the district could continue to deliver that excellence with the assistance of technology. She thought the effort was successful, particularly when focused on big picture issues. The group provided a list of ten items for further district consideration. The group agreed to return for a second meeting later in the year.

Superintendent Russell commended the commitment of the community thought leaders group. He had asked the group to consider serving as an advisory group to the board as it worked through issues in the coming year, and they had unanimously agreed.

ITEMS RAISED BY THE AUDIENCE

Terry Guistina was present to represent the 250 people who co-signed a letter to the board regarding the potential closure of Crest Drive Elementary. She spoke in support of the school and its benefits to the district. She acknowledged the financial shortfall facing the district and the difficult decisions that the budget for the coming year would generate. She asked to be a part of the process. She thought it important to protect and build on the hard-earned success of neighborhood schools like Crest Drive Elementary. She said the school looked forward to sharing its ideas with the board.

Dennis Herbert asked the board and administration to revisit the issue of non-use of Civic Stadium. He hoped the community was allowed to use the field. He did not know if the information provided about risk dealt with the field or the stadium itself.

Mr. Smith reviewed testimony submitted by Wayne Tomenfeld regarding the potential closure of Crest Drive Elementary and supportive of the school remaining open.

COMMENTS BY EMPLOYEE GROUPS

Eugene Education Association President Dayna Mitchell thanked the board for providing a designated time for employees to speak. She said many people asked her why she had taken on her new role and she responded that the bottom line for her was making a difference in the lives of children and teachers. She had been an elementary teacher for 24 years and was aware of the difference a teacher made in a child’s life. She knew what teachers did in spite of reduced funding, an increased work load, and public criticism. She said teachers were truly amazing and she was proud to represent them. She noted that Julie Wenzl was the new vice president of the EEA and Tom Di Liberto was the new bargaining team chair. She was curious to see what other solutions would be discussed by the thought leaders, and suggested that now
was the time to discuss school consolidation. She recommended a careful and systematic approach with involvement by the EEA. She said a consolidation plan would be useful.

Ms. Mitchell was hopeful that the House of Representatives would pass the legislation that would provide stimulus funding to the states and said that the restoration of lost school days was key. She suggested that people e-mail and thank Senator Ron Wyden. She invited members to the EEA Booth at the upcoming Eugene Celebration.

ITEMS FOR INFORMATION AT THIS MEETING

Receive the Annual Report on Superintendent’s Goals for 2009-2010

On October 21, 2009, the board agreed upon the superintendent’s goals for the 2009-10 and 2010-11 school years, along with the other criteria that will be used in his annual evaluation. The goals deal with student achievement, stewardship of district resources, and stakeholder engagement. Those goals, along with the job description and criteria, were reviewed as part of the superintendent’s annual evaluation, which was conducted in executive session prior to the regular board meeting.

Superintendent Russell had presented a progress report at the April 7, 2010 board meeting. Included in the board packet for the August 4 meeting was a copy of the annual report summarizing goal attainment for the 2009-10 school year.

Superintendent Russell noted the board’s receipt of his annual report, included in the meeting materials. He reviewed progress in each goal area. There were no questions.

Receive an Update on Civic Stadium and the Renovation of the South Eugene High School Athletic Field

Jon Lauch, Director of Facilities Management, provided the update on the field renovation, stressing the intent was to ensure the field was ready in spring 2011, which required the project to be started this summer.

Speaking to the proposal from Mr. Herbert to allow outside groups to use the field at Civic Stadium, Mr. Lauch said that South Eugene High School (SEHS) had use of the field because its field was out of commission. The school was done with its baseball program but would need the outfield at Civic Stadium for soccer this fall. Staff determined that the district spent about $30,000 on the field to date this year, and it appeared the district was on track to meet the estimated $50,000 annual cost. He reported the district had blocked access to the wooden grandstands to avoid the need to replace rotten boards. He believed there was significant risk to the district if it allowed outside groups to use the facility, and the district’s risk manager concurred with him. When fall soccer was complete, the district intended to shutter the facility and cease maintenance on the field to save money for higher priority facilities.

Ms. Levis recalled the open house at SEHS where parents expressed concern about the costs of the upgrade, and determined from Mr. Lauch that the project was well within the established budget and the field was sufficiently sized to accommodate high school baseball. Mr. Lauch added that he hoped that funding could be found in the future to install lighting.

Ms. Hays determined from Mr. Lauch that the field at SEHS itself was being fenced.
Mr. Torrey asked Mr. Lauch how deep the left field fence was. Mr. Lauch indicated he was unsure of the exact dimensions but reported that a portable fence would be employed. He added that no one had ever expressed concern about the distance. Mr. Torrey expressed interest in knowing the dimensions, and Mr. Lauch agreed to follow up.

Ms. Walston asked about the potential that new softball fields could be installed. Mr. Lauch responded that the existing softball facility had been displaced by the new field due to the proximity of the City-owned softball fields. He acknowledged that many softball users desired year-round fields with greater availability. The district had a master plan that contemplated the development of a softball field closer to the YMCA. That was a project included on the bond list but it was very expensive due to the drainage requirements.

Mr. Lauch provided an update on the Request for Proposals (RFP) for Civic Stadium, saying many staff was providing input into the draft. He anticipated that staff would seek direction from the board on several items, including the evaluation criteria and relative scoring, schedule for issuance of the RFP and evaluation schedule, and possible limitations beyond the land use code that the board might want to impose on the property due to its proximity to SEHS and the nearby residential neighborhood.

Mr. Lauch anticipated the board would hold a work session to review the draft RFP. He advocated that staff bring the language issues to the board for discussion, followed by the RFP. There was no objection.

Mr. Lauch recalled that when the district discussed funding for the SEHS field improvements, the superintendent indicated the district would replenish the dollars with the sale of the Civic Stadium property.

Ms. Levis asked Mr. Lauch to address Mr. Herbert’s proposal. Mr. Lauch did not see a clear conflict of use as most proposed uses were compatible and would not damage the field; the issue of concern to the district was more related to risk and the use of district resources. The district would have to spend more money on supervising and inspecting the fields and ensuring that they were in good condition for soccer season. He thought there was a different risk involved in the use of the fields by the district’s own high school athletic groups, which were small in number of participants, which decreased the risk level.

Ms. Levis reminded the public the district was operating with fewer resources and there were no resources to support the use of the stadium by outside users. Mr. Lauch said another issue was the message that was sent about the district’s connection and intentions regarding the stadium property.

Ms. Hays noted that Mr. Lauch was not hearing anything contrary to his recommendation from the board.

**ITEMS FOR ACTION AT THIS MEETING**

**Organize the Board of Directors for the 2010-2011 School Year**

a. **Elect Board Officers**

   Ms. Gerot nominated Mr. Smith for the office of president. Ms. Levis seconded the nomination.
Mr. Smith called for a vote.

**Vote:** Mr. Smith was elected chair unanimously (7:0)

Ms. Geller, seconded by Ms. Walston, moved to elect Ms. Hays as vice chair.

**Vote:** The motion passed unanimously (7:0)

**b. Authorize the Chair and Vice Chair to Sign for the District During the 2010-2011 Fiscal Year**

**Motion:** Mr. Torrey, seconded by Ms. Levis, moved to authorize the chair and vice chair to sign for the district during the 2010-2011 school year.

**Vote:** The motion passed unanimously (7:0)

**Conduct the Annual Evaluation of the Superintendent and Approve the Terms of the Contract for the Superintendent**

Mr. Smith reported on the board’s evaluation of Superintendent Russell in the earlier executive session, saying that Superintendent Russell was rated as having done an outstanding job in a very difficult economic year. The board was very pleased with the superintendent’s performance.

Superintendent Russell thanked the board for its positive evaluation and candid feedback and comments. He believed the board’s comments were instructive and he looked forward to making improvements and having a good year as superintendent in 2010-2011.

Superintendent Russell noted the proposed contract language he had prepared for the board. He also called attention to his letter of resignation, submitted to the board at the meeting and effective no later than June 30, 2011. He said he had enjoyed his 12 years as superintendent and thought it was time to move on.

Ms. Gerot said that Superintendent Russell was named to the position the same year she came on the board and it had been a tremendous journey. She said that Superintendent Russell’s leadership had been inspiring and assisted her in her leadership efforts. She thanked Superintendent Russell for all he had given to the district and to her personally. She said he would be missed.

Mr. Smith recalled his involvement in selecting Superintendent Russell and thought it had been a great benefit to the district that he had accepted the position. He had done a tremendous job. Some of the words that came to mind when he thought about the superintendent’s leadership included inspirational, trustworthy, aspirational, far-sighted, knowledgeable, articulate, caring, dedicated to kids, calmly confident, insightful, and collaborative. He said if the district could find a successor with most of those characteristics it would be well-off; if it could find one with all of them it would be exceptional.

Ms. Geller noted the leadership role the superintendent played at the state and national level, which benefited the district and its children. She expressed appreciation for his dedication and honesty and said the board could always trust what Superintendent Russell said.
Mr. Torrey said the community respected Superintendent Russell as did the board. He thanked him for the job he had done and for his willingness to serve the district over the coming year, which would be a challenge to his leadership as well as the leadership of the board.

Ms. Hays echoed Mr. Torrey’s appreciation that Superintendent Russell planned to stay for the coming year. She commended his special talents and said she had enjoyed working with him.

Ms. Walston thanked the superintendent and agreed with the remarks of other board members.

Ms. Levis said she had always heard how lucky the district was to have Superintendent Russell and did not appreciate that until she attended a national school board meeting and she realized that Superintendent Russell could have been giving the presentation they heard on labor relations. She thanked Superintendent Russell for his service.

Mr. Smith suggested the board needed to consider whether to hire a consultant to assist it in the hiring process. There was general support for hiring a consultant. Mr. Smith asked if the board should issue a Request for Proposals (RFP) or delegate the issue to board leadership for a recommendation back to the board at the next meeting. The board agreed to delegate a recommendation to leadership. Mr. Smith asked if the board wished to employ a search committee. Board members indicated support for forming a search committee.

Mr. Smith suggested several categories for search committee members, including teachers, staff, administrators, students, community members, and board members. He recommended that the committee include both a newer board member and a more experienced board member. He also suggested that if the categories made sense, board members make recommendations for membership. There was concurrence.

Mr. Smith recommended that the board aim for a selection date in March 2011. There was no objection.

Superintendent Russell recommended that Ms. Bellamy serve as liaison to the board as it worked on the search. There was no objection.

CONSENT GROUP – ITEMS FOR ACTION

Motion: Mr. Torrey, seconded by Ms. Levis, moved to approve the Consent Calendar.

Vote: The motion passed unanimously (7:0)

Approve the Memorandum of Agreement with Eugene Education Association to Continue Compensation for Credit Based on Proficiency Responsibilities

Action Proposed: Approve a Memorandum of Agreement with the Eugene Education Association

Background: Since 2007-08 the district, in cooperation with the Eugene Education Association (EEA), has offered a pilot program by which high school students may receive credit based on demonstration of proficiency. The district and EEA have been parties to a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) that has provided for compensation to teachers with responsibilities under the program, which has now expired. The district would like to continue to offer credit based on proficiency and to provide compensation for mentor and coordinating teachers during 2010-11 on the same terms as provided by the expired MOA.
**Discussion:** Credit Based on Proficiency (CBOP) provides students with an alternate model for earning credits under the guidance of a teacher mentor. Using the standards based on Oregon Department of Education, students work with teachers to design curriculum in an area of learning. Student work is guided by teachers and community mentors to ensure that the learning experience is rigorous and aligned with state, national and/or college or industry standards, and relevant to the student’s Educational Plan and Profile. Compensation for teacher mentors is set at one day of per diem pay for each .5 CBOP credit for each student; teachers whose mentorship responsibilities take substantially longer than a day to complete may request an additional half day of per diem pay. In addition, each high school has a CBOP coordinator who coordinates the program at the building level. Coordinators are paid up to a maximum of three days at their per diem rate of pay. Under the pilot program, a maximum of 45 students may earn up to 1.5 credits based on proficiency in a year.

1. **Options and Alternatives:** Staff considered whether to offer the program to more students and determined, after consultation with EEA, to continue to offer credit based on proficiency within the parameters of the pilot program while the district explores what model might enable the district to provide credit based on proficiency opportunities on a broader scale in the future.

2. **Budget/Resource Implications:** Based on utilization rates and costs for the last three years, staff anticipates that the actual program costs for 2010-11 will be approximately $20,000. If the program were fully utilized, the estimated cost impact for 2010-11 would be $604,201.

3. **Board and Superintendent Goals:** Providing resources to help support credit based on a student’s mastery of a subject will help support students in meeting graduation requirements through non-traditional means.

**Recommendation:** The superintendent recommended approval of the Memorandum of Agreement.

**Approve the Memorandum of Agreement with Eugene Education Association on the Arts and Technology Academy**

**Action Proposed:** Approve a Memorandum of Agreement with the Eugene Education Association on the Arts and Technology Academy.

**Background:** Since 2007-08, the district and the Eugene Education Association (EEA) have had a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) in place which addresses how various contract provisions apply to the K-8 Arts and Technology Academy (ATA). Specifically, the MOA describes how contract provisions relating to leadership stipends and parent teacher conference scheduling apply to ATA. The MOA expired on June 30, 2010, and the district and the EEA have tentatively agreed to an extension of the agreement for two years.

**Discussion:** Many provisions in the collective bargaining agreement between the district and EEA apply only to elementary schools or only to middle schools. ATA's model is a combined elementary/middle school. The MOA is needed to clarify how existing provisions in the collective bargaining agreement apply to a K-8 school.

1. **Options and Alternatives:** No other options were considered.
2. **Budget/Resource Implications:** There are no new costs associated with approving this MOA.

**Recommendation:** The superintendent recommended approval of the Memorandum of Agreement.

**Approve the Purchase of School Buses**

**Action Proposed:** Board approval of the purchase of 10 buses, five (5) route buses and five (5) special needs buses, was requested.

**Background:** On June 21, 2006, the board approved a one year contract, with an opportunity for four annual extensions, with Western Bus Sales, Inc. for the purchase of school buses. The contract is currently in its fifth year and will be used to purchase the route buses.

On June 27, 2007, Salem-Keizer School District processed a Request for Proposal for the purchase of Type C School Buses and awarded a one year contract with the opportunity for four annual extensions to Western Bus Sales, Inc. This contract will be used to purchase the special needs buses and is due to expire August 14, 2010.

**Discussion:** District buses are replaced according to a 10 year cycle that coincides with the state depreciation reimbursement schedule established in OAR 581-023-0040(6)(k)(B) and keeps the fleet running in a safe, reliable and economical manner. Currently the district has 38 buses that are 11 years old or older.

1. **Rationale:** Having served in the fleet for 11 years, five (5) rear engine route buses are due for replacement within the next year. Five (5) front engine special needs buses are also due for replacement, having served between 12 to 14 years in the fleet.

2. **Options and Alternatives:** The district could reduce the number of buses being replaced, or defer the replacement purchase altogether. Deferring the purchases would increase ongoing maintenance costs and decrease fleet reliability as well as create compounding issues with the remaining 28 buses due for replacement now and the 26 additional buses due for replacement in three years. Deferring purchase of the special needs buses using the cooperative (Salem-Keiser) procurement would also necessitate a future solicitation, requiring additional district resources to create, issue, and evaluate the solicitation.

3. **Budget/Resource Implications:** The rear engine route buses will cost $127,817 each, with five costing $639,085. The front engine special needs buses will cost $106,493 each, with five costing $532,465. The total purchase will be $1,171,550.

   The net cost to the district is expected to be less with the trade-in of the retired buses, which will be dependent upon fleet needs at the time of new bus arrivals. Staff anticipates trading in nine (9) buses, retaining one special needs bus in reserve as a back-up. Current practice is to finance the buses over a 5 or 10 year period, with principal and interest being 70 percent reimbursable through State funds.

   Accumulated Fleet Funds will be used to pay for the remainder of the purchase. Transportation Fleet Fund balances includes State reimbursements for bus depreciation which must be used for the acquisition of new buses under ORS 327.033.
4. **Board and Superintendent Goals**: The proposal supports the board goal to provide prudent stewardship of district resources to best support student success, educational equity and choice.

**Recommendation**: The superintendent recommended that the board approve purchasing five (5) rear engine route buses from the district contract in the amount of $639,085 and five (5) special needs buses from the Salem-Keiser contract in the amount of $532,465, for a cumulative total of $1,171,550, from Western Bus Sales, Inc.

**Approve Ratification of CIP Contract Awards**

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

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

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

The superintendent recommended ratification of awards for CIP GO Bond funded projects as indicated on the summary sheet included in the board packet.

**Approve Grant Application: Middle School Mentor Program**

Staff from the Instruction Department submitted a grant application to the Meyer Memorial Trust for $42,224. This project provides extended support to the Eugene Middle School Mentor Project, which currently serves 185 at-risk students at all eight district middle schools. Mentors have lunch with students weekly and give personal attention, support and encouragement in an effort to increase self-esteem, school attendance and academic performance. The program is currently supported by a federal grant, which ends in August 2010. The new project will provide support for two school coordinators to serve two of the schools for the 2010-11 school year.

The superintendent recommended approval of the grant application.

**Approve Board Meeting Minutes**

The superintendent recommended approval of the minutes from the May 19, 2010, June 2, 2010, and June 16, 2010, regular board meetings. Copies of the minutes were included in the board packet.
ITEMS FOR ACTION AT A FUTURE MEETING

Authorize Staff to Explore Options to Potentially Acquire Property Adjacent to River Road (Camino del Rio) Elementary School

Mr. Lauch shared a map of the area of the proposed property acquisition and schematics of the site showing different site configurations. He reported that the funds for the acquisition would come from the Surplus Property Capital Fund. He anticipated a land use process would be necessary, which would require the development of findings.

Ms. Walston asked about acquiring the property directly to the south of the school. Mr. Lauch agreed that it would complete the site and the acquisition would be advantageous although he did not know if it was essential. He suggested the potential that the district could sell the frontage property directly adjacent to River Road for neighborhood commercial purposes. He said staff had not discussed the potential of that acquisition and said it might be worthwhile to investigate the possibility.

COMMENTS AND COMMITTEE REPORTS BY INDIVIDUAL BOARD MEMBERS

Mr. Smith solicited comments and committee reports.

Ms. Walston expressed appreciation for the consent calendar item related to CBOP, which she termed a great program. She thanked the community thought leaders group for its willingness to assist. She expressed appreciation for the community input.

Ms. Geller expressed pleasure that the board was back in session. She also expressed appreciation for the public testimony but clarified that the board had not discussed the closure of individual schools. Any discussion of closures would be part of a wider conversation.

Mr. Torrey said he represented the board in the Envision Eugene process, which included a broad cross-section of residents who were discussing whether to expand the urban growth boundary. His focus was on how to ensure the City of Eugene did not end up being an older community without many youth. Young families could not afford homes in many areas of the community, such as south Eugene, and he had attempted to ask the group as it considered new zone applications within the current city boundary how to ensure there was affordable housing so that young families with children could live in Eugene. The cost of land in Eugene was so high that it forced young families into the surrounding communities. The cost of larger lots in other areas would preclude young families from buying. He hoped the EEA would find a representative to sit in on the discussions and become educated on what was going on. He thought the public needed to understand the decisions that were made would dictate the type of community and district would exist in the future.

Ms. Levis expressed appreciation for those who offered testimony and the parents who spoke to the big issues the district would be considering in the coming year. She also appreciated the written comments. She noted that she and Ms. Geller had now passed the one-year anniversary as board members and she looked forward to the coming year. She acknowledged the anticipated budget crisis, and said while hiring a new superintendent would be challenging, it would also be a great year for the board to think about issues in a new way.

Ms. Gerot reported on recent Oregon School Boards Association activities. She expressed appreciation for the work of the community thought leaders group.
Ms. Hays looked forward to the new school year. She welcomed Ms. Mitchell and expressed appreciation for her work. She also echoed Ms. Geller’s comments about the fact no decisions had been made about school closures or consolidations and encouraged members of the public to attend board meetings to learn more.

Ms. Hays thanked the community thought leaders for their discussions.

Mr. Smith reported that Governor Ted Kulongoski had recently discussed his ‘reset recommendations’ before the City Club. Governor Kulongoski had talked about such approaches as statewide collective bargaining and regional collective bargaining and imposition of benefits and salary caps. Mr. Smith suggested that such approaches represented significant erosion in the authority that the school board had. He also noted the governor’s mention of the potential consolidation of districts.

ADJOURN

Mr. Smith adjourned the meeting at 8:50 p.m.

_____________________________   _____________________________
George Russell     Craig Smith
District Clerk      Board Chair

(Recorded by Kimberly Young)

Attachments to Official Minutes:
1. Letter of Intent to Resign from Superintendent George Russell
2. Resolution Authorizing Chair and Vice Chair to Sign as Legally Elected and Qualified Officers
3. Memorandum of Agreement between Eugene School District 4J and Eugene Education Association to Continue Compensation for Credit Based on Proficiency Responsibilities
4. Memorandum of Agreement between Eugene School District 4J and Eugene Education Association on the Arts and Technology Academy
5. Grant Description Form – Middle School Mentor Program