TO:        Board of Directors
FROM:      George Russell
           Superintendent of Schools
RE:        Reports and Recommendations

6:00 pm    WORK SESSION - Conduct a Work Session on the District's TAG Program (Staff: Yvonne Curtis and Kerri Sage)

Staff will provide the board with information about the district Talented and Gifted (TAG) Services. After a brief presentation about what the law requires, our district identification process and our instructional services, the board will engage staff in discussion around key areas and questions.

7:00 pm    REGULAR BOARD MEETING

VII. ITEMS FOR INFORMATION

1. Receive an Update Regarding an Intergovernmental Agreement with Coburg (Staff: Carl Hermanns)

At the March 19, 2008 board meeting, the board postponed making a decision on closing Coburg Elementary School until February 2009. The board directed district staff to work with the City of Coburg to develop an intergovernmental agreement (IGA) whereby the city offsets additional costs associated with continuing to operate Coburg Elementary School as a small neighborhood school. District staff has subsequently engaged in a series of meetings with a team appointed by Mayor Volta to analyze the school's ongoing operating costs and to negotiate the terms of the IGA, and will present an update on the negotiations.

2. Receive an Update on OSAA League Proposals (Staff: Laurie Moses)

The Classification and Districting Committee of the Oregon School Activities Association (OSAA) has determined that the classification alignment it proposed in November is unsatisfactory. The committee has now proposed three other classification alignments. It is receiving written testimony about these proposals at this time and will receive public testimony about them at its meeting on February 23, 2009.

Laurie Moses, Director of High School Services, will present an overview of the OSAA proposals to the board. An update on the proceedings of the OSAA Classification and Districting Committee is included in the board packet. This update includes an outline of the three new proposals.
VIII. ITEMS FOR ACTION AT THIS MEETING

1. Approve Superintendent’s Recommendations Regarding the Middle School Alternative School Review  (Staff: Carl Hermanns)

Board Policy IGBH: Alternative Schools directs the district to regularly review alternative schools and programs “in order to ensure that alternative schools/programs continue to meet board and district goals, and perform consistent with board policy and expectations.” In accordance with that policy, the district’s middle school alternative school programs were reviewed this past fall.

The district currently has five middle school alternative programs. Three of the programs are language immersion programs that provide the opportunity for students in the elementary language immersion schools to continue their intensive language studies in middle school. The French immersion program is offered at Roosevelt Middle School; the Japanese immersion program is offered at Kelly Middle School; and the Spanish immersion program is offered at Monroe Middle School. The fourth middle school alternative program, Family School, is also an extension of an elementary alternative school and is offered at Spence Butte. The fifth program, da Vinci, is a stand-alone middle school alternative program offered at Kelly Middle School.

Prior to proceeding with the formal review process, the district review team conducted a preliminary assessment with da Vinci and the Family School middle school program, during which both schools chose to forgo the formal review process. Da Vinci notified the review team that they intended to begin the process of merging with Kelly Middle School, in order to create a new, combined school that capitalizes on and maximizes the strengths and talents inherent in both programs. Family School middle school program notified the review team that they proposed to begin the process of merging with the elementary Family School to create an integrated grade 1 through 8 Family School program beginning next year, and also hoped to add a kindergarten.

The formal review process for the three language immersion middle school programs took place in October and November 2008, and consisted of a written response by each immersion program to the assessment criteria approved by the board, followed by a site visit by the district review team.

The review team determined that each of the immersion programs represents a distinctive educational strategy for achieving the board’s educational goals, and recommends no change in status for the programs. However, the review team does pose suggestions for the programs to consider, and recommends minor modifications in the Japanese immersion program.

The superintendent concurs with the review team’s conclusions and recommends:

1. da Vinci continue the merger process with Kelly Middle School, and the Family School middle school program continue its proposed K-8 integration with the elementary Family School program;
2. No change in status for the three middle school language immersion alternative programs;
3. Program modifications for the Yujin Gakuen Japanese Immersion middle school program, to take place over the next two years, that will result in increased engagement of its students over the entire course of their middle school years and the reintroduction of a curriculum subject area into its program.

IX. CONSENT GROUP – ITEMS FOR ACTION

1. **Approve Expenditures for June, July, August, September, October, November, and December 2008 and January 2009** (Staff: John Ewing)

   A summary of the district’s expenditures for June 2008, totaling $43,364,469.63; July 2008, totaling $5,862,640.36; August 2008, totaling $15,706,764.68; September 2008, totaling $17,004,102.73; October 2008, totaling $20,520,852.21; November 2008, totaling $19,390,933.70; December 2008, totaling $17,274,960.98; and January 2009, totaling $25,193,748.82 are included in the board packet.

   The superintendent recommends approval of the June, July, August, September, October, November, and December 2008 and January 2009 expenditures.

2. **Approve Grant Application: Beyond the Asphalt Outdoor School #2** (Staff: Kay Mehas)

   Staff from Kelly Middle School submitted a grant application to the National Education Association (NEA) for $5,000. This grant application is an additional source of funding for Kelly Middle School’s “Beyond the Asphalt” outdoor experience program. The program will provide opportunities for students to increase their understanding of the relevance of environmental science and technology, helping them to make connections to the natural world. All activities will take place at the McKenzie River Conference Center for three days of intense learning and fun along the banks of the McKenzie River in the Willamette National Forest. The experience will offer students, many of whom rarely explore beyond the asphalt parking lot in their urban environment, an opportunity to participate in GPS navigation in a natural setting, study ecosystems, learn survival skills and identify and appreciate plants and wildlife.

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

3. **Approve Board Meeting Minutes**

   The superintendent recommends approval of the minutes from the November 19, 2008 and December 3, 2008 regular board meetings. Copies of the minutes are included in the board packet.

4. **Approve Personnel Items** (Staff: Celia Feres-Johnson)

   The superintendent recommends approval of the personnel items included in the board 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

Wednesday, February 18
- Board Work Session
- Regular Board Meeting

Monday, March 2
- Budget Committee Meeting

Wednesday, March 4
- Board Work Session
- Regular Board Meeting

Saturday, March 7
- Legislative Breakfast at Lane ESD

Friday, March 13
- Spring Board Retreat

Saturday, March 14
- Spring Board Retreat

Monday, March 16
- Budget Committee Meeting

Monday, March 16
- Regular Board Meeting

Wednesday, April 1
- Regular Board Meeting

Wednesday, April 15
- Regular Board Meeting