6:15 p.m. – Orientation for High School Student Representatives
7:00 p.m. - Regular Board Meeting

TO: Board of Directors

FROM: George Russell
Superintendent of Schools

RE: Reports and Recommendations

7 p.m. REGULAR BOARD MEETING

VII. ITEMS FOR INFORMATION

1. Receive a Report on Eugene Education Fund Activities

Eugene Education Fund Director David Meredith will report on the fiscal year that ended June 30, showing $856,935 in revenue, and then give an update on plans for the 2010 Annual Campaign, which kicks off September 15.

2. Receive an Update on Sustainable Budget Planning Process (Staff: Barb Bellamy)

The board has set a goal of implementing a sustainable budget that balances the district's service system with its long-term revenue stream. At this meeting, staff will outline a planning and decision-making process for developing sustainable budget strategies and recommendations, including opportunities for community outreach and engagement. The superintendent will present his initial thinking regarding core values and priorities that should guide the development of options and recommendations. A board work session later in September will provide more opportunity for board discussion of the core values and priorities.

Background:

Governor Kulongoski has warned that the national recession will have a deep and long-lasting impact on state-funded services, including Oregon schools. State tax revenues have fallen below expectations during the 2009-11 biennium, causing funding reductions for schools as well as state services. The Governor’s recently released Reset Cabinet report predicts that “as a result of the Great Recession, state government will face persistent deficits over the next decade if we don’t fundamentally change the way we do business as a state.”
The Eugene School District is also on an unsustainable course. Over the last few years, the district has used reserves, federal stimulus funds and other one-time revenue to help pay for school and district operations. At the same time, the district has reduced staff, trimmed school and work days, and negotiated employee compensation adjustments to reduce costs. Still, the district is forecasting an operating deficit in the range of $27-$38 million for 2011-12, which is 19-27% of the district’s operating budget.

The board goal is:

By 2012-13, the district will implement a sustainable budget that maintains reserves at or above board targets, minimizes the use of one-time funds for ongoing expenses, and optimizes the use of short-term resources to improve student achievement and increase operational efficiency while reducing long-term capital needs.

The related superintendent's goal is to develop strategy options for achieving the board’s sustainable budget goal and present a proposal to the board and Budget Committee by February 2011.

A copy of the proposed process and time line is included in this packet and will be presented in more detail at the September 15 board meeting.

VIII. CONSENT GROUP – ITEMS FOR ACTION

1. Approve a One-Year Extension of the Contract Between the Eugene Education Fund and School District 4J (Staff: Barb Bellamy)

   In February of 1994, the board and the Eugene Education Fund entered into a contract specifying how the district and EEF would work and how donations given through the fund would be distributed. Copies of the contract are included in your packet.

   The contract provides for an annual renewal based on mutual agreement and success of the previous year’s fundraising activities. Since 1994, EEF has raised over $7,112,661 in donations for school district programs plus an additional $1,745,242 in development funds that go to support fundraising efforts. Over $1,373,914 has been given to schools in equity grants, which help schools maintain educational programs. Direct donations to schools have been increasing each year. During the last campaign cycle alone, January through December 2009, the EEF raised $890,076.

   The superintendent recommends approval of a one-year extension of the contract between the Eugene Education Fund and School District 4J.

2. Approve Contract for Driver Education Training Provider (Staff: Caroline Passerotti)

   **Action Proposed:**
   
   Approve a contract to provide driver education training services to students at the district's four high schools.
Background:
On August 2, 2010, a Request for Proposals for a provider of a driver education training program for 4J students was issued. The RFP was sent to eight vendors and advertised electronically on the State of Oregon procurements system.

Proposals were opened August 24, 2010. One response was received from GLAD, Inc., dba Oregon Driver Training Institute (ODTI), Eugene, Oregon. Purchasing staff and a representative from each high school evaluated the response. There were 120 points possible for the written proposal; scores from all evaluators were averaged. ODTI earned 114.2 on their response.

Discussion:
In addition to behind-the-wheel and classroom training, the district contracts to provide registration, advertise classes, and assist with the state reimbursement process. The district has successfully contracted with ODTI for driver education training programs since 1995. Three hundred seventy-five students participated in the program in 2009-10.

1. Rationale:
Staff has determined driver education training is important for district students. Providing an option that is easily accessible and results in no cost to the district benefits both students and the community.

2. Options and Alternatives:
The district could provide driver education services in-house through the high schools or leave students to find options in the private sector. Providing the services in-house would be cost prohibitive. Contracting the services allows 4J to supervise the program without incurring the cost of the program.

3. Budget/Resource Implication:
The cost of the program is estimated to be approximately $160,000 annually. Tuition charged to students coupled with reimbursement from the State of Oregon Department of Transportation cover the cost of the contractor providing the services. There is no financial impact to the district for this contract.

4. Board and Superintendent Goals:
The proposal supports the Board Goal to provide prudent stewardship of district resources to best support student success, educational equity and choice.

Recommendation:
The superintendent recommends that the board approve a contract with Oregon Driver Training Institute starting September 16, 2010 through June 30, 2011, with the possibility of four (4) one-year extensions.

3. Approve the Continuous Improvement Plan for the District (Staff: Carl Hermanns)

Action Proposed:
Approve the District Continuous Improvement Plan, which presents district goals and strategies for 2010-11 and 2011-12.
Background:
The District Continuous Improvement Plan must be submitted every two years to the Oregon Department of Education. The plan has been crafted with input from all directors and other relevant staff members and after review from a number of site councils and principals.

Discussion:
1. Rationale
Submission and Board approval of this report is required for state and federal funding for 2010-11 and 2011-12.

2. Options and Alternatives
If the plan is not approved, state and federal funding could be jeopardized or delayed.

3. Budget/Resource Implications
The plan is based on current budget estimations for the coming years and does not itself create any new budget impacts. In the case of potential future budget reductions, the plan can and will be changed as needed.

4. Board and Superintendent Goals
The three goals of the plan are based on the three Board and Superintendent goals to raise achievement for all students, to reduce the achievement gaps, and to improve the graduation rate. All strategies in the Action Plan are aimed at making progress toward these three goals.

Recommendation
The Superintendent recommends approval of the District Continuous Improvement Plan, which presents district goals and strategies for 2010-11 and 2011-12.

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).

IX. ITEMS FOR ACTION AT THIS MEETING

1. Appoint Budget Committee Members (Staff: Susan Fahey)
On June 30, 2010, the terms of District 4J Budget Committee members Shirley Clark and Debra Wright expired. At your September 15 meeting, you are scheduled to fill two three-year terms that run through June 30, 2013.

These openings were published in the Register-Guard and on the 4J web site. Former applicants to the board and budget committee as well as members of 4J citizen committees were also notified. Applications were available online as well as from the district office. The application deadline was September 8, 2010 at 5:00 p.m.
A list of candidates for the two positions and copies of each of their applications is included in the board packet. There are seven (7) applicants for the two positions.

Candidates have been invited to attend the September 15 meeting to make brief presentations explaining their interest in, and qualifications for, serving on the budget committee. You will select the budget committee members by open ballot at the meeting.

The superintendent recommends appointment of two electors to fill the vacancies on the budget committee for the term July 1, 2010 – June 30, 2013.

2. **Adopt the Revised Guiding Beliefs and Values Statement** (Staff: Barb Bellamy)

   The board annually reviews and affirms or revises a statement of Guiding Beliefs and Values to articulate the core values that guide the work of the Board of Directors and all 4J staff in achieving the district's mission. No changes are proposed.

   A copy of the proposed Guiding Beliefs and Values Statement is included in the packet. The superintendent recommends adoption of the Guiding Beliefs and Values Statement.

3. **Adopt the Revised Board's and Superintendent's Working Agreements**
   (Staff: Barb Bellamy)

   The board annually reviews and affirms or revises a set of group agreements that outline how the board, superintendent, and executive leadership team will work together. No revisions to the working agreements are proposed.

   A copy of the proposed Working Agreements is included in this packet. The superintendent recommends adoption of the Board's and Superintendent's Working Agreements.

4. **Approve the Request for Proposals for the Disposition (Acquisition) of the Civic Stadium Property** (Staff: Jon Lauch & Larry Massey)

   **Background**
   On June 16, 2010, the board adopted the Proposed Findings of Fact regarding the sale of the Civic Stadium property and approved the Superintendent’s recommendation for disposition of the property using a Request for Proposals (RFP) process. The board conducted a work session regarding the key elements of the RFP on August 18, 2010. Topics discussed included the evaluation criteria that would be used by a screening committee for ranking the proposals, the process to be used in selecting the most favorable proposal, and other issues.

   Staff will provided an overview of the changes to the draft RFP at the meeting, with specific focus on the items discussed during the work session. Board approval of the final version of the RFP is scheduled for the September 15, 2010 meeting. A copy of the current draft of the RFP is included in the board packet.
Discussion

1. Rationale:
The Civic Stadium property has been categorized as surplus property by the Board since 2002. The Land Use Decision Making Process prescribed by board policy was followed and culminated in a decision to dispose of the property in order to avoid ongoing maintenance and operating costs, significant and looming capital costs, and other risks of ownership. The RFP process was selected in order to provide for the broadest range of proposed uses, including potential preservation of the stadium grandstands, and allows the board to consider other relevant factors besides the financial bottom line when deciding whether to accept a proposal.

2. Options and Alternatives:
The property could be offered for sale using the typical method of establishing an asking price and soliciting offers. This process would not allow the flexibility offered by the RFP process to consider other factors such as potential preservation of the grandstands, community benefit, and other non-monetary benefit to the school district.

3. Budget/Resource Implications:
Disposing of the stadium property will allow the district to avoid holding costs and can provide needed resources that could be used to improve and preserve school facilities.

4. Board and Superintendent Goals:
The proposed property disposition supports the Board Goal to “Provide prudent stewardship of district resources to best support student success, educational equity and choice.” The use of proceeds from surplus property to “upgrade and improve district facilities” is consistent with Board Policy DFD – Real Property Management.

Recommendation
The superintendent recommends approval of the Request for Proposals for Acquisition of the Civic Stadium Properties as revised.

X. Items for Action at a Future Meeting

1. Approve Proposed Values, Goals and Priorities for Development of Sustainable Budget Scenarios

At this board meeting, you will adopt and reaffirm your beliefs and values statement. These are the belief statements and values that will sustain the district as it moves forward to accomplish its mission. The board also captured many of its previously expressed beliefs and values in what it has come to be called Core Values as part of the Shaping 4J's Future process. These core values are defined as Excellence, Equity, and Choice. The working definition of these terms are attached along with the guiding principles and goals developed as part of that process.

The board has also established board goals and key results to help it focus on providing a strong instructional program and incorporating the necessary support services and resources to achieve academic success for all students. The problem is that the optimal instructional program to align with these values and achieve these
goals cannot be sustained within the current fiscal realities. The district is, and will be for the short-term future, in a period of declining resources that affects our capacity to do all of the things we believe are good for students. While our values, goals and principles are useful in helping us envision where we want to be, they are not very instructive to us as we try to set priorities for the kind of strategies that can actually get us to a sustainable budget. The reality is that we just can't afford to do all the important things we want to do. We will have to make some tradeoffs.

To help the staff and board to have a better understanding of what is most important, I am proposing the board endorse or adopt a prioritized version of goals and priorities specifically to be used in developing sustainable budget scenarios. As the adage says, "if everything is a priority, then nothing is a priority." I'll be asking the board for some prioritization of values, goals and principles that can be used as parameters within which to develop conceptual scenarios first, and then ultimately more detailed and specific scenarios for attaining a sustainable budget.

At your meeting on September 15, I will present a draft of proposed values, goals and priorities for the superintendent to use as parameters in developing proposed scenarios for achieving the board goal of a sustainable budget. I will also be proposing either an additional board meeting or work session to discuss the proposed Values, Goals and Priorities.

XI. Comments and Committee Reports by Individual Board Members

XII. Adjourn

CALENDAR FOR BOARD MEMBERS

Wednesday, September 15  Student Orientation  6:15 pm
                     Regular Board Meeting  7 pm

Wednesday, October 6  Regular Board Meeting  7 pm

Wednesday, October 13  Hold for potential work session

Wednesday, October 20  Regular Board Meeting  7 pm