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)

(Dinner will be served)

REGULAR BOARD MEETING

TO: Board of Directors

FROM: George Russell
Superintendent of Schools

RE: Reports and Recommendations

VII. ITEMS FOR INFORMATION

1. Receive a Report on the Tripod Project and Proposed Survey (Staff: Laurie Moses, Carmen Urbina, and Arbrella Luvert)

The district is planning to participate in the Tripod Project, a national consortium of schools and districts that share interest in raising achievement for all students. The project was developed by Dr. Ronald Ferguson of Harvard University in 2001 as part of the work he began in 1996 on achievement gaps among students. His work has also become a part of the Minority Student Achievement Network (MSAN) to which Eugene School District 4J also belongs and which focuses on narrowing gaps among students from different racial, ethnic, and social backgrounds. Central to the Tripod Project is a survey of students to document their attitudes, perceptions, and practices in relation to their high school experience. The resulting data are returned to each school in forms appropriate for informing discussions about ways to improve the school, raise achievement, and narrow gaps.

FreshPond Education, Inc., a corporation that focuses on professional development for educators, manages the Tripod Project; the company is located in Cambridge, Massachusetts. Rob Ramsdell is the founder and leader of FreshPond Education. Mr. Ramsdell will be at the board meeting to comment on the Tripod Project and to answer questions about it.
2. **Receive a Report on the Proposed Minimum Standards for Student Participation for PE Activity at the Elementary and Middle School Levels** (Staff: Kay Mehas)

Kay Mehas, Director of School Services, will be present at the meeting to give a report on the proposed minimum standards for student participation for PE activity at the elementary and middle school levels and respond to board questions.

On May 3, 2006, the Eugene School Board adopted a new District Wellness Policy, to be effective starting with the 2006-07 school year. The superintendent is responsible for implementing the policy, including the creation of administrative rules. In the Wellness Policy Information document dated on August 15, 2006, it states that the superintendent will establish minimum standards for student participation in physical education and activity at the elementary and middle school levels. The following is the recommendation regarding these minimum standards.

Participation in Physical Education can contribute to positive attitudes regarding vigorous activity as essential throughout life to maintain health and to enrich the quality of life. The following minimum student participation standards are being proposed:

**Elementary**

In 2007-08, the minimum standard for student participation in physical education and activity at elementary grades 1 through 5 at a minimum shall be 60 minutes weekly to be provided at least two different days during the week.

In 2008-09, the minimum standard for student participation in physical education and activity at elementary grades 1 through 5 at a minimum shall be 75 minutes weekly to be provided at least two different days during the week.

In 2009-10, the minimum standard for student participation in physical education and activity at elementary grades 1 through 5 at a minimum shall be 90 minutes weekly to be provided at least two different days during the week.

Unstructured recess time is not to be replaced or reduced in order to provide mandated planned instructional physical education minutes.

**Middle School**

In order to provide the best environment for students the minimum standard for student participation in physical education and activity at the middle level grades will be phased in over a two-year period.

In 2007-08, the minimum standard for all 6th grade students will be to have at least 3200 minutes of physical education, preferably distributed evenly through out the school year. It is highly recommended that it is available for all students at 7th and 8th grades.

In 2008-09, the minimum standard for all 6th, 7th and 8th grade students will be a minimum of 3200 minutes of physical education each year preferably distributed evenly through out the school year.
(3200 minutes per year was established using a 40 minute period of time five times a week for one semester of 18 weeks)

**Impact of physical education recommendations:**

At the elementary level there is some concern regarding large schools and scheduling of gym space and the concern about scheduling interventions required in the new language arts adoption and time for music and creative arts.

Middle level principals report that due to limited periods and schedules students who in the past were able to take both band and art will now have to select to take one, but will be unable to take both. Other schools report, they will have to choose between taking music or art or a foreign language, but they will not be able to take the same number of electives as in the past. The types of electives offered in middle schools will vary from school to school and year to year, but with this requirement, they will be more limited at six of our eight middle schools.

One example given by a principal states the following:

For 6th grade, this would mean students would not get World Language, Choir, and library skills as part of our Explore program. In the place of these options would be PE.

For 7th grade, students would not be able to take World Language and Band/Orchestra. They would need to take one or the other.

For 8th grade, students would not be able to take World Language and Band/Orchestra. They would need to take one or they other. In addition, they would lose one other 18-week (semester) elective choice.

3. **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.

4. **Receive a Legislative Report**

Superintendent Russell will discuss current legislative issues and board and staff communications with legislators.

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

1. **Approve Approach to Support the Rachel Carson Environmental Center Project** (Staff: Hillary Kittleson)

   **Background**

   The May 2002 Capital Improvement Bond included $500,000 as “seed money” toward the 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 included $25,000 for design services and related costs; approximately $4,000 that has been spent to date on planning costs).

On February 27, 2002, the board unanimously authorized referring a $116 million bond measure to voters. Included in the motion to approve was the following adjustment:

- Reduce the proposed $3 million for school safety and security renovations to $2 million.
- Include $500,000 for master planning and preliminary work related to the development of the Rachel Carson Natural Resources Center, with expenditure of funds conditioned upon securing of federal and other funding by participating partners. If such funding does not materialize within three years then the funds will be recommitted to school safety and security renovations.
- Include additional $500,000 for replacement of portables at Monroe Middle School with classroom/bathroom additions.

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 requested additional time to conduct fundraising. In response, the board approved the following motion:

Authorize the superintendent and designees to continue planning for up to two years from today [November 19, 2003], for the proposed phase 1, as described in the board report, with the expectation that the 4J School District would be entitled, subject to agreement among all the partners, to have use of the entire facility after the complete buildout and full use of a classroom in Phase 1 during the school year. No district bond money will be spent on the project until there is a certainty that full funding for phase 1 is available, except that up to $25,000 (less $4000 expenditures to date) can be spent on design and related services, as deemed appropriate by the superintendent, to assist with fund raising and grant development.

In November of 2005, the superintendent requested, on behalf of district staff involved in project and WREN that an additional year be granted to allow for more fundraising. At that time, it was estimated that the amount of additional funding needed to complete the phase 1 of the environmental education center was approximately $550,000. In response, the board approved the following motion:

Grant an extension of time of one year from the date of this action [November 9, 2005] for WREN and/or others to identify adequate (and certain) funds to complete the first phase of the environmental education center. It was understood that if this extension was granted by the board, no further extensions could be given, and should adequate (and certain) funding not be identified in the specified time period, this project would be deleted from the bond list and the funds ear-marked for this project would be used for the next highest priority, bond-eligible, unfunded district capital projects.

Since that time the project cost has grown. In particular, initial infrastructure estimates have proven to be too low. 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; the original project budget was $2,076,767 (including $655,000 for land).

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 current strategy is to build the center in phases. 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, an 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. District 4J’s funds would be used to construct two classrooms to house the Rachel Carson Environmental Center, currently offered through Churchill High School.

The City of Eugene has expressed interest in seeing the project completed. The successful Parks and Open Space Bond (on the November 2006 ballot) included approximately $1.7 million for the infrastructure for the entire center. In addition, the City has committed $340,000 to this project.

Congress has authorized the transfer of the property from the BLM to the City of Eugene. 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 the District contracts to build Phase 1, it will attempt to negotiate a contract with Rowell Brokaw subject to appropriate award. WREN is preparing to begin the design process this month.

WREN estimates that its current fund raising efforts will generate approximately $500,000, leaving a balance of $1.0 to $1.5 million (depending on contingency levels) needed to complete the project, in addition to the District’s participation.

Given this progress, it now seems more likely that the entire project can move forward.

Most Recent Board Direction

On December 13, 2006, the board adopted the following motions:

1. Redirect $496,000 currently designated for the Rachel Carson Environmental Center ($500,000 project amount less $4,000 expended to date) 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 funding parameters, including that additional district funds cannot be expended until substantially all project funding is secured.

The $496,000 in bond funds have been redirected to security projects, as proposed in the initial bond proposal. Optional approaches to supporting the Rachel Carson Center are discussed below.

Optional Sources of Funding


   Staff is projecting undesignated reserves of approximately $2 million in Fund 400, the non-bond capital fund, at the end of this fiscal year. Given the uncertainty about the timing and passage of a future bond, I believe those reserves should be kept for highest priority district capital projects.

2. Future bond measure

   The Rachel Carson Center project could be included in a future bond, but a vote would occur no sooner than November 2008.

3. Undesignated proceeds from sale of property.

   Currently, most of the proceeds from the sale of surplus property are being used to support a five-year preventive maintenance and interior painting program. I believe that any balances, along with the proceeds from the sale of Santa Clara, should be kept for highest priority district capital projects.

4. Reserve for Measure 37 Real Property Value-Added Charge related to the sale of the Santa Clara sit.

   On February 28, 2007 the sale of the Santa Clara site was complete. The property sold for $7.4 million and the district received proceeds of $6.7 million, net of the Santa Clara Grange’s share (8% of the net proceeds) and closing costs. Of the $6.7 million, $1.38 million will be held in reserve to pay a potential Measure 37 Real Property Value-Added Charge currently under consideration by the City Council (the district will also reserve $120,000 on behalf of the Santa Clara Grange, from the Grange’s proceeds). If the charge is not enacted, the $1,380,000 can be released for capital projects. If the charge is less than the amount reserved, the balance will be released for capital projects.

Recommendation

The superintendent recommends option 4, that is, the use of up to $496,000 from the Reserve for Measure 37 Real Property Value-Added Charge, should the charge not be enacted or should the charge amount to less than $500,000. If the Real Property Value-Added Charge is more than $500,000, any amount in excess of $500,000 would be deducted from the $496,000 designated for the Rachel Carson Center. This option preserves capital reserves currently known to be available to the district, while allowing for the possibility of a contribution to the Rachel Carson Center project from funds which are less certain, pending a City Council decision on the value-added charge.
IX. CONSENT GROUP - ITEMS FOR ACTION

1. **Approve Board Meeting Minutes**

   The superintendent recommends approval of minutes from the work session and regular meeting held December 13, 2006.

2. **Approve Expenditures for February 2007** (Staff: Caroline Passerotti)

   ORS 332.255 requires that the district school board approve all expenditures for funds. A summary of the expenditures for February 2007, totaling $18,977,083.93 is included in the packet.

   The superintendent recommends approval of the February 2007 expenditures.

3. **Approve Ratification of CIP Contract Awards** (Staff: Bill Hirsh)

   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 Bill Hirsh, 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 identifies 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-previously Policy 6610.5)

   The superintendent recommends ratification of awards for CIP GO Bond funded projects as indicated on the summary sheet.

4. **Approve Grant Application: Carl D. Perkins Regional Development Grant**

   (Staff: Sam Tupou)

   Staff in the High School Services Department has submitted a $7,400 grant application to Lane Education Service District. This project grant would further develop the academic and professional technical skills of students through high standards, and link secondary and postsecondary professional technical programs. The grant would also provide professional development and technical assistance to professional technical educators.

   The superintendent recommends approval of the grant application. A copy of the grant description is included in the packet.
5. **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)

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

1. **Approve a Proposed Resolution Requesting Support of Adequacy Law Suit by OSBA Legal Assistance Trust**

   The board has received a request from the Oregon School Funding Defense Foundation to support a resolution to access OSBA Legal Assistance Trust funds to support the adequacy law suit, in which our district is one of the litigants. The Foundation estimates that the total cost to see the case through to Supreme Court resolution will be approximately $350,000. They estimate that nearly $200,000 will be covered by existing donors, leaving a shortfall of about $150,000. They would like to pursue about $20,000 from the OSBA Legal Assistance Trust, and have asked plaintiff districts to submit a resolution to the OSBA supporting financial support from the Legal Assistance Trust Board of Trustees.

XI. **Comments and Committee Reports by Individual Board Members**

XII. **Adjourn**

**CALENDAR FOR BOARD MEMBERS**

**MARCH**

Wednesday, March 21  
Executive Session  6 p.m.  
Regular Board Meeting  7 p.m.

**APRIL**

Wednesday, April 4  
Board Meeting  7 p.m.

Saturday, April 7  
Breakfast with Lane County Legislators – Ed Center Auditorium  9 – 10:30 a.m.

Saturday, April 14 – Tuesday, April 17  
NSBA Conference  San Francisco

Wednesday, April 18  
Board Meeting  7 p.m.

Monday, April 30  
Budget Committee Meeting  7 p.m.
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<td>Tuesday, May 1</td>
<td>ACE Awards – Hult Center</td>
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<td>Wednesday, May 2</td>
<td>Board Meeting</td>
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<td>Wednesday, May 16</td>
<td>Board Meeting</td>
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<td>Thursday, May 24</td>
<td>District Retirement Reception</td>
<td>3 – 5 p.m.</td>
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