

Board of Directors Meeting
School District 4J, Lane County
200 North Monroe Street
Wednesday, March 5, 2008

5:30 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 (2) (d).

(Dinner will be served)

6:00 p.m. REGULAR BOARD MEETING

TO: Board of Directors

**FROM: George Russell
Superintendent of Schools**

RE: Reports and Recommendations

VII. ITEMS FOR INFORMATION

1. Classified School Employee Appreciation Recognition

The Governor has proclaimed March 3-7, 2008 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.

VIII. ITEMS FOR ACTION AT THIS MEETING

1. Nominate Beth Gerot as a Candidate for the OSBA Board in Region 6 (Staff: Barbara Bellamy)

The Oregon School Boards Association adopted a new governance process at its fall 2007 annual meeting. Candidates for the OSBA Board are now nominated and elected by geographic region. Lane County is designated as OSBA governance region 6. 4J Board member Beth Gerot has previously served on the OSBA Board and is interested in election to a new term.

The nomination form is included in this packet.

The superintendent recommends that the board nominate Beth Gerot as a candidate for the OSBA Board.

IX. CONSENT GROUP – ITEMS FOR ACTION

1. **Approve Grant Application: Time for Success; North Eugene High School SLC Project** (Staff: Laurie Moses)

Staff at North Eugene High School submitted a \$1,239,189 grant application (over five years – Year 1: \$290,232) to the U.S. Department of Education. After planning and implementing SLC's for several years, North Eugene High School has a basic Smaller Learning Community infrastructure in place that now includes three small schools for 9th-11th graders: International High School, Academy of Arts, and School of IDEAS (Invention, Design, Engineering, Arts, and Sciences). Staff support is at 98% and all stakeholders are on board. What is now needed is threefold: 1) Expand SLC's to 12th grade so that every student will be in a small learning community; 2) implement Oregon's new rigorous graduation requirements and higher achievement goals for all students; 3) put in place effective teacher professional development and research-based strategies and student supports so that all students can succeed.

The goals of *Time for Success* are: 1) Personalized learning communities; 2) rigorous curriculum; 3) supports for success for all students; and 4) ongoing professional development, which supports the first three goals. Activities include: Expanding current SLC's so every student will be in an SLC by Fall 2008; a summer bridge program; an advisory program; positive behavior support; an expanded Math Acceleration Center; enhanced science instruction and supports; strengthened career and college guidance; increased number of students in AP/IB and honors courses; inclusion model for special education students; sheltered instruction observation protocol and other supports for English Language Learner students; research-based learning strategies and support for reading and math; increased project-based learning; and, to support all these changes, professional learning communities for all teachers and other professional development to implement the project. Outcomes will be more students meeting state standards and prepared for higher education, fewer dropouts between ninth and twelfth grades, and more students in post-secondary education after graduation.

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

2. **Approve Grant Application: Eugene Alcohol Abuse Prevention Project** (Staff: Kay Mehas)

Staff in the Instruction Department submitted a \$449,962 grant application to the U.S. Department of Education, Office of Safe and Drug Free Schools. This alcohol abuse prevention project would serve all district middle schools. The objective of the project is to expand and enhance prevention efforts at eight middle schools, with the expected outcome of reducing the number of students involved in binge drinking, increasing the number of students who believe that alcohol abuse is harmful to their health, and increasing the number of students who disapprove of alcohol use for teens.

The project will provide SAMHSA-approved model program Project Northland to all middle school students. System change and capacity building will be assured by training and providing salary support for staff members currently on staff in the schools – a health teacher, counselor, or other teacher – who will remain as a resource after

the grant funding is over. In addition, family activities and community components will ensure program success and sustainability.

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

X. ITEMS FOR ACTION AT A FUTURE MEETING

1. Approve Superintendent's Recommendations for Shaping 4J's Future

At the February 27, 2008 work session, the board discussed the Superintendent's Report and Recommendations for Shaping 4J's Future - Part II and asked that some additional options be prepared for board consideration. The board was interested in exploring the following concepts:

- Consolidating Harris neighborhood elementary and Eastside alternative elementary schools at the Harris building;
- Moving Buena Vista Spanish immersion school to another site, thereby allowing Meadowlark to continue operating at its current site as a small neighborhood school;
- Retaining Coburg elementary school as a small neighborhood school in the city of Coburg.

Merging Harris and Eastside

The board requested the superintendent to develop an option that would allow the two schools –Harris and Eastside—the opportunity to develop a proposal to consolidate or merge the schools within the Harris building. The request suggested that there should be some parameters established to guide the discussions and set the expectations regarding acceptable outcomes. The board was clear that co-location was not to be an option.

Additional options for Buena Vista and Meadowlark

The board requested an option that would move Buena Vista Spanish immersion school to another site and allow Meadowlark to continue as a neighborhood school at its current location.

Options considered:

1. Move Buena Vista to a new school building to be constructed at Kinney Loop
If Buena Vista is to remain in the Sheldon region, then the most viable alternative is to construct a new school building for Buena Vista at the Kinney Loop site. This would be part of a bond measure in 2010, with relocation of Buena Vista to the new building in fall 2012 or 2013. In the meantime, Buena Vista would need to remain in the Meadowlark building for the next 4-5 years. Neither school would be able to expand, unless the Board is willing to fund installation of modular classrooms at the Meadowlark site. With nearby Willagillspie having the capacity to serve 100+ more students, adding capacity at Meadowlark in the short term does not appear to be practical.
2. Move Buena Vista to the Monroe Middle School building
There is not sufficient capacity at Monroe Middle School in the near future to move Buena Vista to that building. Modular classrooms, a playground, restroom facilities and possibly other improvements would be needed in order to serve younger

students. Co-locating Buena Vista elementary with Monroe, would result in a site serving about 700 students.

3. Construct an additional building on the Meadowlark site

There was also a suggestion to construct a new school building adjacent to Meadowlark, so that Meadowlark and Buena Vista would be in two separate buildings. The Meadowlark site is not large enough to accommodate two elementary schools, parking and play areas without encroaching on Sheldon athletic fields.

Retaining Coburg Elementary School

The board asked staff to consider the implications of maintaining Coburg elementary school and to suggest criteria or conditions under which this might occur, including the possibility of financial support from the City of Coburg.

As a starting point, I suggest the following as a possible target for support from the City of Coburg or community to offset district costs and keep a viable elementary school program at Coburg:

- Custodial services - support to supplement a district allocation that would result in a full-time day custodian and a 3.75 hour night custodian;
- Ongoing maintenance and operation of the building;
- Support to maintain services needed to ensure that the small school would be viable and offer programs for students similar to larger schools, including library, music and physical education instruction;
- Administrative support services for operating a very small school of less than 200 students.

Superintendent's Revised Recommendations

Harris and Eastside:

February 13 Recommendation: Close Harris for 2008-09 and move Eastside in for 2008-09 and French Immersion in 2009-10.

Revised Recommendation: Do not close Harris for 08-09; move Eastside in to share building for 08-09 and support discussions that will allow consolidation into one school for 2009-10. Establish parameters to guide discussions.

French Immersion:

February 13 Recommendation: Move Charlemagne French Immersion to share Harris building with Eastside beginning in 2009-10, and declare Fox Hollow site surplus in 2010.

Revised Recommendation: Do not move French Immersion until 2010, unless Harris building becomes available, and consider other possible locations including remodeled Willard site or Bailey Hill, or a K-8 model located with the new or remodeled Roosevelt Middle School. Declare Fox Hollow site surplus beginning in 2011 or 2012.

Coburg Elementary:

February 13 Recommendation: Close Coburg Elementary school in 2012 and move students to new school at Kinney Loop site, in consolidation with Meadowlark. Send students from new school to Monroe Middle School.

Revised Recommendation: Delay decision on closing Coburg and direct superintendent to develop an IGA with City of Coburg to provide support for Coburg as very small neighborhood school.

Meadowlark Elementary School

February 13 Recommendation: Move Meadowlark students to new school at Kinney Loop site in 2011 in consolidation with Coburg. Send students from new school to Monroe Middle School.

Revised Recommendation: Retain Meadowlark at current site as small neighborhood school and move Buena Vista to new school at Kinney Loop site in 2012 as stand alone alternative school.

Adams Elementary School

February 13 Recommendation: Explore and implement program alteration options, including consideration of a Spanish dual immersion program in concert with an ELL cluster program or another language immersion.

Revised Recommendation: Explore and implement program alteration options, which might include consideration of a Spanish dual immersion program in concert with an ELL cluster program or a **Chinese** language immersion.

Additional Considerations

In addition to the specific recommendations mentioned above, the public and staff feedback received through numerous sources suggested some additional alternative scenarios that weren't originally considered. While I am not at this time recommending any of the alternate scenarios, I have decided to include them for possible contemplation or discussion if the board so desires. All other recommendations as presented on February 13, 2008 would remain unchanged.

A Summary of Superintendent's Revised Recommendations for Shaping 4J's Future – March 3, 2008 is included in your board packet.

2. Request for Annexation of the Kinney Loop Property (Staff: Jon Lauch)

As part of the Shaping 4J's Future process the superintendent has recommended that consideration be given to including a new school in the next capital bond measure to be built on the Kinney Loop property. The board has asked staff to provide a time line for property development and school construction in order to determine when a school could be ready for occupancy. While there are many variables and a few uncertainties, staff believes that the soonest practical completion date for the potential/proposed school is fall of 2012. Staff will be available at the meeting to provide an overview.

There are a number of critical path planning items that must be addressed in order for this schedule to be possible, the first of which is annexation to the City of Eugene. Even should the board decide not to include construction of a new school at the Kinney Loop site in the 2010 bond measure, it seems prudent to proceed, as annexation of the property is required prior to any development of the property.

The superintendent will recommend requesting annexation of the Kinney Loop property into the City of Eugene in order to move the property forward in the planning process so that it is closer to a point that the property can be developed.

XI. Comments and Committee Reports by Individual Board Members

XII. Adjourn

CALENDAR FOR BOARD MEMBERS

MARCH

Wednesday, March 5	Board meeting with Executive Session	5:30 pm
Saturday, March 8	2008 NAACP Freedom Fund Dinner at VRI (George, Alicia, Beth, Jim & Yvette)	6:30 – 9 pm
Wednesday, March 12	Board work session	6 pm
Wednesday, March 19	Board meeting	7 pm

APRIL

Wednesday, April 2	Board meeting	7 pm
Saturday, April 12	Board Retreat	8 am – 4 pm
Wednesday, April 16	Board meeting	7 pm
Tuesday, April 29	ACE Awards at Hult Center	5 pm