TO: Board of Directors

FROM: George Russell
Superintendent of Schools

RE: Reports and Recommendations

VII. ITEMS FOR INFORMATION

1. **Receive an Update from North Eugene High School – Small Schools** (Staff: Laurie Henry)

   Small School Administrators, Teacher Leaders and students will be present to give an update on the Small Schools and respond to board questions. Lucinda Welch, the E3/OSSI Coach will also be at the meeting.

2. **Receive a Report on the Positive Behavior Support Program** (Staff: Bruce Stiller)

   Positive Behavior Support (PBS) is one of School District 4J's most comprehensive programs for addressing school climate goals. Although participation is voluntary, all but a few schools have developed PBS programs. PBS is not a specific curriculum, but a set of evidence based practices that guide teams for developing action plans that reflects the culture of their schools. A key feature of PBS is the use of data to guide decision making and document efficacy. Interventions addressing primary prevention, secondary intervention, and tertiary level supports are included.

   It has been several years since the School Board has had a formal presentation on PBS. Board membership has changed substantially since that time. The purpose of this presentation is to update the board on 4J's progress with the PBS program.

3. **Receive a Report on Proposed Legislation Related to School Lunch Programs and Foods Sold at Schools** (Staff: Barb Bellamy)

   Several bills have been introduced during the 2007 Legislative Session in the interest of supporting student health and wellness and providing financial incentives for schools to purchase and serve more Oregon agricultural products as part of school meal programs. Staff will discuss four bills that, thus far, are advancing in the 2007 Legislative Session:

   HB 3476 creates a farm-to-school program in the Department of Education and directs that school districts be reimbursed up to seven cents per meal for meals that utilize Oregon agricultural products and appropriates moneys from the state General Fund to support the program.
HB 3307 creates a farm-to-school program in the Department of Agriculture, and is a companion bill to HB 3476, and appropriates moneys from the state General Fund to support the program.

HB 3185 creates a school garden program in the Oregon Department of Education and establishes grants to school districts for garden-based education programs and field trips to educational farms. This bill appropriates moneys from the state General Fund to provide the grants.

HB 2650 specifies minimum standards for food and beverages sold in public schools and allows districts to adopt standards that are more restrictive.

Many of the concepts presented in these bills were discussed as the district's wellness policy (Board Policy EFA Local Wellness Program) was developed. The board adopted the wellness policy in May 2006, and the superintendent established temporary administrative rules to guide implementation for the 2006-07 school year. The district's Wellness Advisory Committee has been working on developing a recommendation for additional administrative rules for the superintendent to consider.

At the April 4 Board meeting, a community member requested that the board formally endorse the bills creating the farm-to-school and school gardens programs (HB 3476, HB 3307 and HB 2650). Generally, the board's practice is to communicate its priorities via a Legislative Position Paper adopted prior to the session, rather than to take positions on individual bills.

A copy of the four legislative bills and the 2007 Legislative Position Paper is included in your packet.

VIII. ITEMS FOR ACTION AT THIS MEETING

1. **Amend Contract with Creative Minds and Grant a Waiver to the Formal Competition Process** (Staff: Caroline Passerotti and Londa Rochholz)

For many years, Eugene School District 4J has contracted with Creative Minds to provide an alternative education program for 4J resident students referred by district staff. Creative Minds is a registered alternative education provider, as required by the State of Oregon. It serves both middle school and high school students in a small group setting, with hands-on learning and individual attention.

On August 2, 2006, in your approval of alternative education contracts serving district students who are not home schooled, you approved a contract with Creative Minds with a limit of 15.0 ADM and projected annual payment of $95,300 for both regular education and special education students. Limits were based on utilization levels in previous years and represented staff estimates of the number of students expected to be referred to Creative Minds. It also reflected the portion of the district alternative education budget projected to be spent for services provided through this program.

In past years, contractual limits to the number of students served by alternative education providers were used primarily as a budget management tool and not intended to restrict the number of students who could attend a program, should it reflect the best match for students' needs.
This year, primarily because of a reduction in the number of alternative education providers available to the district, demand for regular education services provided by Creative Minds is higher than anticipated. On September 6, 2007, the board decided to 1) rescind approval of 2006-07 contracts with alternative education providers serving home school students, without a referral process; 2) adopt a policy on alternative education and include language specifying the conditions under which students would be considered for placement in programs serving home school students in 2006-07; and 3) approve contracts with providers serving home school students in 2006-07 under the new referral process and within instructional hour caps approximating 2005-06 levels. At that time, Emerald Valley School, which served 17 ADM (average daily membership) in 2005-06, announced its closure. Impact Arts!, a smaller provider, reported it was relocating and would not be providing services to district students in 2006-07. HomeSource became unavailable for new referrals. Staff did not foresee the need to amend contracts with other alternative education providers at that time.

District staff now estimates the need for a revised contract limit of $195,000. Increasing this amount will not result in an increase in the district budget; funds will be reallocated from other areas of the alternative education budget to accommodate this increase.

The contract with Creative Minds was originally not expected to exceed $150,000, the point at which board policy requires a formal competitive process for personal service contracts. Board policy also permits you to waive this requirement upon a written finding that such a waiver is in the public’s best interest, and the granting of the waiver will result in substantial cost savings or other significant value to the district. It is believed that granting of the waiver will result in significant value to the district by providing appropriate placements for students.

On October 18, 2006, staff requested a similar contract revision and waiver of board policy for Wellsprings Friends School. At that time, they indicated their intent to review the district’s alternative education contracts and types of services provided, and to recommend an approach to contract approval for 2007-08 that anticipated the requirements of board policy. In response, the staff has determined that it is desirable to enter into a competitive process for providers serving ten or more full time equivalent students and will be recommending revisions to board policy to address this. They also plan to redirect funds within the alternative education program budget to the development of a student retention team with representatives at each high school. Representatives would track each student leaving the school for any other program, meet regularly to strategize around truancy issues, and work to develop more successful on-site strategies for students who are struggling. Caroline Passerotti and Londa Rochholz will be at your April 18 meeting to respond to any questions you may have.

The superintendent recommends 1) approving a contract with Creative Minds in the amount of $195,000 for alternative education services provided to district students in the 2006-07 fiscal year, and 2) granting a waiver to the formal competitive process for personal services contracts exceeding $150,000.
IX. CONSENT GROUP - ITEMS FOR ACTION

1. **Approve Student Requests for Individual Graduation Plans** (Staff: Sam Tupou)

   The Oregon Minimum Standards allow local school boards to approve alternative graduation plans for individual students. A memo from Sam Tupou, High School Curriculum Coordinator, describing a request for individual graduation plans is included in your packet. If you would like to review the plans, Sam Tupou can make them available to you.

   The superintendent recommends approval of the individualized graduation plans, as requested.

2. **Approve Board Meeting Minutes**

   The superintendent recommends approval of the board meeting minutes from the Work Session on Strategic Planning that was held on February 26, 2007.

3. **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. **Approve Revisions to Board Policy IKF, Graduation Requirements** (Staff: Sam Tupou)

   Board Policy IKF, Graduation Requirements was last updated and revised on April 15, 1998. This current board policy does not include the changes to Oregon’s new graduation requirements that resulted from the passing of House Bill 3129 in 2005 and signed into law in 2006. The new proposed policy brings our district into compliance with current graduation requirements for the 2006-07 school year, which requires 23 units of credits for graduation, and for students to meet the additional requirements for an Education Plan and Profile, Career-related Learning Standards, Career-related Learning Experiences and Extended Application.

   The proposed policy aims to establish additional new graduation requirements for students graduating in the years 2009-10, 2011-12, and 2013-14. Students in grades 9 through 12 must complete at a minimum 24 credits, three years of mathematics, and four years of English. Students receiving their diploma in 2012 will need to complete three credits of science, three credits in either the arts, a second language, or career and technical education, and six credits of electives and a portfolio of essential skills. Students who receive their diploma in 2014 must complete their math credits at the Algebra I level or higher.

   Portions of the proposed policy were taken from sample Oregon School Boards Association policies and documents from the Oregon Department of Education. The Instructional Policy Committee (IPC), High School Principals and Instructional Leadership Team (ILT) have reviewed the proposed policy, and have made
recommendations to move the proposal forward to the Superintendent’s Staff and to the School Board.

Changes to current policy were originally prepared in the legislative format. However, due to the numerous changes necessary to bring the current policy up to date, the proposed policy was difficult to read and to follow. As a result, we are submitting to you two separate documents (current policy and proposed policy) that are not in the legislative format (showing strikethroughs and underlines).

Sam Tupou, Curriculum Coordinator, and Maurie Denner (retired 4J school administrator) will be attending the board meeting to respond to any questions you might have. A copy of the current policy and the proposed policy are included in the packet.

The superintendent will recommend the revisions to School Board Policy IKF, Graduation Requirements, as presented.

X. Comments and Committee Reports by Individual Board Members

XI. Adjourn

CALENDAR FOR BOARD MEMBERS

APRIL

Monday, April 30
Budget Committee Meeting
7 p.m.

MAY

Tuesday, May 1
ACE Awards – Hult Center
5 p.m.

Wednesday, May 2
Board Meeting
7 p.m.

Wednesday, May 16
Board Meeting
7 p.m.

Thursday, May 24
District Retirement Reception
3 – 5 p.m.