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

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).

7:00 p.m. REGULAR BOARD MEETING

VII. ITEMS FOR INFORMATION

1. Receive a Report on the District’s Elementary Culinary Competition (Staff: Rick Sherman)

Board Policy EFA, Local Wellness Program, states that “students will receive nutrition education that is interactive and teaches the skills they need to adopt lifelong habits of healthy eating.” Nutrition services management continues to develop innovative ways to help partner in this educational process. This year, they will sponsor a culinary competition for 4th and 5th graders. Students will submit recipes for healthy snacks, and two finalists from each school will be invited to prepare their snack for a panel of judges. The competition will be held on Monday, February 15th at South Eugene High School. Rick Sherman, Nutrition Services Director, will provide additional information about the competition.

2. Receive a Report on Eugene Comprehensive Lands Assessment (Staff: Barb Bellamy)

The City of Eugene is conducting an assessment of residential, industrial and commercial lands, as well as non-employment lands (e.g., parks, open space). This study, called the Eugene Comprehensive Lands Assessment, includes an inventory of buildable lands within the City’s Urban Growth Boundary (UGB), an estimate of the need for land for residential uses and for non-residential uses (primarily commercial and industrial, but also public), and a determination of whether the City has sufficient land within the UGB to meet the estimated residential and non-residential needs.

The purpose of this presentation is to provide an overview of the study and an opportunity for the board to ask questions and gain a better understanding of
community growth policy issues that might have future implications for the school district. Jason Dedrick from the City of Eugene Planning and Development staff will be making the presentation.

A handout describing the Eugene Comprehensive Lands Assessment is included in the board packet.

VIII. ITEMS FOR ACTION AT THIS MEETING

1. Elect Board Vice-Chair

Beth Gerot is resigning from her position as Board Vice-Chair effective January 1, 2010, when she will begin her term as President of the Oregon School Boards Association. The Board of Directors will elect a board member to serve as vice-chair for the remainder of the fiscal year ending June 30, 2010.

IX. CONSENT GROUP - ITEMS FOR ACTION

1. Approve Board Meeting Minutes

The superintendent recommends approval of the minutes from the November 18, 2009 regular board meeting. A copy of the minutes is included in the board packet.

X. ITEMS FOR ACTION AT A FUTURE MEETING

1. Approve the Addition of a Kindergarten Program at Buena Vista Elementary School (Staff: Juan Cuadros and Sara Cramer)

Buena Vista is the only elementary school in the district that does not offer a kindergarten program. It is also the only one of the language immersion schools that does not have kindergarten.

Buena Vista adopted the full immersion program in the 2005-06 school year. Research indicates that the earlier language acquisition can begin, the stronger the bond to the language. When students can enter the school at the onset of their education, they can be included earlier in all aspects of the school culture, such as school assemblies, celebrations, activities and the building of school traditions. The Buena Vista kindergarteners would attend the same facility as their older siblings, and the parents who transport them to and from school would benefit.

During the Alternative School Review Committee’s visits to the other two language immersions schools in our district (both of which have kindergartens), the educational advantage, in terms of language development, for children who begin a language immersion program in kindergarten, became clearly apparent. Looking at this information as well as evidence gathered through discussions with the staffs and families of both Buena Vista and Meadowlark, the Alternative School Review Committee Revised Report dated February 2007, page 11 stated: “Additionally, we believe that both Buena Vista’s program and the district’s educational program would be further enhanced by adding a kindergarten at Buena Vista.” The Review Committee believed that the lack of a kindergarten at Buena Vista disadvantaged both Meadowlark...
and Buena Vista. Meadowlark struggles with the loss of significant numbers of their kindergarten students who attend kindergarten at Meadowlark, their neighborhood school, but then transfer to Buena Vista at first grade. Adding the kindergarten to Buena Vista would help mitigate this current situation.

The principal and the staff of Buena Vista support the addition of kindergarten at Buena Vista. The Meadowlark staff supports the Buena Vista kindergarten but with concerns on the impact it will have on Meadowlark. The site council for Buena Vista Elementary supports the addition of the kindergarten. The Meadowlark site council supports the addition but with concerns. Their reservations are: The impact on facilities, such as playground, parking, and scheduling with specialists, music and P.E. The Meadowlark staff and the Meadowlark Parent Organization also share these concerns. Principal Juan Cuadros processed with both staffs and both parent groups to address all the above issues. Meadowlark and Buena Vista Elementary understand that the double modular classrooms are to be used to “solve site crunch issues, and it is a site module, not exclusive to either school.” One half of the portable could be used for the Buena Vista kindergarten. Furthermore, both staffs know that a kindergarten is what is best for kids. Therefore, space is available for the Buena Vista kindergarten.

There have been concerns expressed that there is not space available at the facility to house both programs with kindergarten through fifth grade. At the present time, the Meadowlark Spanish teacher uses this space, but this program may not be available next year. The modular could be repurposed for a kindergarten classroom and that will be the plan for both programs to work together to determine how to use the current facility to its greatest advantage.

The Instructional Leadership Team (ILT) reviewed the Buena Vista kindergarten proposal. Before this meeting, Principal Cuadros presented the proposal of adding a kindergarten at Buena Vista to the other elementary principals and they gave their consent. In addition, he met with the Sheldon region principals and they too gave their approval of Buena Vista having a kindergarten.

Significant budget cuts are impacting the district this biennium. The only additional costs would be the salary of a 1.0 FTE kindergarten teacher for the transitional year, which the Instruction Department has agreed to fund, if approved. Subsequent year staffing resources will be tied to the ratio and number of students enrolled. The school will handle the purchase of needed curriculum and furniture. The Buena Vista Parent Organization will financially support these efforts.

It should be noted that this recommendation differs from my recommendation as part of Shaping 4J. My recommendation then was that while I supported the addition of kindergarten at Buena Vista, kindergarten should only be added after establishing Buena Vista as a standalone school or moving it to a non-neighborhood school site. However, subsequent decisions have made it clear that such a decision is farther off than originally intended, and that the current space will allow for Buena Vista kindergarten without having to provide additional facilities. Therefore, my recommendation is predicated upon the expectation and understanding that the Buena Vista kindergarten will be accommodated within the existing facility and other resources available to the Meadowlark/Buena Vista site.
The superintendent will recommend approval of the addition of a kindergarten program at Buena Vista Elementary School. An impact information sheet is included in the board packet.

XI. Comments and Committee Reports by Individual Board Members

XII. Adjourn

The annual charter school reviews for Network Charter School, Ridgeline Montessori, and Village School are included in the board packet. If you have any questions, please contact Caroline Passerotti by e-mail at passerotti@4j.lane.edu or by phone at 790-7608. Caroline will respond to any questions via an e-mail to all board members.

**CALENDAR FOR BOARD MEMBERS**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Time</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Monday, December 14</td>
<td>Budget Committee Meeting</td>
<td>7 pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wednesday, December 16</td>
<td>Executive Session</td>
<td>5:30 pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Regular Board Meeting</td>
<td>7 pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wednesday, January 6</td>
<td>Work Session – Graduation Requirements</td>
<td>5:30 pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Regular Board Meeting</td>
<td>7 pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Monday, January 11</td>
<td>Budget Committee Meeting</td>
<td>7 pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wednesday, January 13</td>
<td>Work Session – Site Councils</td>
<td>5:30 pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Regular Board Meeting</td>
<td>7 pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wednesday, January 20</td>
<td>2010 Celebration of Business</td>
<td>5:30 - 9 pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Eugene Hilton</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Friday, January 22</td>
<td>Board Retreat</td>
<td>Noon - 5 pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Saturday, January 23</td>
<td>Board Retreat</td>
<td>8 am - Noon</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>