6:30 p.m.  **EXECUTIVE SESSION:** Under provisions of ORS 192.610-192.690, Open Meeting Laws, the Board of Directors will 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 (1) (d)*

7:00 p.m.  **REGULAR BOARD MEETING**

**TO:** Board of Directors

**FROM:** George Russell
Superintendent of Schools

**RE:** Reports and Recommendations

**VII. ITEMS FOR INFORMATION**

1. **Receive a Monthly Financial Report**  (Staff: Hillary Kittleson)

   Hillary Kittleson, Director of Financial Services, will be present at the meeting to review the monthly financial report and respond to board questions.

   (Staff: Londa Rochholz and Caroline Passerotti)

   In June 2006, Ridgeline Montessori Public Charter School and The Village School completed their sixth year of operation as Eugene School District charter schools. Network Charter School completed its third year of operation. Board policy LBE states that a public charter school must report at least annually on the performance of the school and students. The charter school must submit its annual audit of accounts, an updated three-year financial and enrollment plan, and other reports as required by the district and the Oregon Department of Education.

   Board policy also states that there shall be at least one on-site visit by district personnel to review compliance with the provisions of the contract between the district and the public charter school. Last spring, staff conducted an on-site visit at each of the three charter schools.

   Enclosed in your packet are Annual Reviews for Ridgeline Montessori Public Charter School, The Village School, and Network Charter School. Each report includes an evaluation of the charter school’s performance in relation to its school improvement plan and Oregon Statewide Assessment, results of the district site visit, an assessment of the charter school’s financial condition, and a statement of compliance regarding contractual agreements with the district.
Londa Rochholz and Caroline Passerotti will be available at your November 15 meeting to summarize conclusions. They and other members of the charter school team will be available to respond to any questions you may have.

3. **Receive a Report on The Work Underway at Both the State and District Levels Regarding High School Graduation Standards** (Staff: Laurie Moses)

The State Board of Education is interested in raising standards in high school and is in the process of reviewing Oregon's graduation requirements. Several changes have already been made to these requirements and additional changes are likely to be added as early as December. Staff will update the board on work that has been occurring in our high schools related to graduation requirements and will share information about additional changes that are being discussed by the state board.

4. **Receive an Update on the School Choice Process for High Schools** (Staff: Tom Henry and Laurie Moses)

Laurie Moses, Director of High School Services, and Tom Henry, Deputy Superintendent, will present information about how the school choice process will be managed given that we now have three small schools at North along with additional options available at the high school level. The information will also include how enrollment will be managed at IHS though the district lottery process to insure that we don't have over-enrollment issues at any campus.

**VIII. ITEMS FOR ACTION AT THIS MEETING**

1. **Adopt the 2007 Legislative Position Paper** (Staff: Barb Bellamy)

The 2007 Legislative Session will convene on January 8, 2005. Prior to each legislative session, the board has adopted a legislative position paper to communicate priorities to the legislature and the community. The position statements provide a set of criteria against which to evaluate proposals during the legislative session.

Following discussion and direction at the October 4 board meeting, staff met with board members Beth Gerot and Craig Smith to review the proposals for strengthening K-12 education that have recently emerged from the Senate Commission on Educational Excellence and other organizations and to discuss how the board might respond through its 2007 position paper.

A first draft legislative position paper for 2007 was included in your November 1 packet. At the November 1 meeting, staff also presented a shorter list of key messages for meetings with Lane county legislators in November and December. Based on discussion at the November 1 meeting, a revised draft is included in the board packet for your approval.

**IX. CONSENT GROUP - ITEMS FOR ACTION**

1. **Approve Board Meeting Minutes**

The superintendent recommends approval of the board meeting minutes from the regular meeting held September 20, 2006.
2. **Approve Personnel Items** (Staff: Wally Bryant)

The superintendent recommends approval of the personnel items included in the 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 (1) (a)

**IX. ITEMS FOR ACTION AT A FUTURE MEETING**

1. **Consider the Redirection of 2002 Bond Levy Funds Originally Designated for the Rachel Carson Environmental Center** (Staff: Bill Hirsh)

The May 2002 Capital Improvement Bond includes $500,000 as "seed money" toward a several million dollar development of a Rachel Carson Environmental Education Center to be constructed adjacent to the West Eugene Wetlands, subject to adequate fund-raising and contributions from others. (The $500,000 includes $25,000 for bond administration, and approximately $4,000 that has been spent to date on estimating costs). The project was discussed in length by the board, prior to the passage of the bond, at the board meeting on February 27, 2002.

In November of 2003, members of the Willamette Resources Educational Network, WREN, the non-profit group that is sponsoring this development, appeared before the board and made a presentation requesting additional time to conduct additional fund-raising. In terms of spending bond funds within IRS limitations, an extension of three years from November of 2003 could have been granted. The board elected to allow two years for additional fund raising. The two-year period ended in November of 2005, with the additional funds not yet identified and the land not yet transferred. The board discussed the recommendation, and after some deliberation, it was decided by the board to extend the fund-raising period for one additional year, with no further extensions to be granted. One year would be the absolute limit on (bond fund) time extension without involving an IRS penalty for expending funds beyond an IRS designated period from the last bond sale.

In November of 2005, it was estimated that the amount of additional funding needed to complete a phase 1 environmental center was approximately $550,000. Since that time the project cost has grown. Initial infrastructure estimates have proven to be far too low. In addition, WREN and its partners have decided to construct the buildings to a national environmental (LEEDS) platinum standard, which is the highest attainable. This adds further to the design and construction cost. The current total cost for phase 1, including all soft costs, infrastructure, and phase 1 buildings, is in excess of $4 million.

Following is a brief summary of the project and efforts to date:

The Bureau of Land Management, City of Eugene, Bethel School District, Eugene 4J School District and WREN have continued to show support for this effort. By 2005, representatives from these entities reinforced their commitment by signing an Education Center Partnership statement.

When completed, the West Eugene Wetlands Environmental Education Center campus will include a laboratory, greenhouse, auditorium, reference library, classrooms, meeting rooms and staff and volunteer offices. The building will strive to
meet the highest standards of Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) certification as a demonstration of sustainable building techniques applied in an economically sound and environmentally friendly manner. The sustainable design features embody the Center's ecological vision to demonstrate that humans can live responsibly with the land by creating a realistic model that could be emulated in the neighboring industrial, commercial, and residential complexes.

The current strategy is to build the center at a modest rate and phase the project to meet current needs. The first phase of the project includes: initial site development, a storm water demonstration project for sustainable landscaping, roadway and parking development, a composting toilet that conserves water, information kiosk, laboratory for school groups and interpretive programs, mudroom to support volunteer and education participants, and a public reception area with volunteer staff to answer questions and schedule programs. When and if adequately funded, 4J will build two classrooms on-site to house the Rachel Carson High School for Natural Resources, currently offered through Churchill High School to complement the first phase.

Status, Phase I:

The City of Eugene had committed (some modest) funds to this project, and has expressed interest in seeing the project completed, which would involve the District's financial participation coupled with successful fund-raising, which must occur in the next year(s). In addition, the City has included approximately $1.7 million in its Parks and Open Space Bond for the infrastructure for the entire center.

WREN estimates that its current fund raising efforts might generate approximately $500,000. With the passage of the City bond, and if the District funds were still available, the project would still be $1 million short and the building portion could not begin until something near the additional $1 million were fund raised.

The proposed land transfer from the BLM to the City of Eugene, requiring an action of the US Congress, has still not occurred, but appears imminent when Congress reconvenes.

The architect selection process has been completed. The Eugene firm of Rowell Brokaw Architects has been ranked #1 by consensus of the selection committee. If and when the District contracts to build Phase 1, the District will attempt to negotiate a contract with Rowell Brokaw subject to appropriate award.

Given these circumstances, it seems more likely that the project can move forward in the future, although it does not seem likely that it can do so in time to meet the district’s bond obligation timeline.

As mentioned earlier, the District's approximate $500,000 must be obligated now to a project that can immediately go into design and construction, or else be subject to IRS penalties.

In light of the time frame and IRS requirements, there appears to be there is no reasonable and fiscally appropriate way to use the current bond funds for this project. Therefore, I am recommending that the board redirect the bond funds to the security allowance line item within the bond. There are several important security projects, now unfunded, which could be performed within the next couple of years.
Recommendation

The superintendent recommends that staff be directed to (1) redirect the approximately $500,000 designated for the Rachel Carson Environmental Center to the support of school security projects as included in the initial bond proposal; (2) develop optional approaches to support the Rachel Carson Environmental Center through use of existing non-bond capital funds or future bond funds and establish parameters for its use.

X. Comments and Committee Reports by Individual Board Members

XI. Adjourn

CALENDAR FOR BOARD MEMBERS

NOVEMBER

Friday – Sunday, November 10-12 OSBA Conference - Portland

Wednesday, November 15 Executive Session
Board Meeting 6:30 p.m.
7:00 p.m.

DECEMBER

Monday, December 11 Budget Committee Meeting 7:00 p.m.

Wednesday, December 13 Board Meeting 7:00 p.m.

JANUARY

Wednesday, January 10 Board Meeting 7:00 p.m.

Wednesday, January 17 Board Meeting 7:00 p.m.