

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

Date: June 17, 2026

The Board of Directors (BOD) of School District No. 4J, Lane County, Eugene, Oregon, held a special meeting at 6:00 p.m. via live stream and broadcast on KRVM. Notice of the meeting was emailed to the media and posted on the 4J website on June 12, 2026.

ROLL CALL

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:

Tom Di Liberto
Ericka Thessen
Maya Rabasa
Jenny Jonak
Judy Newman
Morgan Munro
Rick Hamilton

ABSENT:

None

STAFF:

Miriam Mickelson, Superintendent
Carmen Xiomara Urbina, Chief of Staff
Bob Blyth, Associate Director of Financial Services
Brooke Wagner, Assistant Superintendent for Administrative Services
Oscar Loureiro, Director of Research and Planning
Jeff Johnson, Director of Elementary Education
Kelly McIver, Communications Director
Dan Farley, Director of Technology
Steve Schininger, Network Services Manager
Casandra Kamens, Curriculum Administrator
Cynthia Calletano, Executive Assistant to the Chief of Staff and Board
Lisa Fjordbeck, Operations Manager for the Superintendent's Office

OTHER GUESTS:

None

EMPLOYEE ASSOCIATIONS:

Lisa Jenkins-Easton, Oregon School Employees Association (OSEA) Chapter 1 President
Jamie Myers, Eugene Education Association (EEA) President

MEDIA:

KRVM

Lookout Eugene-Springfield

Register Guard (virtually)

I. CALL TO ORDER, ROLL CALL, AND LAND ACKNOWLEDGMENT

Chair Di Liberto called the special meeting to order at 6:02 p.m. He said the names of the board members who were present and read a land acknowledgment statement.

II. BOARD CHAIR WELCOME

Chair Di Liberto welcomed attendees. He acknowledged district graduation ceremonies and recognized all graduates of Eugene School District 4J.

III. AGENDA APPROVAL

There were no changes to the agenda.

IV. INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS AND SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Superintendent Mickelson provided an update on upcoming summer programming: High School Summer Bridge, High School Credit Recovery Program, High School Extended School Year Services, Middle School Summer Bridge, Middle School Extended School Year Services, Elementary School Summer Enrichment and Academic Learning (SEAL), and Kids in Transition (KITS). She mentioned an expansion of community meal sites late-June through August.

Superintendent Mickelson provided closing school year reflections, recognizing staff, students, and families for a meaningful and fulfilling school year, despite challenges.

V. ITEMS RAISED BY THE AUDIENCE

Jennifer Goodlett (online), 4J educator, provided comments related to district budget cuts. She explained that her position was reduced and relocated. She described the process and raised concerns about having only two days to transition, citing poor communication and a lack of funding and support.

VI. COMMENTS BY EMPLOYEE GROUPS

Lisa Jenkins-Easton, Oregon School Employees Association (OSEA) Chapter 1 President, provided comments. She said she is hopeful about the newly formed ad hoc committee. She described concerns related to a recent mediation settlement. She said during mediation OSEA provided over 30 contracts as evidence to show that school districts utilize employer-paid time for representation and that it is widely practiced across the state. She urged honoring and trusting what was committed to in mediation.

Jamie Myers, Eugene Education Association (EEA) President, reported on the success of the Emergency Town Hall which took place at Roosevelt Middle School on June 10, 2026. She said about 80 community members were in attendance to advocate for

education funding in the state. She expressed thanks to Board members who were in attendance. She recommended continued partnership between EEA and 4J.

VII. CONSENT GROUP – ITEMS FOR ACTION

Consent Group — Items for Action

1. APPROVE THE DRAFT BOARD MEETING MINUTES FOR: MAY 27, 2026 – BOARD WORK SESSION AND JUNE 3, 2026 – BOARD REGULAR MEETING

There was no discussion.

2. APPROVE THE CONTRACT FOR NUTRITION SERVICES WITH FRANZ BAKERY-UNITED STATES BAKERY (RFP 26-457)

There was no discussion.

3. APPROVE THE 5-YEAR WIRELESS ARCHITECTURE MAINTENANCE AGREEMENT

There was no discussion.

4. APPROVE ROUTINE PERSONNEL ACTIONS

There was no discussion.

5. APPROVE RESOLUTION 2026-27-02 DESIGNATION OF DISTRICT OFFICERS, CLERKS, AGENTS, AND DEPOSITORIES OF FUNDS

There was no discussion.

6. APPROVE RESOLUTION 2026-27-04 DELEGATION OF PURCHASING AND SIGNING AUTHORITY

There was no discussion.

7. SET TUITION RATES FOR THE 2026-27 SCHOOL YEAR

There was no discussion.

MOTION: Vice Chair Thessen moved to approve the consent agenda. Mr. Hamilton seconded. **The motion passed unanimously, 7:0:0; Chair Di Liberto, Vice Chair Thessen, Ms. Rabasa, Ms. Newman, Ms. Jonak, Ms. Munro, and Mr. Hamilton all voting in favor.**

VIII. ITEMS FOR INFORMATION

1. RECEIVE INFORMATION REGARDING HOWARD ATTENDANCE AREA ADJUSTMENT/REALIGNMENT IMPLEMENTATION PLAN

Chief of Staff Carmen Xiomara Urbina and Director of Elementary Education Jeff Johnson presented information about Howard Attendance Area Adjustment/Realignment Implementation Plan via PowerPoint presentation, including context and review, impacts and voices, and transitions.

Mr. Johnson provided context and review:

The Question Guiding This Work

- Are we asking our youngest students to travel farther than necessary?
 - A small number of Howard Elementary students live significantly closer to Adams Elementary or César Chávez Elementary.
 - Proximity gap: Students travel 3.5 to 4.5 miles to school each morning.
 - Unnecessary transit: Busses pass neighborhood schools much closer to home.
 - Optimization goal: Ensuring current attendance areas serve families as originally attended.

Historical Context

- The Superboundary (2011)
 - Established 15 years ago to balance and optimize neighborhood district dynamics.
- Our Ongoing Commitment
 - When the Superboundary was created, leaders recognized that impacts must be continually reviewed over time to balance unintended results.

Ms. Urbina highlighted the following:

A Shifting Landscape

- Neighborhoods have evolved, routes have shifted, and general enrollment distributions have fundamentally changed.
- A small number of students remain assigned to Howard Elementary despite living closer to Adams Elementary or César Chávez Elementary.
- Student and Family Impact
 - 13 families
 - 26 students
 - 0 middle school impacts

Mr. Johnson outlined a student support profile and student engagement process:

- 8 students with support plans
- Every impacted family was contacted directly

He outlined the phases:

- Phase I: Review and Analysis
- Phase II: Family Listening and Engagement
- Phase III: Decision and Family Notification
- Phase IV: Communication and Information Sharing
- Phase V: Transition, Belonging, and Student Support

Ms. Urbina described what they heard from families, including understanding the rationale and addressing transitions. The most common concern was maintaining critical peer friendships, preserving trusted staff relationships, and reducing immediate student anxiety.

Mr. Johnson presented core family pathways:

1. Attend assigned neighborhood school
2. Remain at Howard Elementary

Ms. Urbina presented a transition timeline:

- Early Summer: School choice applications process and family confirmation letters finalized
- Mid Summer: Direct family outreach
- Late Summer: Coordinated IEP and 504 transition meetings held with specialists
- School Launch: Complete execution of safety, transit routing, and campus welcomes

Ms. Urbina and Mr. Johnson invited questions from the BOD.

Ms. Jonak asked if any families wanted to stay at Howard Elementary but could not provide their own transportation.

Ms. Urbina confirmed that there was one family, but transportation was not a big concern for them.

Ms. Newman asked if the process will permanently change the boundaries.

Staff responded affirmatively.

Ms. Munro asked if there is currently room at Howard Elementary for school choice.

Ms. Urbina said yes.

Responding to a question posed by Ms. Munro about middle schools, Ms. Urbina said students would also have the choice to attend Arts and Technology Academy (ATA) or Roosevelt, depending. Ms. Urbina added that high school location will depend on where students currently live and that the conversation is ongoing.

Responding to a question posed by Ms. Rabasa, Superintendent Mickelson explained why it is being labelled as a boundary change, as opposed to adjustment. She confirmed that the change is permanent, rather than temporary.

Ms. Rabasa requested more information for Board member talking points.

2. RECEIVE AN UPDATE REGARDING PERSONAL ELECTRONIC DEVICES (PED) IMPLEMENTATION

Ms. Urbina provided an update on Personal Electronic Devices (PED) Implementation via PowerPoint presentation, including PED requirements, stakeholder voices, strategic impact, and forward planning.

She started by outlining Oregon Executive Order 25-09 requiring all Oregon school districts to implement policies limiting student use of personal electronic devices during the school day, including the following objectives:

- Support student learning
- Improve mental health and wellbeing
- Reduce distractions
- Strengthen student engagement

She presented survey participation metrics:

- 1,607 total responses gathered
- Approx. 84% were middle school students
- Approx. 77% of surveyed students report high comprehension of rules and standard consequences related to the policies
- 78% reported little to no anxiety
- 1 out of 5 students reported moderate to significant anxiety
- Strongest concern is emergency contact concerns

She highlighted emerging core themes, including benefits and concerns. She said equity remains a focus, including IEP/504 integration, documented medical access, enforcement calibration, and family needs.

She highlighted the 2026-27 Implementation Plan:

- Communications
- Operations
- Monitoring

Ms. Urbina presented a timeline of next steps:

- Summer 2026: Finalize operations guidelines and complete instructional toolkits
- Late summer: Conduct parent engagement sessions and distribute school communications
- Fall 2026: Deploy training to building personnel and initiate student rules rollout
- Winter 2026+: Gather mid-year survey responses and report policy metrics back to Board

She invited questions from the BOD.

Vice Chair Thessen highlighted reported benefits of the cell phone ban, including increased use of library services. She raised concern about high school data not being collected, citing working students and students providing childcare in their homes. She also raised concern about students who are parents, specifically seeking information about whether they are permitted to access their cellphones.

Ms. Rabasa mentioned that some students earn credits for their employment. She suggested incorporating that into the Administrative Rules (AR).

Ms. Newman recommended more community engagement.

Several Board members expressed a desire to gather more data from high school students.

Ms. Jonak asked how they determine that students with IEPs and 504s are being accommodated.

Ms. Urbina said a committee meets regularly to discuss policy alignment.

Ms. Rabasa suggested including a survey question to gauge how often students skip lunch to go off campus and use their cell phones.

Ms. Urbina validated Ms. Rabasa's point.

Chair Di Liberto asked about enforcement calibration. He sought information about challenges, consequences, and success rates.

Mr. Hamilton further emphasized a need for discipline and compliance.

IX. ITEMS FOR ACTION

1. RECEIVE AN UPDATE REGARDING CÉSAR CHÁVEZ ELEMENTARY SCHOOL NAMING REVIEW

Ms. Urbina provided a renaming recommendation regarding César Chávez Elementary School Naming Review via PowerPoint presentation.

She outlined Policy FF and name inquiry, including that on May 27, 2026, the Board introduced proposed revisions to Policy FF: Naming and Renaming Schools, Programs, and Properties.

She outlined survey demographics:

- Current parent/guardian: 57 responses
- School staff: 32 responses
- Former parent/guardian: 9 responses
- Neighbor/former staff: 2 responses

She outlined renaming feedback data:

- Yes: 67%
- No: 10%
- Unsure: 23%

She outlined feedback themes:

- Student safety
- Latino culture
- Community voice

She outlined future naming path:

- Avoid individual names

- Latina leadership
- Geography and nature
- Indigenous history

Ms. Urbina recommended that the Board authorize the formal renaming process for César Chávez Elementary School.

She outlined a renaming timeline:

1. Advisory
2. Plan design
3. Criteria
4. Outreach
5. Decision

Ms. Urbina briefly responded to questions and received comments from the BOD.

MOTION: Vice Chair Thessen moved to direct the superintendent to initiate the formal renaming process for César Chávez Elementary School. Ms. Rabasa seconded. **The motion passed unanimously, 7:0:0; Chair Di Liberto, Vice Chair Thessen, Ms. Rabasa, Ms. Newman, Ms. Jonak, Ms. Munro, and Mr. Hamilton all voting in favor.**

2. ORGANIZE THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS FOR THE 2026-2027 SCHOOL YEAR

Superintendent Mickelson and Chair Di Liberto engaged the BOD in electing Board of Director Chair and Vice Chair for the 2026-27 school year. The terms will begin on July 1, 2026.

Vice Chair Thessen self-nominated to serve as Chair.

MOTION: Ms. Newman moved to appoint Ericka Thessen as Board of Director Chair for the 2026-27 school year. Ms. Jonak seconded. **The motion passed unanimously, 7:0:0; Chair Di Liberto, Vice Chair Thessen, Ms. Rabasa, Ms. Newman, Ms. Jonak, Ms. Munro, and Mr. Hamilton all voting in favor.**

Ms. Rabasa self-nominated to serve as Vice Chair.

MOTON: Ms. Jonak moved to appoint Maya Rabasa as Board of Director Vice Chair for the 2026-27 school year. Vice Chair Thessen seconded. **The motion passed unanimously, 7:0:0; Chair Di Liberto, Vice Chair Thessen, Ms. Rabasa, Ms. Newman, Ms. Jonak, Ms. Munro, and Mr. Hamilton all voting in favor.**

MOTION: Vice Chair Thessen moved that the Board authorize Erika Thessen as Chair and Maya Rabasa as Vice Chair to sign on behalf of the district until such time as this authority is rescinded by action of the Board of Directors or until their successors are duly elected and qualified. Ms. Munro seconded. **The motion passed unanimously, 7:0:0; Chair Di Liberto, Vice Chair Thessen, Ms. Rabasa, Ms. Newman, Ms. Jonak, Ms. Munro, and Mr. Hamilton all voting in favor.**

X. ITEMS FOR ACTION AT A FUTURE MEETING

There were none.

XI. COMMITTEE REPORTS BY INDIVIDUAL BOARD MEMBERS

Ms. Rabasa provided a report from the Legislative Committee, including a recommendation to create two-year terms and implement a member rotation. They also recommend that Ms. Newman return to the committee, alongside Vice Chair Thessen and Mr. Hamilton. She mentioned scheduling the Legislative Breakfast for October rather than December. The Legislative Committee is scheduled to meet next in August.

Superintendent Mickelson noted that the EEA Legislative Breakfast is also occurring in October.

Ms. Newman provided a report from the newly formed Board Workforce Negotiations Ad Hoc Committee. She said their meeting focused on membership, timeline, and focus areas. They agreed to invite district staff and a representative from each employee group to join the committee. They hope to debrief the last negotiations and receive input on other possible means to negotiate contracts. They hope to accomplish the tasks by November. They will provide regular reports to the Board.

XII. CONSIDER BOARD REQUESTS FOR AGENDA ITEMS OR INFORMATION

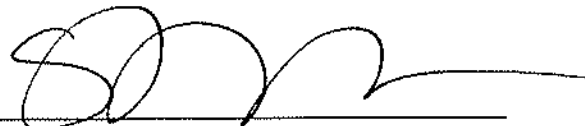
There were none.

XIII. ADJOURN

Chair Di Liberto adjourned the special meeting at 7:46 p.m.



Miriam Mickelson, Superintendent



Ericka Thessen, Chair

Recorded by Terah Van Dusen, Lane Council of Governments (LCOG)

