TO: Board of Directors

FROM: George Russell
Superintendent of Schools

RE: Reports and Recommendations

(A light dinner will be served)

5:30 pm WORK SESSION - Conduct a Work Session with the Equity Committee

7:00 pm REGULAR BOARD MEETING

VII. ITEMS FOR INFORMATION

1. Classified School Employee Appreciation Recognition

Governor Kulongoski has proclaimed March 2-6, 2009 as Classified School Employee Week. Superintendent Russell will read a proclamation from the governor, and encourage all members of our community to join in this observance recognizing the dedication and hard work of the district’s classified employees.

2. Receive Information on Services to 4J Homeless Students and Free/Reduced Program (Staff: Janis Swan and Chad Williams)

Janis Swan, Federal Programs Coordinator, will provide information and respond to any questions regarding the services and programs available to support our homeless students and families. In addition, data will be provided comparing last year’s numbers of homeless students and services with this year’s numbers and services. Chad Williams, Director of Nutrition Services, will provide additional information on our free/reduced program.

3. Receive a Legislative Report (Staff: Barb Bellamy)

Barbara Bellamy, Chief of Staff and Director of Communications, will brief the board about legislative issues and board and staff communications with legislators.

VIII. ITEMS FOR ACTION AT THIS MEETING

1. Approve Superintendent’s Recommendation Regarding Harris/Eastside Merger (Staff: Yvonne Curtis and Wally Bryant)

At the March 19, 2008 board meeting, the board directed Harris and Eastside to develop a school consolidation plan for consideration by the board no later than
February 1, 2009. The board also requested that they receive a status report on the consolidation conversion in November 2008.

The following guiding conditions for consolidation were established:
- School will be one school with one administrative structure and instructional program/model;
- School will have one budget, one site council;
- Enrollment priority will be given to students from within the Harris neighborhood boundary, then South Region boundary and then all other students; and
- Both school communities commit to engage in this conversation with equal voice and to work in good faith toward a potential collaboration, recognizing that the stakes are equally high for both schools.

Over the course of the spring and summer, Eastside Alternative school moved from Parker to Harris. A new principal, secretary and lead custodian were hired. Ten new staff were hired between the two schools. During August and September, the staff focused on the start up of both schools at the co-located site. Conversations about the new merged school began in October and have continued with staff, parents and district facilitators. The schools provided a progress report to the board on December 3, 2008. Since that time, the schools have continued their work on a program proposal for board consideration. An update was included in the previous board packet on February 4.

Staff and parents from the two schools have made a sincere and dedicated effort to develop a proposal that has mutual support, is intended to be based on best practices, and that would merge the two schools into one new school. The staff and parents developed a more refined proposal laying out the consolidation program and how it would work to meet the criteria previously established. Clearly, there is strong support and enthusiasm among those involved in the design and development of the proposal. The staff strongly believes that the consolidation should go forth and that the board should approve the merger of Harris and Eastside as a new community school with the following instructional practices and programs as the backbone for the new school:

- The teaching staff will be working in teams as professional learning communities. Ongoing professional development for the teaching staff will be a key component of our program.
- Core - provide core instruction in the district’s language arts and math curriculum.
- Project Based Learning - teaching to strengths and interests with mixed age groups of students. Student projects will include community-based activities. Projects may vary in length and will extend & enhance core skills.
- Arts - teachers offer classes that allow them to teach to their talent & passions. The arts integration will allow partnering with local artists and other community resources.
- Advisee Class -The Advisee multi-age class will provide an opportunity for social problem solving, caring, sharing and decision-making.
Additional components of the school program as described in the report would include the following:
- Technology
- Kindergarten
- Extended Learning Day
- Childcare
- Garden
- Parent Involvement

Since the board directed the two schools to begin work on a merger, our state’s financial environment has changed considerably and, rather than enjoying stability, we are preparing to make significant budget reductions next year. If the financial predictions that we have heard recently from state officials come true, our budget shortfall for next year could reach $21 million. Cuts of that magnitude will impact school staffing as well as programs.

What level of additional resources will be needed to support the merger remains a concern. Additional resources were provided to the two schools this year to assist with the planning and program design. Will additional resources or planning time be needed to support a successful transition? The report seems to indicate that some sort of additional support will be necessary to help in transition, including ongoing design implementation. I am not prepared nor do I recommend any additional resources at this time.

I do believe allowing the merger of Harris and Eastside to proceed is a good idea for the short term. I still have some questions about viability in the long-term, considering our declining enrollment and the number of small schools that we now have and the current picture of our financial situation.

Recommendation:

Notwithstanding the issues outlined above, I recommend that the board approve the consolidation of Harris and Eastside. This includes the observation and understanding that, should we decide to close more schools in the future, the newly merged school may still be considered for closure just as any other elementary school in the district.

IX. CONSENT GROUP – ITEMS FOR ACTION

1. Approve Board Meeting Minutes

The superintendent recommends approval of the minutes from the January 7, 2009 and January 14, 2009 regular board meetings. Copies of the minutes are included in the board packet.

2. Approve Personnel Items (Staff: Celia Feres-Johnson)

The superintendent recommends approval of the personnel items included in the board packet. These cover employment, resignations, and other routine personnel matters. The board may adjourn to executive session for matters dealing with employment if it desires to do so. ORS 192.660 (2) (a).
X. Comments and Committee Reports by Individual Board Members

XI. Adjourn

EXECUTIVE SESSION: Under provisions of ORS 192.610 – 192.690, Open Meeting Laws, the Board of Directors may conduct an Executive Session for the following purpose:

To conduct deliberations with persons designated by the governing body to carry on labor negotiations," pursuant to ORS 192.660 (2) (d).

CALENDAR FOR BOARD MEMBERS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Time</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Monday, March 2</td>
<td>Budget Committee Meeting</td>
<td>7 pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wednesday, March 4</td>
<td>Board Work Session</td>
<td>5:30 pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Regular Board Meeting</td>
<td>7 pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Saturday, March 7</td>
<td>Legislative Breakfast at Lane ESD</td>
<td>9-10:30 am</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Friday, March 13</td>
<td>Spring Board Retreat</td>
<td>Noon – 5 pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Saturday, March 14</td>
<td>Spring Board Retreat</td>
<td>8 am - Noon</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Monday, March 16</td>
<td>Budget Committee Meeting</td>
<td>7 pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wednesday, March 18</td>
<td>Regular Board Meeting</td>
<td>7 pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wednesday, April 1</td>
<td>Regular Board Meeting</td>
<td>7 pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wednesday, April 15</td>
<td>Regular Board Meeting</td>
<td>7 pm</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>