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

VII. ITEMS FOR INFORMATION

1. Receive the Superintendent’s Sustainable Budget Preliminary Recommendations, Including School Closure/Consolidation Proposals

The board has a goal to “provide prudent stewardship of district resources to best support student success, educational equity and choice.” The goal states that “the board will direct district resources to support the instructional core and to provide educational equity and choice while maximizing administrative and operational efficiency with a sustainable budget. The district must also respond to declining enrollment, regional enrollment patterns, a student population with more diverse needs, uncertain revenue streams and escalating costs.”

The superintendent’s goals provide that I will “develop strategy options for achieving the board’s sustainable budget goal and present a proposal to the board and Budget Committee by February 2011.”

At the November 3, 2010 board meeting, the superintendent will present his sustainable budget preliminary recommendations, including school closure and/or consolidation proposals. At a meeting set for November 10, 2010, the board will hold a work session to review and discuss the preliminary recommendations and possible options.

VIII. CONSENT GROUP – ITEMS FOR ACTION

1. Approve Board Meeting Minutes

The superintendent recommends approval of the minutes from the August 4, 2010 regular board meeting and the work session held September 20, 2010. Copies of the minutes are included in the board packet.
2. **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. **Extend the Term of the Charter School Contract for the Network Charter School and Approve an Addendum to the Charter School Contract** (Staff: Caroline Passerotti and Brad New)

**Action Proposed**
Extend the term of the Charter School Contract for the Network Charter School (NCS) by one year to June 30, 2012, and approve an Addendum to the Charter School Contract.

**Background**
In July 2003, Eugene School District commenced a three-year charter contract with Network Charter School. The contract was originally scheduled to expire on June 30, 2006. On December 16, 2005, the district and the charter school agreed to extend the term of the contract by one year, to June 30, 2007, to permit the charter school additional time to demonstrate its ability to implement a comprehensive educational program. In 2007, the 4J board approved Network’s charter for another four years based on the charter school’s satisfactory performance. This contract expires June 30, 2011.

The Charter School Contract permits extension of the expiration date of the contract if requested no later than October 31, 2010. On October 20, 2010, the NCS board requested a one-year extension to permit the charter school to show extended progress on achieving school improvement goals. A copy of the letter is included in your packet.

Network Charter School serves between 120 and 130 students in the 7th through the 12th grades through a network of small businesses and non-profit organizations: Eugene Glass School, Le Petit Gourmet Culinary Arts Program, MECCA (Materials Exchange Center for Community Arts), Nearby Nature and Peace Village. Its instructional program is designed to address the needs of students seeking a more hands-on, individualized educational program than is generally available in traditional schools. Network attracts a student population of non-traditional learners and a disproportionately high percentage of high needs students. Approximately one third of the student body receives services under individualized education programs (IEPs), and between 70% and 80% qualifies for free or reduced price meals. Seventy-four percent of students resided within 4J boundaries last year.

Network Charter School has been given an “In Need of Improvement” rating by the Oregon Department of Education for the last two years. This persistently poor rating has now placed the school of the list of seventy-six schools in Oregon with this status. While Network Charter has made progress in reading and writing
performance in the last year, mathematics scores were lower than the previous year. The cohort graduation rate for the class of 2009 was 20.6%, significantly lower than the 65% target rate.

Discussion
1. **Rationale**: Network Charter School is focusing its efforts on improving math instruction and achievement and raising graduation rates. In addition, they are actively searching for a new location for the 2011-12 school year. Leadership is implementing initiatives which are expected to yield significant results in the coming year. District staff believes the results of these efforts will materially inform the charter renewal process and supports granting a one-year extension of the current charter contract.

2. **Options and Alternatives**: Should the board deny the request for a one-year contract extension, Network Charter School is requesting renewal under the district’s Charter Contract Renewal Process.

3. **Budget/Resource Implications**: Extending the existing charter contract for one year has no additional material budget or resource implications beyond staff time dedicated to administering the contract renewal process. A copy of this process is included in your packets.

4. **Board and Superintendent Goals**: Continuing to work with Network Charter School to serve a largely high need student population addresses the board goal of increasing achievement for all students and close the achievement gap.

**Recommendation**
The superintendent recommends that the board extend the term of the Charter School Contract for the Network Charter School (NCS) by one year to June 30, 2012, and approve an Addendum to the Charter School Contract.

**X. Comments and Committee Reports by Individual Board Members**

**XI. Adjourn**

**Calendar for Board Members**

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Time</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Wednesday, November 3</td>
<td>Regular Board Meeting</td>
<td>7 pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wednesday, November 10</td>
<td>Board Work Session or Meeting</td>
<td>7 pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wednesday, November 17</td>
<td>Regular Board Meeting</td>
<td>7 pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>Monday, November 22</td>
<td>Budget Committee Meeting</td>
<td>7 pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tuesday, November 30</td>
<td>Legislative Breakfast (tentative)</td>
<td>7:30 am</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wednesday, December 1</td>
<td>Regular Board Meeting</td>
<td>7 pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wednesday, December 8</td>
<td>Board Work Session</td>
<td>7 pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wednesday, December 15</td>
<td>Board Meeting</td>
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