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

May 5, 2010

The Board of Directors of School District No. 4J, Lane County, Eugene, Oregon, held an executive session at 6:30 p.m. and a regular board meeting at 7 p.m. on May 5, 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 30, 2010, and published in the Register-Guard on May 3, 2010.

ROLL CALL

BOARD MEMBERS:
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
Celia Feres-Johnson, Director of Human Resources
Caroline Passerotti, Financial Analysis Manager
Christine Nesbit, Associate Director of Human Resources
Jeralynn Beghetto, Human Resources Administrator

MEDIA:
Anne Williams, Register-Guard

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).

REGULAR BOARD MEETING: The Executive Session recessed and the regular meeting convened with the above board members and staff present along with the following:

STAFF:
Carl Hermanns, Assistant Superintendent/Chief Academic Officer
Laurie Moses, Director of Secondary Education
Jon Lauch, Director of Facilities Management
Randy Bernstein, South Eugene High School Principal
Wally Bryant, Camas Ridge Elementary School Principal
Bruce Stiller, School Psychologist
Brad New, Secondary Education Administrator
Jerry Henderson, Retired Principal/Consultant
Marilyn Cooley, South Eugene High School Teacher
STUDENT REPRESENTATIVES:
Jenna Careccia, Churchill High School
Sasha Johnson-Freyd, South Eugene High School
Linda Gai, International High School (IHS), All Campuses
Jennifer Kerfoot, North Eugene High School
Hannah Rosenberg, Sheldon High School

OTHERS
Paul Duchin, Eugene Education Association Co-President
Merri Steele, Eugene Education Association Co-President
Sue Cutsogeorge, City of Eugene, Finance Division
Mike Sullivan, City of Eugene, Community Development Division

MEDIA:
KRVM

CALL TO ORDER, ROLL CALL AND FLAG SALUTE
Board Vice Chair Alicia Hays called the regular meeting of the School District 4J Board of Directors to order at 7 p.m. and led those present in the Pledge of Allegiance.

AGENDA REVIEW
Superintendent George Russell reviewed the agenda. There were no changes.

INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS AND SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT
Teacher Appreciation Week and School Nurse Day Recognition
May 3-7, 2010 has been designated as Teacher Appreciation Week and May 12, 2010 was School Nurse Day. Superintendent Russell read resolutions and encouraged all members of the community to join in these observances by expressing appreciation to teachers and school nurses for a job well done. He expressed his respect and appreciation for the daily work of teachers and school nurses. He shared information from a survey conducted by the American Association of School Administrators indicating that more than half of school districts nationwide would freeze hiring in the next school year and 82% of districts would reduce staff, eliminating more than 27,000 jobs in 2010-11, over half of which were teaching jobs. He said the extent of job loss made it almost impossible to operate a strong education system.

Superintendent Russell extended an invitation to the May 6, 2010, ACE Awards, recognizing outstanding educators in the community. He distributed proposed findings of fact on Civic Stadium to the board, which would be considered at the next board meeting. The budget packet was also distributed to board members. He announced that the state had decided not to continue pursuing federal Race to the Top funding in light of the state application's low ranking and the need to build a stronger K-12 reform foundation.
Recognition of Marilyn Cooley, Oregon Association for Career and Technical Education’s Teacher of the Year

The Oregon Association for Career and Technical Education (CTE) selected Marilyn Cooley as Oregon’s Career Technical Education Teacher of the Year. Ms. Cooley is a CTE teacher at South Eugene High School.

Brad New, Secondary Education Administrator, introduced Ms. Cooley. He described Ms. Cooley’s accomplishments and commented on the value of career and technical education.

Ms. Cooley thanked the board for recognizing the work of teachers. She described the establishment of the South Eugene High School child development center in 1991, its evolution over the years and its benefits to students and families. She discussed the importance of CTE as part of the education system. She expressed her appreciation for her award and her employment with the district for the past 29 years. She introduced members of her family and colleagues who were in the audience.

Randy Bernstein, South Eugene High School Principal, commended Ms. Cooley’s many contributions to the school and the achievements of her students and the programs for which she was responsible.

COMMENTS BY STUDENT REPRESENTATIVES

Jennifer Kerfoot, North Eugene High School, conveyed a message from Principal Sally Huling for the support she had received. She reported on an education Cinco de Mayo assembly and thanked board members who had attended the school’s report of progress on April 26. An event for incoming freshmen and their parents was very successful. Senior projects had been completed. The school was sponsoring a Relay for Life for Sally Huling on May 20 and she invited everyone to support the event.

Sasha Johnson-Freyd, South Eugene High School, reported on student government elections. She said a modified lockdown had occurred the previous day because of an incident a few blocks from the school.

Jenna Careccia, Churchill High School, invited board members to attend the prom, which would be held May 8 at Valley River Inn. She said the senior class held a fundraiser to help defray the cost of senior breakfast tickets. She said the Community 101 class would present awards to the nonprofit organizations it had chosen. The site council was developing an updated school improvement plan, with particular focus on goals and their relevance to the school. The April 15 day of silence went well and staff members were very supportive of students’ efforts.

Hannah Rosenberg, Sheldon High School, reported that advanced placement (AP) testing had begun on May 3 and would continue for two weeks. The Sheldon Theater’s musical Urine Town was opening on May 7 and would run through May 22. She invited everyone to attend a performance. The prom was held on May 1 at the Valley River Inn, with over 500 students attending. Graduation was scheduled for June 10.

Linda Gai, International High School (IHS), All Campuses, reported that international baccalaureate (IB) testing had commenced and would continue for the next three weeks, culminating in a campus-wide celebration of student achievement on May 27. A community
service fair on April 27 was well attended. IHS recently celebrated its 25th anniversary with a theme of Looking Back and Moving Forward.

**ITEMS RAISED BY THE AUDIENCE**

Ms. Hays determined there was no one wishing to speak.

**COMMENTS BY EMPLOYEE GROUPS**

Paul Duchin and Merri Steele, Eugene Education Association (EEA) Co-Presidents, congratulated Ms. Cooley on her award.

Mr. Duchin expressed disappointment with the governor’s decision to discontinue the pursuit of Race to the Top funding. He believed the problem was not with the state, which had much innovation across districts, but rather with the application criteria that was not germane to Oregon’s activities. He announced that Dayna Mitchell had been elected EEA president.

Mr. Duchin understood the difficulties of contract negotiations and stressed the importance of respectful behavior from both sides of the bargaining table. He was concerned with the district’s tactic of gutting contract language. Despite the district’s financial constraints, it did have budget reserves and he questioned one-time expenditures when those funds could be used to retain staff for another year.

Mr. Duchin and Ms. Steele listed elements of the district’s proposal that were of concern to the union:

- $10 insurance rate increase per month per member was inadequate;
- Rewrite of leadership language;
- Rewrite of Article 11 related to transfers and postings;
- Reduction of the coefficient for retiree insurance;
- Charging EEA for fact finding that took more than two hours of research time by the district;
- Double approval for bereavement leave;
- Personal leave approval that depended on the administrator’s style;
- EEA required to complete a building use form to use a district building for a meeting;
- Transfer half of insurance reserves to the district for members who declined insurance; and
- Eliminate language related to professional development.

Mr. Duchin compared the district’s insurance proposals to those of the Bethel School District and said the impact on teachers was dramatic. He understood the district had no control of insurance rates, but EEA members would experience a significant net loss of income under the district’s proposals. He urged the district to use one-time funds to mitigate the financial impact on members.

Ms. Steele added that the district had proposed 105 contract changes.
ITEMS FOR INFORMATION

Receive an Update from Camas Ridge Elementary School

Camas Ridge Principal Wally Bryant said the school was busy this year with the implementation of the new school. The mornings were core time (language arts and math) and in the afternoons during the course of the year, the school had six rounds of Project Classes, three rounds of Arts Block, and four days every week of Community Time. Music was taught in a class setting as well as a project class. There was an after school choir and before school marimba band. Recently, a fourth and fifth grader project class put on the Music Man for an assembly and evening performance. PE was being taught in the mornings.

Camas Ridge has established a new and active parent teacher organization and developed a site council with a newly defined governance structure and responsibility grid. In January and February, stakeholder groups were surveyed to give staff and parents a chance to elaborate on the program. Based on the feedback given, staff spent time having values and beliefs conversations on the topics of Community Time, Math, Language Arts, Project Based Learning, Differentiated Instruction and the Collaborative Process. The richness of the conversations in an environment of trust and respect was meaningful for all staff involved.

Staff continued collaborative discussions with Pacific University and would be meeting May 6 regarding using student teachers in a progressive teaming way. The garden committee expanded its space and on May 7 would be having a tree planting celebration adding thirteen trees to the school grounds. The school was also moving forward on building a covered bicycle parking structure with the UO Designbridge team. Camas Ridge also received a neighborhood matching grant with the City of Eugene for an outdoor covered classroom and was looking forward to breaking ground on these two projects during the month of May.

Principal Bryant said judging from the 10-11 student transfer requests there was a lot of community interest in Camas Ridge. Camas Ridge is a good school now and will be an even better school next year and in future years as the school continues to grow and refine the program. Camas Ridge Community School is building community through projects, music, art, and movement. He looked forward to the school’s second year.

Board members Anne Marie Levis and Mary Walston commended Principal Bryant for his leadership and the cohesiveness of the students and staff.

Receive a Report on a Student Survey About Bullying and Harassment

The Eugene School District is committed to creating schools with a positive social climate, which makes school more rewarding for students and allows them to focus on academic demands. One of the key recommendations from the district’s Equity Committee was to conduct a school climate survey to provide data that can help benchmark harassment within the district and focus equity resources on improving the climate. To that end, students at district middle schools and high schools will be asked this spring to complete a brief survey about bullying and harassment. Staff attended the meeting to provide an overview of the project and answer board member questions.

Superintendent Russell said the issue had been a high priority for the Equity Committee for some time and the survey had been vetted through a number of groups and was ready to launch.
School Psychologist Bruce Stiller said the Equity Committee had been reviewing office discipline referral data over the past few years and was convinced the data did not provide an accurate picture of conditions. The survey instrument was designed to capture information from the students’ perspective and would be administered to students in all middle and high schools in the spring. The survey data will be available in the fall of 2010.

Ms. Walston asked if counselors were compelled to report behaviors that could result in tragic incidents such as the student suicides that were recently reported in the media. Mr. Stiller said counselors were obliged to report those types of situations, although the more dramatic forms of bullying that could lead to suicide were highly unusual. His concern was focused on the more common types of bullying such as persistent teasing, rumor spreading, gossiping, exclusion and use of technology to ruin a child’s reputation. He felt the severe incidents were more likely to happen if those lower forms occurred at a high rate and the survey was about creating a climate of respect in schools that reduced that behavior. Most of the bullying was covert and did not come to the attention of adults, particularly in the secondary schools.

In response to a question from Board Member Jennifer Geller, he explained that the survey would be administered using Survey Monkey, but students could take the survey online or on paper, with data entered by volunteers. He said anonymity was a major concern for students and proctors would make every effort to assure that was the case.

Ms. Kerfoot asked if the survey would be done in conjunction with positive behavior support (PBS) work at schools. Mr. Stiller said PBS was one of the more powerful tools for creating prevention programs and a student-driven climate of respect.

Ms. Rosenberg asked if students could take the survey home to complete and perhaps discuss with their parents. Mr. Stiller said that possibility had not been discussed; the challenge was to administer the survey to as many students as possible and enter the data into Survey Monkey. He would consider the option of taking the survey home.

Ms. Careccia asked if students could log into the online survey from home if they were not comfortable completing the form at school. Mr. Stiller appreciated the suggestion and would discuss it with principals.

In response to questions from Ms. Kerfoot, Mr. Stiller said the purpose of the survey was to obtain students’ perceptions of the problem and its extent and to identify ways to intervene and reduce the incidents of harassment and bullying in the schools. He said the Equity Committee was discussing options for obtaining similar feedback from teachers.


One of the board’s goals to increase achievement for all students and close the achievement gap included conducting an alternative school review of the Eugene International High School (IHS) program by March 1, 2010. The intent of the review is to ensure that the program has a clearly distinctive instructional strategy and supports district goals for student achievement, access and diversity, in keeping with the Alternative Schools board policy and the adopted School Choice Access and Options of March 2005.
Assistant Superintendent Carl Hermanns stated that the alternative school review of the district’s IHS program has now been completed and he introduced review team member Jerry Henderson, Retired Principal/Consultant, to present the report.

Mr. Henderson described the purpose and history of alternative school reviews, which were intended to assure that schools and programs continued to meet board and district goals and performed consistent with board policies. He said the review committee visited each of the sites at Sheldon, Churchill and South Eugene high schools and solicited feedback from both IHS and the host school about the impact of IHS’s co-location at each site. He described the contents of the report and highlighted several findings relative to the review criteria. The review committee concluded that the IHS program was strong and viable on all three high school campuses and achieving the board’s educational goals. IHS served as an important option for 4J students interested in an international approach to their education and the opportunity to earn the IB diploma. He said the committee had expressed some concern that, at least on one campus, there appeared to be a perception that the IB curriculum was substantially more rigorous than the regular program and that presented a challenge to both programs. He cautioned that the perception was limited to feedback from IHS parents and students, but the committee felt compelled to include it in the report.

Board member Beth Gerot asked if the review considered cohort movement into and out of the IHS program. Mr. Henderson said the review did not focus on the numbers as they tended to be small; it focused on the impact on the IHS program and host school. He said the review did not reveal any disproportionate issues that created difficulties.

Ms. Levis asked what issues had been missed in a review of IHS only. Mr. Henderson said the review did not capture the perceptions of regular program students and staff and a more thorough examination could provide more complete information than was contained in the current report.

Ms. Kerfoot commented that the issue of IHS program rigor could discourage less confident students from applying. She asked if the host school would be interviewed in future reviews. Mr. Henderson agreed that the perception of a more rigorous IHS program could be a problem. No change in the review process was planned.

Ms. Geller asked if applications for IHS exceeded program capacity. Mr. Henderson said the programs were filled and at two schools a lottery had been used over the past several years. He said all three programs were filled for the coming year.

Board member Jim Torrey believed in the IHS program, but had heard feedback from the public that suggested there was a perception that students had to be selected, rather than the application process being open to all. He asked if student representatives had heard similar concerns.

Ms. Rosenberg said she had not heard students express concern that they could not get into the IHS program. She felt that everyone who wanted to be in the program had that opportunity if they were willing to try. Ms. Gai cited the example of a fellow student who was initially concerned that the IHS program would be too rigorous, but was doing well and now a graduating senior. She said that spoke to the quality of the IHS education and how it inspired students who might not be that interested in academics to become passionate learners.
Ms. Levis asked staff to elaborate on the extent to which IHS contributed to the board goal of increasing equity and diversity in all schools. Mr. Henderson referred to findings on page 7 of the report that discussed the efforts of IHS to provide an inclusive program and expand the level of diversity in the program. He said data suggested there had been moderate success in accomplishing those goals. He said IHS staff had been focused on instructional practices that met the needs of any students that entered the program, but that message had been slow to reach the community. He said the report suggested that the IHS program should continue to work on the goal of increasing equity and diversity.

Ms. Gai remarked that as an IHS student she thoroughly enjoyed her time in the program and was impressed by the passion of her teachers and their willingness to try to accommodate students’ needs.

Ms. Careccia commented that it would be beneficial to more fully explore perceptions on the Churchill campus that IHS was an elitist program.

Superintendent Russell thanked the review team members for their report. It was his intent to begin a dialogue with staff on the information and develop recommendations to provide to the board.

ITEMS FOR ACTION AT THIS MEETING

Approve the Superintendent's Recommendation to Support the City of Eugene Downtown Urban Renewal District Plan Amendment

The Eugene City Council is considering a proposal to amend the Central Eugene Project (Downtown) Urban Renewal Plan to increase the maximum spending limit and expand the boundary. The amendments would 1) Increase the spending by $16.15 million to cover four projects for a total of $49.15 million; and 2) expand the district boundary by 7% (five acres). The City Council is scheduled to vote on May 24. The district has been invited to comment on the proposal.

The City Council requested an analysis of the potential impact of continuing the downtown urban renewal district on other local taxing agencies, including the Eugene School District. Lane County Assessor Anette Spickard conducted the analysis, which was reviewed by 4J finance staff. The analysis showed that if the downtown urban renewal district was discontinued, the potential financial impact is as follows:

- **On an on-going basis, the school district would lose approximately $117,000 in annual revenue.** This reflects the net effects of an increase in the school district's operating levy, which is subject to the State School formula, and a decrease in the school district's local option levy. The district's operating levy is projected to increase by approximately $550,000; however, the district's portion would be less than $20,000 after applying the state funding formula. A $137,000 decrease in the local option levy is expected to result from an increasing number of properties moving into compression. The state funding formula does not apply to local option levies, so the full impact of this reduction would be felt. These estimates are based on 2009 tax roll information and would vary in future years with changes in market conditions.
• **On a one-time basis, the school district would receive an estimated $30,000 in revenue.** The school district’s share of excess tax increment funds is estimated to be $1 million, which is also subject to the State School Fund formula.

City Manager Jon Ruiz attended the April 21 board meeting to ask the board to approve the following motion:

"**We, the Eugene School District Board of Directors, concur with the Eugene City Council’s proposed plan amendment to increase maximum indebtedness for the Downtown Urban Renewal District by $16.15 million. This concurrence is given for purposes of ORS 457.220 and 457.470(7).**"

Chief of Staff and Communications Director Barbara Bellamy summarized a meeting with district leadership and City of Eugene management. She said the timing of the City’s request and action by the board prior to action by the City Council was discussed, along with the option of a memorandum of understanding from the City holding the district harmless in the event the assumptions on which the financial analysis was based should change and the impact on the district then changed.

Superintendent Russell said the board could postpone action if it had questions regarding timing or concurrence. He noted that Sue Cutsogeorge, City of Eugene Finance Division, was available to answer questions. He said based on the financial analysis by the county assessor, it appeared to be beneficial to the district to retain the urban renewal district, particularly with a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) from the city to provide protection to the district.

Ms. Walston remarked that she was not comfortable acting in advance of the City Council’s action on May 24.

**MOTION:** Ms. Walston, seconded by Ms. Gerot, moved to postpone the item until June 2, following the City Council’s action, and require that the board take action at that time.

Mr. Torrey expressed concern with delaying action because it would be beneficial to the district if the council included in its action on the urban renewal plan amendment a guarantee to protect the district from any unanticipated financial loss not determined in the financial analysis.

Ms. Levis stated that she owned properties and businesses located within the urban renewal district and worked for a client that would benefit from the urban renewal district. She felt that represented a conflict of interest and recused herself from future discussions or actions by the board, although she strongly supported urban renewal.

Ms. Walston stressed that she also supported urban renewal as a tool, but felt it was premature for the board to act before it had a guarantee from the City.

Ms. Gerot echoed the need for additional information.

Mr. Torrey asked if staff believed the district could be held harmless if it took action before there was a formal MOU in place to provide protection. Superintendent Russell said that initially the board was to be presented with the matter as an information item on which it was neutral, but subsequent discussions with the mayor and city manager resulted in the City’s request that the board take action to support the urban renewal district when it was determined that eliminating it
would represent a financial loss to 4J and passage of the plan amendment would cause 4J no harm.

Ms. Geller noted that the City had limited tools available for downtown development and there was a slight financial advantage to 4J if the urban renewal district continued. She asked if it was necessary to concur before the council acted or if voting a week later would be sufficient. Superintendent Russell replied that the board’s formal concurrence was not a requirement; the city manager hoped to gain the board’s formal support in order to forestall potential challenges to the urban renewal plan amendment. He did not perceive a problem with delaying the board’s concurrence.

Ms. Cutsogeorge said that the City was asking the board to concur with increasing the maximum indebtedness of the urban renewal district as an indication of its support for the plan amendment, preferably prior to the council’s action. She said the schedule for council action could not be extended, but if the board acted at its May 19 meeting the information could still be provided to the council for consideration on May 24.

**MOTION:** Ms. Gerot, seconded by Ms. Walston, moved to amend the motion by substituting May 19 for June 2.

**VOTE:** The motion to amend passed; 5:0, with Ms. Levis abstaining.

**VOTE:** The main motion as amended passed; 5:0, with Ms. Levis abstaining.

**Adopt the Board Calendar for the 2010-11 School Year**

The Board of Directors traditionally meet on the first and third Wednesday of the month, with the agenda and materials related to the agenda items being provided to the board on the Friday preceding the Wednesday meeting. Special board meetings and board work sessions may also be scheduled during the year; board members typically set aside every Wednesday evening for that purpose.

An updated copy of the proposed calendar of the regular board meetings for the 2010-11 school year was included in the board packet. The superintendent reviewed the proposed calendar and noted that it does not interfere with major holidays and the winter break schedule.

The superintendent recommended approval of the proposed 2010-11 calendar of the regular board meetings.

**MOTION:** Ms. Geller, seconded by Mr. Torrey, moved to adopt the board calendar for the 2010-11 school year.

**VOTE:** The motion passed unanimously; 6:0.

**CONSENT GROUP – ITEMS FOR ACTION**

**Grant Three Utility Easement Strips to EWEB that Will Allow for Construction of New Equipment and Utility Routing at Bertha Holt Elementary School**

EWEB requested three easement strips at Bertha Holt Elementary School; one strip at the southeast corner and two strips at the southwest corner of the property as shown on the easement plan included in the board packet. The easements allow for construction of new equipment and future maintenance access. The southeast easement strip will be 10 feet wide
by 56 feet long. The southwest easement strips will be 14 feet wide by 30 feet wide and 7 feet wide and 125 feet long. In addition to the request for these three easements, EWEB will terminate an existing easement in the center of the property which was used for utilities serving Washington Elementary School which was demolished to build Bertha Holt Elementary School.

The benefits to the district of granting the easements are new electrical equipment which will increase the reliability of service (fewer outages and quicker return to service) to the school facility and adjacent neighborhood. The location of the proposed new easements will not impact existing school property utilization or future site development. Compensation to the district for both easements will be $450, which is the standard 5% of the market value of the area of land occupied by the easement. The requested easement descriptions and drawings were included in the board packet. Also included were the terminated easement and drawing.

The superintendent recommended granting these easements to EWEB as described above.

**Approve Grant Application: Middle School Mentor Program**

Staff from the Instruction Department submitted a grant application to the U.S. Bancorp Foundation for $35,903. This project provides extended support to the Eugene Middle School Mentor Project, which currently serves 185 at-risk students at all 8 district middle schools. Mentors have lunch with students weekly and give personal attention, support and encouragement in an effort to increase self-esteem, school attendance and academic performance. The program is currently supported by a federal grant, which ends in August 2010. This grant will provide support for two school coordinators to serve two of the schools for the 2010-11 school year.

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

**Approve Revision to the 2010-11 School Year Instructional Calendar**

In accordance with the district and Eugene Employees Association (EEA) collective bargaining agreement, the total number of contract days for the 2010-11 instructional calendar is 192 days. Due to a rounding error, the calendars previously approved show 193 contract days. Staff recommended adjusting the first day teachers report to work. If approved, the first reporting day for teachers will be Tuesday, August 31, 2010, not Monday, August 30, 2010. This change will have no impact on school instructional days, teacher planning days, grading days, holidays or vacation days. Copies of the revised 2010-11 school year instructional calendars were included in the board packet.

The superintendent recommended approval of the revised 2010-11 school year instructional calendar.

**Approve Board Meeting Minutes**

The superintendent recommended approval of the minutes from the March 3, 2010 regular board meeting. A copy of the minutes was included in the board packet.
Correct Award Authorizing Bus Financing

On April 21, 2010, the board approved financing for the acquisition of five special needs buses through Traxis Financial Group. The second lowest bidder, Traxis was awarded the financing after Sun Trust, the lowest bidder, withdrew its offer based on a new corporate moratorium on financing activities in Oregon.

There is no change in the terms of the lease-purchase agreement. Traxis offered an interest rate of 3.38 percent for a five-year term for five special needs buses. The price of the buses, after trade-ins, was $552,470.

The district has been notified that documentation for Traxis is executed in the name of its affiliate Blue Bird Body Company. For this reason, the superintendent requested that the board reaffirm the award to Traxis Financial Group in the name of Blue Bird Body Company.

Ms. Geller and Ms. Walston requested that the March 3, 2010, minutes be pulled from the consent items.

**MOTION:** Mr. Torrey, seconded by Ms. Walston, moved to approve the consent items, with the exception of the March 3, 2010, board meeting minutes.

**VOTE:** The motion passed unanimously; 6:0.

Ms. Geller clarified that her comments on page 11 of the March 3, 2010, board minutes were with regard to the fact that some high school students did not receive the curriculum covered on the 10th grade OAKS test until the 11th grade.

Ms. Walston clarified that in the second paragraph on page 14 of the March 3, 2010, board minutes the visit to Kennedy Middle School should have been reported as visits to Madison and Monroe Middle Schools.

**MOTION:** Mr. Torrey, seconded by Ms. Levis, moved to approve the March 3, 2010 board meeting minutes as revised.

**VOTE:** The motion passed unanimously; 6:0.

**ITEMS FOR ACTION AT A FUTURE MEETING**

**Approve Property Line Adjustment Between Kinney Loop Property and Adjacent Private Property Along Coburg Road**

**Background:**
The existing configuration of the Kinney Loop property is such that access to Coburg Road is isolated to a 60 foot wide section of road frontage in the northwest corner of the site, adjacent to the EWEB substation parcel.

In August 2006, the board approved dedication of a street right-of-way (ROW) for the Coburg Road access in order to provide access to the adjacent property along the Coburg Road frontage. The owner of the property, Opal Investments, LLC (Opal), intended at that time to move forward with a residential development for single-family dwellings. In exchange for the ROW dedication, the developer was to construct the access to public street standards and provide utility extensions for future development of the district’s parcel. The ROW dedication was for a 60 foot wide by 160 foot long ROW.
The developer has determined that, due to market conditions, the previously conceived development is not financially feasible. They have asked the district to consider a lot line adjustment to reconfigure our respective lots which would allow greater development flexibility for the Opal lot, thus increasing the feasibility for development and/or resale of the property. In exchange for the property line adjustment, the developer will agree to construct a portion of a street, serving both properties along the proposed common property line. It is anticipated that the street ROW will reside entirely on 4J property and would be 55-60 feet wide and roughly 240 feet in length. The developer would bear all current costs for the property line adjustment process and all future costs for the street improvements. In addition, the developer would either extend public utilities to the district parcel, or grant utility easements for such purpose, depending upon which property develops first. These commitments would be included in a joint agreement between the district and Opal which would be recorded with Lane County and would be binding on future property owners.

A copy of the current tax lot map was included in the board packet along with another map showing the proposed property line adjustment and lot configurations. Actual property line location could vary slightly depending upon final details of the Agreement between parties.

Discussion:
1. Rationale: The property line adjustment is considered favorable for the district’s parcel, primarily due to the new/proposed location of the street connection to Coburg Road. Upon development of the district’s parcel, the city will require a street connection between Coburg Road and the Crescent Village development located south of the eastern portion of the Kinney Loop site. The current northerly location of the Coburg Road connection would result in a street that bisects the district parcel. The bisecting street creates some challenges with respect to property development as a school site and the ability for students to access athletic fields and other outdoor spaces without having to cross a public street. The proposed southerly location places the street nearer the perimeter of the property, providing greater development potential as a school site, especially when considering the potential/intended co-development of the site with the City of Eugene (Parks) property to the east of the district parcel. Staff will present conceptual drawings showing potential development options for the district’s parcel for each of the street locations (current & proposed) to demonstrate the advantages of the proposed property reconfiguration.

Enhanced development flexibility equates to higher potential future value which is a mutual benefit to both property owners. The increased development potential for the Opal property increases the likelihood that the street access to Coburg Road and extension of utilities will occur before the district would be in a position to consider development of the site for school purposes. Of additional benefit to the district is that public streets, as opposed to residential back-yards, increase site visibility and security and avoids potential issues with adjacent property owners.

2. Options and Alternatives: The alternative option is to not approve the property line adjustment, keeping the property configuration as it currently exists and maintaining the Coburg Road access in its current location adjacent to the EWEB parcel. This would limit future development flexibility as a school site and would potentially increase future construction costs for street improvements.
3. **Budget/Resource Implications:** The proposed property line adjustment would be accomplished at no cost to the district (other than staff time) and will potentially save the district money in the long run and enhance property value.

4. **Board and Superintendent Goals:** The proposed property line adjustment supports the Board Goal to “Provide prudent stewardship of district resources to best support student success, educational equity and choice.” There is no specific Key Result or Superintendent Goal that directly relates to the proposal.

**Recommendation(s):**
The superintendent will be recommending approval of the proposed property line adjustment and ultimate dedication of appropriate street right-of-way, along with authorization for the superintendent to negotiate the terms of the final Agreement between the property owners. Board action on this item is scheduled for June 2, 2010.

Director of Facilities Management Jon Lauch used a slide presentation to illustrate the subject property and proposed property line adjustment. He stated he would email concept sketches of the proposed development to board members. He reviewed aspects of the proposal as described in the board packet materials and indicated that no negative impacts to the district had been identified.

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

Ms. Levis expressed her appreciation for the participation of student representatives in the board’s discussions. She reported on her tour of Food Services and attendance at an Equity Committee meeting. She said the Equity Committee had discussed the impact of bullying on students’ attendance, which affected student achievement, and the need to keep students safe. She congratulated Roosevelt Middle School on its performance at a recent math competition in Salem.

Mr. Torrey thanked Ms. Hays for chairing the meeting, particularly with respect to asking student representatives for their opinions. He participated in Twin Oaks Elementary School’s reading classes and encouraged others to read to students.

Ms. Walston commended teachers, thanking them for their work and congratulated Marilyn Cooley on her award. She attended the Apple Computer site visit at Howard Elementary School and was impressed by the use of technology in the classroom. She attended the Oregon Small School Initiatives (OSSI) meeting, which was very informative, visited McCormack Elementary School and participated in the Oregon School Boards Association’s (OSBA) training. She said OSBA was offering training on the Oregon Data Project if board members were interested. She visited South Eugene High School and toured its child development center.

Ms. Geller attended Equity Committee and regional OSBA meetings. She reminded the public that the district’s Budget Committee would be meeting the following week and encouraged people to attend.

Ms. Gerot attended the Apple Computer event at the Arts and Technology Academy and visited a classroom to see how technology was being used. She reported on her attendance at the OSSI meeting and an OSBA board meeting. She recommended that board members read a report by ECONorthwest on small schools in Oregon. She is willing to work with staff to schedule OSBA training on the data project if the board wished.
Ms. Hays thanked board members for their support. She reported on her participation in a Lane ESD budget committee meeting.

**ADJOURN**

Ms. Hays adjourned the meeting at 9:35 p.m.

_____________________________   _____________________________
George Russell     Craig Smith
Superintendent     Board Chair

(Recorded by Lynn Taylor)

**Attachments to Official Minutes:**
1. Teacher Appreciation Week Resolution
2. School Nurse Day Resolution
3. International High School Program Review - 2010
4. Proposed Calendar for 2010-11 Board Meeting
5. Utility Easement Documents
6. Grant Application Form: Middle School Mentor Program
7. Revised Instructional Calendars for 2010-11 School Year
8. Kinney Loop Tax Lot Maps