MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS
SCHOOL DISTRICT 4J, LANE COUNTY, OREGON

April 7, 2010

The Board of Directors of School District No. 4J, Lane County, Eugene, Oregon, held a work session at 5:30 p.m., a regular board meeting at 7 p.m., followed by an executive session on April 7, 2010, at the Education Center, 200 North Monroe Street, Eugene, Oregon. Notice of the meeting was mailed to the media and posted in the Education Center on April 2, 2010, and published in the Register-Guard on April 5, 2010.

ROLL CALL

BOARD MEMBERS:
Craig Smith, Chair
Alicia Hays, Vice Chair
Jennifer Geller
Beth Gerot
Anne Marie Levis
Jim Torrey
Mary Walston

STAFF:
George Russell, Superintendent of Schools and District Clerk
Barbara Bellamy, Chief of Staff and Communications Director
Susan Fahey, Chief Financial Officer
Carl Hermanns, Assistant Superintendent/Chief Academic Officer
Celia Feres-Johnson, Director of Human Resources
Jon Lauch, Director of Facilities Management
Jim Conaghan, Research and Assessments Coordinator

STUDENT REPRESENTATIVES:
Linda Gai, IHS, All Campuses
Jenna Careccia, South Eugene High School
Sarah Hankins, North Eugene High School

MEDIA:
KRVM

WORK SESSION: Conduct a Work Session on Testing

Carl Hermanns, Assistant Superintendent/Chief Academic Officer, and Jim Conaghan, Research and Assessments Coordinator, were present for the item, and provided a PowerPoint presentation entitled Eugene School District 4J Testing/Assessment Overview. The presentation included information on statewide assessments, district assessments, and the Oregon Assessment of Knowledge & Skills (OAKS), as well as test examples.

Mr. Conaghan provided an overview of fall and winter benchmarking in reading for 4J elementary students and shared data for the fall benchmarking period for a classroom. He explained the data would be used to determine what assistance a student needed and shared examples of possible interventions.
Board members and student representatives asked questions clarifying the details of the information presented.

Board Vice Chair Alicia Hays arrived at the meeting mid-way through the presentation at 6:17 p.m.

Board members discussed the district’s communication with parents regarding testing. Mr. Conaghan acknowledged that such communication was a challenge given the limits of the systems now in place, although he strongly supported such communication. He offered to work with the board on the issue. Board Member Anne Marie Levis and Board Member Jennifer Geller indicated the communication they received from the district had been difficult to understand. Ms. Levis suggested that parents be involved in reviewing the type of information they were to be provided, because many parents, particularly Spanish-speaking parents, could find the subject to be intimidating. She suggested that Carmen Urbina, Parent, Community and Diversity Coordinator, might be consulted about communicating with Spanish-speaking parents.

Mr. Hermanns agreed that better, clearer communication around the subject of testing was needed.

Mr. Hermanns concluded the presentation by saying the district had work to do with its own staff and teachers in regard to testing. He anticipated that progress monitoring assessments would be part of teaching in the future and acknowledged that could feel like a work load issue until teachers were more familiar with them, but it was part of teaching and helped when there were teachers who had done such assessments and saw their benefit.

Mr. Hermanns said the district was helping teachers and principals determine what was important for students locally, and he noted the national debate on testing and what testing meant. He recommended Diane Ravitch’s recent book, *The Death and Life of the Great American School System: How Testing and Choice Are Undermining Education*, saying that Ms. Ravitch, who was previously an adherent of such testing, was now critical of how curriculums had been narrowed and resources reduced because of a national focus on testing. He said that the district hoped to shift the focus from high-stakes student testing to high-stakes student learning, and hoped to help the community understand that. Testing had many positive purposes, but it was not the sole measure on which the district wanted to judge its schools, teachers, and students.

Board Chair Craig Smith thanked the presenters and adjourned the work session at 6:53 p.m.

**CALL TO ORDER, ROLL CALL, AND FLAG SALUTE**

Mr. Smith called the regular meeting of the Eugene School District 4J Board of Directors to order, called the roll, and led those present in the Pledge of Allegiance.

**AGENDA REVIEW**

There were no changes to the agenda.

**INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS AND SUPERINTENDENTS REPORT**

Superintendent George Russell reported that he received a telephone call from Juine Chada of Senator Ron Wyden’s Office who informed him the district was one of 15 districts identified by the Department of Agriculture to participate in the “Know Your Farmer, Know Your Food”
program. Farm to School Teams would visit the districts to help them identify opportunities for buying local food and making nutritional improvements. He noted that the Bethel district was also selected to participate in the program.

Superintendent Russell noted the upcoming April 20 Downtown Rotary Club meeting, which would showcase the Oregon Small Schools Initiative, in particular the North Eugene High School’s Small School Initiative. Duncan Wyse, Executive Director of the Employers for Educational Excellence, would make a presentation, and Barbara Gibbs of the Meyer Memorial Trust would also offer remarks. Three North Eugene High School students would be present to share their experiences with the small schools at North Eugene.

Superintendent Russell noted Governor Ted Kulongoski’s recent comments regarding the outlook for the state budget in his recent State of the State address. He asked Susan Fahey, Chief Financial Officer, to comment on the import of those remarks for the district’s 2011-13 budget.

Ms. Fahey provided the board with information indicating the state budget for 2011-13 would be about $2.5 billion short. Across-the board reductions would drop school revenues by $1 billion. That meant a deficit of $37 million for 4J for 2011-12. If the decrease was only 5 percent rather than 15 percent, the operating deficit would be $25 million. Ms. Fahey reported that the best case scenario was the scenario shared with the board in January, which projected a $14.5 million deficit for 2011-12.

Ms. Fahey reported that the district was in the process of building the budget for 2010-11 and already faced a $6 million deficit. If the governor was correct, the district would face an even more significant deficit with inadequate reserves.

Mr. Smith asked about the funding level under the worst case scenario from the state. Ms. Fahey did not know and said she would find out.

COMMENTS BY STUDENT REPRESENTATIVES

Linda Gai, IHS, All Campuses, reported that student government for International High School (IHS) had kicked off its “penny war,” an IHS-wide fund raiser. Each campus received a jar for pennies and each penny received was equal to one point. The proceeds went to an international charity and this year the selected charity was Kiva, a nonprofit organization that provides micro loans to start up businesses in developing countries. She reported that IHS also planned a film festival to showcase student work and a dance was also planned. Auditions were held for graduation and the closing ceremonies. She said an African Celebration was recently held for ninth graders at the Wheeler Pavilion, and it represented the culmination of a year-long course focused on Africa.

Jenna Careccia of Churchill High School reported the leadership class continued to work on its “Community 101” project and visited the nonprofits that provided grant funding. She reported that the prom was scheduled for May 8. This year a leadership student, Jeanna Bower, had started a “Dress Me” campaign and would collect lightly-used prom dresses for students who might not have the resources or an opportunity to spend money on a prom dress. In addition, raffles would be held for visits to beauty salons. She reported that the Gay-Straight Alliance was working on the upcoming Day of Silence on April 15. She said the Churchill administration had been incredibly supportive and respectful of the students’ opinions. She concluded by saying that the school was holding a clothing drive and St. Vincent de Paul had agreed to pay ten cents a pound, with the money to go to Community 101.
Sarah Hankins, North Eugene High School, reiterated Superintendent Russell’s remarks about the upcoming Downtown Rotary Club meeting on North Eugene’s Small Schools Initiative. She reported the school was holding pride assemblies every month, with awards presented to students for showing pride in the school as well as to the student of the month. In addition, students offered performances and films. She reported that Sam Abell of National Geographic visited the school and presented a slide show at a general assembly and conducted a seminar for a photography class. She announced that the play Romeo and Juliet was opening April 17-18 and she was a cast member.

ITEMS RAISED BY THE AUDIENCE

Mr. Smith reviewed the rules governing the agenda item.

Coburg Mayor Judy Volta provided a brief update on current activities in Coburg, which included a successful vote for the establishment of a wastewater plant. She reminded the board of the intergovernmental agreement between the district and Coburg for the provision of school services in Coburg, which includes a contribution from Coburg to underwrite those costs. She emphasized the importance of Coburg Elementary School to the future of the community. Mayor Volta suggested that as a result of the vote, Coburg could begin to put the pieces of its long-range plans into place. She said the plan envisioned an increase in population to 3,000, but Coburg needed two to three years to complete construction of the wastewater plant before further population growth could occur. Mayor Volta acknowledged the budget challenges facing School District 4J, but asked the board to suspend any judgment that the school was expendable and to give Coburg time to get its population to a viable size that could better support a school.

COMMENTS BY EMPLOYEE GROUPS

There were no comments from representatives of employee groups.

Ms. Hankins left the meeting.

ITEMS FOR INFORMATION

Review the Progress the Superintendent is Making Toward His Annual Goals

On October 21, 2009, the board agreed on the superintendent’s goals for the 2009-10 and 2010-11 school years, along with the other criteria to be used in his annual evaluation. The goals deal with student achievement, stewardship of district resources, and stakeholder agreement. A copy of the progress report was included in the board packet.

Superintendent Russell reviewed progress in each of the major goal areas, referring board members to the report included in the board packet. Board members had no questions.

Receive an Update on the Middle School Mentor Program and New Grant Opportunity

The Middle School Mentor Program, currently in all eight middle schools, is in its last year of funding by a grant from the Department of Education. Eliza Drummond, Instructional Analyst and Operations, gave a report on the successes of the program as well as possibilities for future funding to continue the program beyond 2009-10, when current grant funding is scheduled to end. She distributed a document entitled Eugene Middle School Mentoring Project, Application
to the Chambers Family Foundation for 2010-11 and a brochure entitled Be a Mentor, Touch a Life.

Ms. Drummond introduced program participants Doug Bielefeldt and Brandon Russell of Spencer Butte Middle School and Dawn King and Lesley Aguirre of Kelly Middle School, who shared their positive experiences with the program.

**Receive a Report on New Race and Ethnicity Reporting Requirements**

Every school district in Oregon is required to report the race and ethnicity of each student and staff member to the Oregon Department of Education (ODE). The state then provides aggregated data, but not individual information, to the United States Department of Education. Beginning with the 2010-11 school year, all states must use new categories to record and report the race and ethnicity of staff and students. All families are being asked to update each of their students’ records this spring and the district is requesting similar information from employees.

Ms. Urbina and Celia Feres-Johnson, Director of Human Resources, shared the new reporting requirements with the board. Ms. Urbina noted that the update process was now underway. Board members asked questions clarifying the information presented and thanked Ms. Urbina and Ms. Feres-Johnson for the updates.

**ITEMS FOR ACTION AT THIS MEETING**

**Vote on Oregon School Boards Association Board of Directors Vacancy**

Recent resignations and constitutional changes have created three vacancies on the Oregon School Boards Association (OSBA) board of directors: Region 6, position 6 – Lane County (constitutional changes allow an additional representative in Region 6 due to Beth Gerot’s position as OSBA president); Region 10, position 11 – Marion County; and Region 11, position 13 – Polk & Yamhill Counties. Although the constitution gives the OSBA board the authority to fill the vacancies, the board would like to involve regional members in selecting their representative. A special election will be held in Regions 6, 10 and 11 to fill those vacancies.

Nominations for these vacancies were open from January 15 - February 26, 2010. Voting in the 2010 special election opened on March 8 and runs through April 16, 2010, with newly elected representatives taking office on April 30, 2010. Each member board will have one vote in the regional elections for members of the board of directors.

Copies of the nomination form, candidate questionnaire and candidate personal/professional resume for Laurie Adams, the Region 6 candidate, were included in the March 17 board meeting packet.

**MOTION:** Board Member Beth Gerot, seconded by Board Member Mary Walston, moved to support Laurie Adams for the Region 6 vacancy on the Oregon School Boards Association Board of Directors.

**VOTE:** The motion passed unanimously; 7-0.

**Approve a Resolution Supporting State Ballot Measure 68**

Ballot Measure 68 is a state measure that will be on the May 18, 2010, election ballot. The measure would revise the Oregon Constitution to grant authority for the state to issue bonds and use the revenue to assist school districts in paying for capital costs, such as construction,
remodeling, repairing, furnishing, and equipping school district facilities. The measure was placed by the ballot by action of the 2009 legislature, which approved House Joint Resolution 13.

Board leadership had requested that the board consider a resolution supporting Measure 68.

Barb Bellamy, Communications Director and Chief of Staff, drew the board’s attention to the resolution in the board packet in support of the measure.

**MOTION:** Ms. Gerot, seconded by Ms. Geller, moved to adopt the resolution in support of State Ballot Measure 68.

**VOTE:** The motion passed unanimously; 7-0.

**CONSENT GROUP – ITEMS FOR ACTION**

**Approve Resolution for Bus Financing**

In October 2009, the board authorized the purchase of five front-engine, wheelchair-equipped buses to replace existing special needs buses which are past the standard ten-year replacement schedule and have high mileage. Board approval of financing for these buses is now being requested.

On March 17, 2010 the district issued a solicitation for financing to purchase these special needs buses. The price of the buses, after trade-ins, is $552,470. Respondents were requested to submit interest rates for five- and ten-year periods.

Intermediate Solicitation Documents were issued to twenty-eight companies. Nine responses were received: SunTrust Equipment Finance & Leasing Corp., Atlanta, Georgia; Midwest Leasing, Inc., Gunnison, Colorado; Traxis Financial Group (Blue Bird Financial Services), New Haven, Connecticut; Municipal Asset Management (MAM), Golden, Colorado; Municipal Capital Corp, Allentown, Pennsylvania; US Bank, Marshall, Minnesota; CalFirst National Bank, Irvine, California; and PNC Equipment Finance, Columbus, Ohio. “No Bid” responses were received from Comerica Leasing Corporation, Costa Mesa, California; and Koch Financial Corporation, Scottsdale, Arizona. Purchasing and transportation staff reviewed the responses.

The following interest rates and total payments for each option were offered, with the lowest cost proposal submitted by SunTrust.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Company</th>
<th>Five-year</th>
<th>Ten-year</th>
<th>Total Payments</th>
<th>Special Terms</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Five-year</td>
<td>Ten-year</td>
<td>Five-year</td>
<td>Ten-year</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SunTrust</td>
<td>2.735%</td>
<td>3.775%</td>
<td>$585,954.85</td>
<td>$654,072.80</td>
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<tr>
<td>SunTrust</td>
<td>2.935%</td>
<td>3.975%</td>
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<td>$695,636.10</td>
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<td>Traxis</td>
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<td>$674,062.70</td>
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<tr>
<td>Midwest</td>
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<tr>
<td>MAM</td>
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<tr>
<td>Muni Cap</td>
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<td>$606,834.80</td>
<td>NA</td>
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<tr>
<td>US Bank</td>
<td>4.69%</td>
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<td>NA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CalFirst</td>
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<td>$595,207.20</td>
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<tr>
<td>PNC</td>
<td>3.59%</td>
<td>4.49%</td>
<td>$597,899.10</td>
<td>$676,037.50</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The total interest cost associated with the SunTrust five-year proposal is $33,484.85. The district is eligible to receive 70% reimbursement of the interest cost from the state and does not anticipate the need to make early payment on this lease. Because of lower interest costs.
associated with the shorter term option, Transportation staff recommended that the board approve the five-year option.

SunTrust has requested board approval of the financing by resolution. The resolution was included in the board packet.

The superintendent recommended approval of the resolution authorizing the financing for the purchase of five buses through SunTrust Equipment Finance & Leasing Corp. for five years.

**Approve Grant Application: National School Lunch Program Equipment**

Staff from the Food Service Department submitted a grant application to the Oregon Department of Education for $44,291. This project will provide funding for seven high poverty schools to purchase new kitchen equipment that improves food quality, food safety, energy efficiency, and participation in the school meal program. Partial funding is possible. The project was designed in consultation with the seven participating schools - Awbrey Park, Howard, McCornack, River Road, Adams, Arts and Technology and Spring Creek.

The superintendent recommended approval of the grant application. A copy of the grant description form was included in the board packet.

**Approve Grant Application: Boosting Student Achievement**

Staff from South Eugene High School (SEHS) submitted a grant application to the Miller Foundation for $42,483. This proposal seeks funding for SEHS and the district to expand support for students from lower income backgrounds who are not performing up to their potential. The project’s main goal is to ensure that all students, especially the least served students who are functioning in the academic middle, will succeed in a rigorous college preparatory program and then go on to complete a college education. This project utilizes the Advancement Via Individual Determination (AVID) system, an evidence-based academic enrichment program that improves student achievement and prepares students for college. Piloting the AVID system at SEHS has shown that it is a powerful tool in improving achievement and closing the achievement gap.

The superintendent recommended approval of the grant application. A copy of the grant description form was included in the board packet.

**Approve Grant Application: Dual Language Spanish Immersion Materials**

Staff from River Road/El Camino del Rio submitted a grant application to the Chintimini Fund of Oregon Community Foundation for $7,000. This project is requesting continued support from the Chintimini Foundation to purchase more advanced books in Spanish for River Road classes and the library. These books will provide students opportunities to read at their appropriate level and allow high potential students an opportunity to read at advanced levels. These curricular materials will enhance opportunities for River Road’s Spanish-speaking and English-speaking students to be successful.

The superintendent recommended approval of the grant application. A copy of the grant description form was included in the board packet.
**Approve Grant Application: The Eugene IHS iPod Project**

Staff from the International High School submitted a grant application to the Chintimini Grants of the Oregon Community Foundation for $6,575. This project will provide a class set of thirty iPod Touches to be shared between two IHS teachers. These devices will be available to approximately 140 IHS students for individual study, project based learning and organization. By sharing the iPod Touches, the teachers will be able to expose more students to this learning tool as well as collaborate and experiment with creating optimum learning opportunities.

The superintendent recommended approval of the grant application. A copy of the grant description form was included in the board packet.

**Approve Expenditures for January and February 2010**

A summary of the district’s expenditures for January 2010, totaling $18,060,938.05 and February 2010, totaling $27,650,528.96 were included in the board packet.

The superintendent recommended approval of the January and February 2010 expenditures.

**Approve Board Meeting Minutes**

The superintendent recommended approval of the minutes from the February 3, 2010 regular board meeting. Copies of the minutes were included in the board packet.

**Approve Personnel Items**

The superintendent recommended approval of the personnel items included in the board packet.

**MOTION:** Ms. Levis, seconded by Ms. Hays, moved to approve the consent items.

**VOTE:** The motion passed unanimously; 7-0.

**ITEMS FOR ACTION AT A FUTURE MEETING**

**Approve Instructional Calendars for 2010-11 School Year**

**Action Proposed:** Approval of proposed 2010-11 school year instructional calendar.

**Background:** Yearly, a school instructional calendar is developed and presented to the board for review, discussion and approval in accordance with Board Policy and the District/Eugene Employees Association (EEA) Collective Bargaining Agreement.

**Discussion:** In accordance with board policy, each year the board adopts a calendar for the following school year showing all school days, teacher planning and grading days, holidays, and vacation days for the year.

The 2010-11 Instructional School Calendars, as presented, are currently being reviewed by EEA as required by the District/EEA Collective Bargaining Agreement. Changes to the calendar will be presented to the board at a subsequent meeting. Copies of the proposed 2010-11 Instructional School Calendars are included in the board packet.
**Recommendation:** The superintendent will recommend approval of the 2010-11 Instructional School Calendars at an upcoming board meeting.

Ms. Feres-Johnson presented the calendar and said it had been shared with the Eugene Education Association (EEA), which was reviewing it. She indicated she would share any additional changes that resulted from that review with the board. Mr. Smith invited questions. There were none.

**COMMENTS AND COMMITTEE REPORTS BY INDIVIDUAL BOARD MEMBERS**

Mr. Smith solicited comments and member reports.

Ms. Gerot reported on her recent visit to Eastern Oregon, where she had attended some regional meetings of the Oregon School Boards Association. She also reported on the recent ExEL meetings, which included discussions about race and ethnicity and the work the district was doing in that regard. She had suggested the group report to the board.

Ms. Walston thanked the student representatives and said she was impressed every time she heard them report. She found the community work they did impressive, and agreed with Ms. Levis about the work Ms. Urbina was doing. She reported on recent visits she made to Fox Hollow, Charlemagne, and Holt elementary schools.

Ms. Geller commented on her visit with Ms. Walston to Holt Elementary School. She had attended the recent Equity Committee meeting and heard discussion about ways to get the word out about the district’s equity efforts. She recalled that the Equity Committee came to the Budget Committee and suggested the board consider how to respond to the Equity Committee. She noted that the committee had plans to do a climate survey at the middle and high schools and was also discussing how to address situations that might arise regarding bullying and texting.

Ms. Hays reported that she had sat through the recent school lottery and the tension had been high. She commended staff for their work on the school choice process.

Mr. Smith asked the board to consider the legislators they know and how best to communicate with them.

**ADJOURN**

Mr. Smith adjourned the regular meeting at 8:31 p.m.

_____________________________   _____________________________
George Russell     Craig Smith.
District Clerk      Board Chair

*(Recorded by Kimberly Young)*

Following the adjournment of the regular board meeting, the board reconvened in executive session.
EXECUTIVE SESSION: Under provisions of ORS 192.610 – 192.690, Open Meeting Laws, the Board of Directors conducted 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).

Attachments to Official Minutes:
1. Progress Report on Superintendent’s Goals for 2009-10
2. Resolution in Support of Ballot Measure 68
3. Resolution Authorizing Financing of Buses
4. Grant Application Form: National School Lunch Program Equipment
5. Grant Application Form: Boosting Student Achievement
6. Grant Application Form: Dual Language Spanish Immersion Materials
7. Grant Application Form: The Eugene IHS iPod Project
8. Summary of Expenditures from January and February 2010
9. Personnel Action Items
10. Proposed Instructional Calendars for 2010-11 School Year