

**MINUTES OF THE WORK SESSION
OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS
SCHOOL DISTRICT 4J, LANE COUNTY, OREGON**

Date: August 19, 2026

The Board of Directors (BOD) of School District No. 4J, Lane County, Eugene, Oregon, held a work session 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 August 14, 2026.

ROLL CALL

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:

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

ABSENT:

None

STAFF:

Miriam Mickelson, Superintendent
Brooke Wagner, Assistant Superintendent of Administrative Services
Bob Blyth, Associate Director of Finance
Kelly McIver, Director of Communications
Cynthia Calletano, Executive Assistant to the Chief of Staff & Board
Lisa Fjordbeck, Operations Manager for the Superintendent's Office
Steve Shiningier, Network Services Manager

STUDENT REPRESENTATIVES:

None

OTHER GUESTS:

None

EMPLOYEE ASSOCIATIONS:

Lisa Jenkins Easton, Oregon School Employees Association (OSEA) Chapter 1 President

MEDIA:

KRVM

I. CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL

Chair Thessen called the Eugene School District 4J Board of Directors' (BOD) work session to order at 6:03 p.m.

II. BOARD CHAIR WELCOME

Chair Thessen welcomed attendees and recognized district staff returning for the school year. She reported a change – the BOD will receive monthly budget updates during the first Board meeting of the month and information about teaching and learning topics will occur during work sessions.

III. AGENDA APPROVAL

There were no changes to the agenda.

IV. HEARING OF THE PUBLIC

There were no individuals present to provide public comment.

V. COMMENTS BY EMPLOYEE GROUPS

There were none.

VI. CONSENT GROUP - ITEMS FOR ACTION

1. APPROVE ROUTINE PERSONNEL ACTIONS

There was no discussion.

2. APPROVE MEMORANDUM OF AGREEMENT (MOA) WITH EMPLOYEES ASSOCIATION OF SUBSTITUTE TEACHERS (EAST)

There was no discussion.

3. APPROVE A CONTRACT FOR NUTRITION SERVICES WITH EMERALD FRUIT AND PRODUCE CO., INC.

There was no discussion.

**4. APPROVE THE DRAFT BOARD MEETING MINUTES FOR:
– AUGUST 5, 2026 BOARD MEETING**

There was no discussion.

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

VII. ITEMS FOR INFORMATION

1. RECEIVE BOARD COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENTS

Chair Thessen stated that each Board member has volunteered to serve on two committees. The Charter School Committee has yet to be assigned. She listed the following assignments:

- Chair Thessen:
Legislative Committee and Long-Range Facilities and Bond Planning Committee
- Vice Chair Rabasa:
Policy Committee and Workforce Negotiations Ad Hoc Committee
- Ms. Munro:
Policy Committee and Long-Range Facilities and Bond Planning Committee
- Mr. Di Liberto:
Eugene Education Foundation (EEF) and Workforce Negotiations Ad Hoc Committee
- Mr. Hamilton:
Legislative Committee and Lane ESD Budget Committee (alternate).
- Ms. Jonak:
Lane Council of Governments (LCOG) and Lane ESD Budget Committee
- Ms. Newman:
Legislative Committee and Workforce Negotiations Ad Hoc Committee

VIII. ITEMS FOR ACTION

1. APPROVE EUGENE SCHOOL DISTRICT 4J ORGANIZATIONAL CHART

There was no discussion.

MOTION: Chair Thessen moved to approve the Eugene School District 4J organizational chart as presented. Ms. Jonak seconded. **The motion passed unanimously, 7:0:0; Chair Thessen, Vice Chair Rabasa, Ms. Jonak, Ms. Newman, Ms. Munro, Mr. Di Liberto, and Mr. Hamilton all voting in favor.**

2. APPROVE REVISED BOARD GOALS

The Board briefly discussed the Board Goals, including a need to revisit Board Goal #1.

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

3. APPROVE PROPOSED REVISIONS TO BOARD LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES FOR THE 2026-27 SCHOOL YEAR

Ms. Newman briefly reported information related to proposed revisions to Board legislative priorities. She received Board feedback related to Oregon Senate Bill 141: 2025 Education Accountability Act. Board members requested the bill be closely tracked.

Ms. Munro suggested replacing the word “any” with “and/or” in the second bullet point.

MOTION: Vice Chair Rabasa moved to approve the legislative priorities for school year 2026-27 with suggested language changes. Ms. Jonak seconded. **The motion passed unanimously, 7:0:0; Chair Thessen, Vice Chair Rabasa, Ms. Jonak, Ms. Newman, Ms. Munro, Mr. Di Liberto, and Mr. Hamilton all voting in favor.**

IX. ITEMS FOR ACTION AT A FUTURE MEETING

1. CONSIDER FOR APPROVAL BOARD CORE VALUES AND GUIDING BELIEFS (FORMERLY WORKING AGREEMENTS)

Vice Chair Rabasa engaged the Board in a thorough review of the recommended Core Values and Guiding Beliefs. She said the updated document reflects declarative values statements linked to beliefs as well as language edits for clarity.

Board members carefully reviewed the document before engaging in a round of high detail wordsmithing and formatting.

Vice Chair Rabasa said the handbook will be revisited in the future. A final copy of the Core Values and Guiding Beliefs will be shared prior to approval at the next Board meeting.

X. COMMITTEE REPORTS BY INDIVIDUAL BOARD MEMBERS

Ms. Newman said the Legislative Breakfast has been scheduled. The Workforce Negotiations Ad Hoc Committee held their first meeting and it was well attended. She reported on the success of the Eugene Education Foundation (EEF) retreat.

XI. CONSIDER BOARD REQUESTS FOR AGENDA ITEMS OR INFORMATION/SUGGESTIONS BY THE BOARD FOR CONSIDERATION OF ITEMS AT A FUTURE MEETING

Mr. Di Liberto requested ongoing reports related to the integration of SB 141.

XII. FOR THE GOOD OF THE ORDER

Chair Thessen said the Back-to-School Kickoff Event is happening on Wednesday, September 2, 2026 at 7:30 a.m.

XIII. ADJOURN

Chair Thessen adjourned the work session at 7:36 p.m.


Miriam Mickelson, Superintendent


Ericka Thessen, Chair

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