

Board of Directors Meeting
School District 4J, Lane County
200 North Monroe Street
Wednesday, December 19, 2007

6:00 p.m. WORK SESSION

Conduct a Work Session on English Language Learner Instruction (Staff:
Yvonne Curtis and Abby Lane)

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 Report on the Results of Shaping 4J's Future Survey Newsletter**
(Staff: Barb Bellamy)

The Board will hear the results of the Shaping 4J's Future survey newsletter, which was distributed to parents, staff and the broader community in mid-October. The survey newsletter presented policy options in three areas: School size; managing enrollment and diversity; and expanding new initiatives. A questionnaire provided an opportunity to respond to each policy option.

At this meeting, Associate Professor Ed Weeks from the University of Oregon Public Policy Institute, who developed the survey questionnaire, will present the results and answer questions from the board.

Background:

In Fall 2006, the Eugene 4J School District initiated a strategic planning process called *Shaping 4J's Future* to answer questions about how and where the district will provide instructional programs to best serve students, in light of declining enrollment and changing student demographics and needs. School size and grade configuration, the location of alternative school programs, all-day kindergarten, school choice and open enrollment, and services to students with special needs were among the issues that the district needed to address. The over-arching goal of *Shaping 4J's Future* is to consider service delivery and policy options that increase achievement for all students, close the achievement gap and provide equal opportunities for all students to succeed.

The *Shaping 4J's Future* planning process has involved three phases:

- (1) *Identifying Trends and Issues* – Staff first compiled data on enrollment trends, then convened focus groups, comprised primarily of 4J staff, that reviewed these trends as well as best practices and suggested options for configuring schools and services to best achieve student achievement goals.
- (2) *Developing Possibilities for the Future* – A “Think Tank” composed of 12 community members met from January-July 2007 to review and package options that emerged from the focus groups and to make a recommendation to the board regarding which options should move forward for broader consideration by staff and community. The University of Oregon Public Policy Institute coordinated this phase of the planning process

The Think Tank was asked to consider the administrative, financial, legal and political feasibility of the options, and narrow and package the options that seemed reasonable for further consideration at this time. The group recommended that a number of policy options be moved forward to the public process. A few options, such as changing grade configurations, were recommended to be dropped at this time. Other options, such as service delivery models for special education and for delivering services to English Language Learners, were viewed as more appropriate to be referred to district staff to further explore as part of the district’s ongoing instructional planning.

Based on the Think Tank recommendations, the superintendent recommended a set of policy options be forwarded for broader input and consideration during the next phase of the process.

- (3) *Assessing Community Preferences* – A broad staff and community engagement process was conducted in October and November to gain input on the proposed policy options regarding school size, balancing enrollment programs among schools, responding to economic diversity, and emerging initiatives that required facility improvements. The UO Public Policy Institute designed the survey questionnaire and analyzed the results. Extra efforts were made to reach out to Spanish-speaking families and engage their participation.

Next Steps:

Over the next three months, the superintendent will propose a set of policy recommendations for board consideration, as follows:

- January 16 – Superintendent presents guiding principles for his recommendation
- February 13 – Superintendent presents recommendations
- February 20 – Public hearing
- March 19 – Board action on recommendations
- The board is also scheduled to discuss *Shaping 4J's Future* at work sessions and/or meetings on January 30, February 27, March 5 and 12.

A report of the survey newsletter results is included in this packet.

VIII. ITEMS FOR ACTION AT THIS MEETING

Adopt the 2007-08 and 2008-09 Superintendent’s Goal Statement and Establish the Criteria for the 2007-08 Annual Evaluation

The contract between the superintendent and the board states that the board will evaluate the superintendent at least once each year based on the goals and objectives agreed upon by the board and the superintendent, and the terms of their contract. ORS 192.660 (2) (i) requires, and School Board Policy CBB states, that the standard criteria and policy directives to be used in evaluating the superintendent shall have been adopted by the board in meetings open to the public no later than January each year.

I propose that the criteria to be used in my annual evaluation consist of our agreed upon goals, the contract between the superintendent and the board, the position description contained in School Board Policy CBA, and a Self-Evaluation Feedback form. A draft copy of my proposed two-year goal statements, which are based upon your annual agenda, is included in the board packet.

IX. CONSENT GROUP – ITEMS FOR ACTION

1. Approve Regular Board Meeting Minutes

The superintendent recommends approval of the board meeting minutes from the regular October 3, 2007 and October 17, 2007 board meetings.

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 (2) (a).

X. Comments and Committee Reports by Individual Board Members

XI. Adjourn

CALENDAR FOR BOARD MEMBERS

JANUARY

Wednesday, January 9	Board meeting	7 pm
Wednesday, January 16	Board meeting	7 pm
Wednesday, January 30	Board work session	6 pm

FEBRUARY

Wednesday, February 13	Board meeting	7 pm
Wednesday, February 20	Public hearing (followed by work session if time allows)	7 pm
Wednesday, February 27	Board meeting and work session	7 pm

MARCH

Wednesday, March 5	Board meeting	7 pm
Wednesday, March 12	Board work session	6 pm
Wednesday, March 19	Board meeting	7 pm