

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

August 1, 2018

The Board of Directors of School District No. 4J, Lane County, Eugene, Oregon, held a regular meeting at 7:00 p.m. and an executive session at 8:15 p.m. 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 July 27, 2018, and published in *The Register-Guard* on August 1, 2018.

ROLL CALL

BOARD MEMBERS:

Alicia Hays, Chair
Anne Marie Levis, Vice Chair
Eileen Nittler
Judy Newman
Evangelina Sundgrenz
Jim Torrey
Mary Walston

STAFF:

Dr. Gustavo Balderas, Superintendent of Schools
Dr. Charis McGaughy, Assistant Superintendent of Instruction
Ms. Kerry Delf, Associate Director of Communications
Dr. Brooke Wagner, Director of Elementary Education
Dr. Andy Dey, Director of Secondary Education
Dr. Cheryl Linder, Director of Educational Support Services
Ms. Cydney Vandercar, Assistant Superintendent for Administrative Services
Ms. Christine Nesbit, In House Legal Counsel
Mr. Ryan Spain, Director of Facilities Management
Mr. Steve Menachemson, Director of Technology
Dr. Oscar Loureiro, Director of Research and Planning
Ms. Lisa Fjordbeck, Executive Assistant / Board Secretary
Ms. Andrea Belz, Associate Director of Finance

MEDIA: KRVM, Register Guard.

OTHER: Tad Shannon, Eugene Education Association (EEA) President.

I. REGULAR BOARD MEETING

II. CALL TO ORDER, ROLL CALL, FLAG SALUTE

Chair, Alicia Hays called the regular meeting of the board of directors to order at 7:00 p.m. Chair Hays led those present in the flag salute.

III. AGENDA REVIEW

There were no changes to the agenda.

IV. INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS AND SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Dr. Balderas reported that prior to the regular meeting, there was a community forum on the proposed bond which he would recap later in the meeting. He thanked staff for their hard work over the summer.

Dr. Balderas wanted to ensure there was an understanding of the 4J mentor program. The director recently moved on, but he ensured the public and the board the program would be maintained at the same level as previous years.

Dr. Balderas addressed recent news around the Natives Program. He clarified there would not be a reduction or elimination of the program and the district wanted to support it as best as possible with the resources available. Dr. Balderas wanted to correct the narrative that was currently in the community, as the district supported all alternative programs and even hoped to grow them.

V. ITEMS RAISED BY THE AUDIENCE

Chair Hays explained board and district policy on public comment.

Shireen Wright appreciated the community forum and that the board was considering alternatives plans for the bond. She reemphasized that Yujin Gakuen (YG) was an amazing school, but for years YG had been in co-location with another grade school. YG wanted a kindergarten through 8th grade program, as well as a space to call their own, as they felt their growth had stalled. Ms. Wright reiterated the school community wanted a long term plan and felt students deserved more. She also did not want to displace any other programs. If the board was open to other ideas, she thought YG could go into the Sheldon area.

Rachel Anderson was interested in health curriculum, particularly around drug awareness and harm reduction. She represented Columbines School of Botanical Studies. Ms. Anderson noted the availability of recreational cannabis and the nation's history of substance abuse, and kids accessing substances well before the legal age. She wanted the curriculum to encompass a

new shift of awareness around the issue and continue to evolve. Ms. Anderson wondered how to prepare children for those substances that would be available or around them. She said suicide rates were rising in the district and alcohol was a depressant readily available, and hoped to have a dialogue with the district.

Joy Marshall was a prior 4J parent and thanked the board for its support of the middle school mentor program. In addition, she spoke with parents from across the district about the bond, and people understood the need to upgrade and maintain buildings. Ms. Marshall thought it would help the public to know there was a Long Range Facility Plan (LRFP) which outlined the responsible and thoughtful approach being taken. Ms. Marshall noted that in particular, North Eugene High School and Edison Elementary School needed replacement. Additionally, the public had to understand community costs were simply going up and buildings would fall into disrepair if the district didn't taken action.

Kari Parsons thanked the board and district staff for the tremendous amount of work put into the bond, such as community outreach and ensuring that important projects were included. Ms. Parsons thought the bond would increase safety and equity throughout the district, and while the proposal seemed expensive it truly focused on the most pressing needs and was reasonable given those needs. She believed they needed to make a strong case to voters, because people understood that investments into education had a high return. Ms. Parsons concluded district needs wouldn't go away but the costs would increase.

Aaron Thomas taught language arts and drama at North Eugene High School language arts and drama. He explained the conditions of classrooms in terms of facilities and structure. Mr. Thomas noted last year he did not have heat in his room because the system was broken and couldn't be fixed. In addition, there was also a hole in the wall in another classroom, but facilities couldn't fix it because of asbestos. The hole was still there that day. Mr. Thomas said the auditorium needed a lighting upgrade – the lights and the drapery were ramshackled. In addition, the springs were shot in the seats which distracted the audience during shows. Other high schools didn't have those facility issues so Mr. Thomas thought there was an equity issue.

Clair Wiles had worked at North Eugene High School for 20 years and was at the meeting to advocate for a rebuild of the school. She pointed out it cost \$1.6 million in 1958; the build had served the community well, but was no longer the quality it used to be. Students deserved continued investment to ensure access to a 21st century learning environment. In addition, the building wasn't safe. Finally, Ms. Wiles noted the north area served as a community center for Santa Clara, a region not well served. She thought a new building could be designed to offer community meeting spaces or a makerspace, for example.

Dr. Balderas introduced Iton Udosenata, principal of North Eugene High School.

Mr. Udosenata commented on the bond, specifically in regards to building a new high school facility. He brought the perspective of someone who was in the classrooms each day and had close communication with facility managers. Mr. Udosenata saw benefits of how a new building could positively affect students and teachers psychologically. He added new facilities could increase the capacity of both teachers and students, and he was excited to have a potential

game plan in place to build the new facility; North Eugene High School was certainly in a condition that required replacement as it was built around 60 years ago and hadn't changed in more than 20 years. Mr. Udosenata explained that in 2017-2018, the school community embarked on a visioning process in which they asked community members, students, and staff to envision what an ideal school would look like. They wanted a space that fostered innovative learning, and to have hands on CTE opportunities. The community wanted welcoming space for all that could support expanded programming, while also having the capacity to embrace the coming growth over the next decade. Most importantly, people who weighed in wanted a place they felt pride in. Mr. Udosenata thought the school really needed a new building; it would be a significant disappointment if a new building was not included on the upcoming bond.

Charlie Ross noted the district had spent over \$136 million on four new middle and elementary schools. He wondered the tangible results of academic improvement within those new schools. As a taxpayer, Mr. Ross wanted to ensure the money he paid was improving schools and future student outcome. He wondered if staff could post data on student improvement within the district on its website. Mr. Ross believed academic achievement was found with quality teachers and smaller class sizes, not newer buildings. Before considering paying more for the bond, Mr. Ross needed to know the money would be used to improve academics at all district schools.

Chair Hays said generally the board responded to public comment, but instead board member comments were consolidated with Committee Reports.

VI. COMMENTS BY EMPLOYEE GROUPS

Tad Shannon, president of EEA, spoke on the upcoming bond including the proposed new North Eugene High School building. He said even when he started working in 4J around 20 years ago, the facility needed work. It was frustrating because there was a lack of state funding for education; however, the bond was one way for the community to directly invest into the education system. Mr. Shannon thought a new school would help with some attendance issues and loss of students from the region to other schools.

VII. COMMENTS AND COMMITTEE REPORTS BY INDIVIDUAL BOARD MEMBERS

Mr. Torrey thought it important for everyone to understand the amount of work done by staff over the summer on the bond, and for the community forum that evening. He requested Chair Hays and Ms. Levis start the next week's work session at 5:15 p.m. Mr. Torrey hoped to call in and participate for 30 minutes otherwise he wouldn't be able to. There were head nods around by board members, and staff agreed to change the work session to 5:15 p.m. on Wednesday, August 8, 2018.

Ms. Walston echoed Mr. Torrey's comments; she was impressed with the report included in the recent Friday memo about work done by the facilities department. In addition, Ms. Walston attended Senator Wyden's town hall at Roosevelt Middle School in June 2018.

Ms. Levis appreciated public process, and community members for always coming out to provide input on the bond. She thought public education was the foundation of the nation's democracy, yet time and time again the State of Oregon did not fund public education. It was

critical to have strong schools; community members within Eugene and 4J historically supported bonds and levies. Ms. Levis appreciated the board for taking more time to talk about the bond. The bond was critical for the district, but she understood people were worried about the high dollar amount. Ms. Levis noted the total of the last bond was \$170 million and four schools were built, while in 2018 the estimated price for a new high school was around that amount. Prices had escalated greatly and costs wouldn't go down. In addition, Ms. Levis thought a new North Eugene High School was critical for the community. Ms. Levis said new ideas often came from community members – she asked whomever was interested in providing input to email board@4j.lane.edu.

Ms. Newman thanked people for attending that evening's community forum. She thought some of the best ideas had come from community members, and public education was one way to improve the future for kids in the district.

Chair Hays noted there was a last minute request to provide public comment (listed under Agenda Item V, Items Raised by the Audience, Charlie Ross).

VIII. CONSENT GROUP – ITEMS FOR ACTION

1. Approve Meeting Minutes from:
 - Board Retreat on March 5, 2018
 - Board Meeting on May 30, 2018
 - Board Meeting on June 6, 2018
 - Board Meeting on June 20, 2018

Ms. Walston had a correction to the minutes of the regular board meeting on June 20, 2018 minutes. The correction was on page 44. Ms. Walston would provide clarity to Ms. Fjordbeck in order to update the draft minutes.

2. Ratify Projects for Capital Improvement Program (CIP) Bond Funded Projects
3. Personnel Action

MOTION: Mr. Torrey moved, seconded by Ms. Nittler, to adopt the consent calendar, and the June 20, 2018 minutes as corrected by Ms. Walston.

VOTE: The motion was approved unanimously, 7:0.

IX. ITEMS FOR INFORMATION

1. Bond: Receive Staff Reports and Discuss the Community Forum

Ms. Delf, Ms. McGaughy, and Ms. Vandercar presented a PowerPoint presentation Bond Community Forum 3 Slideshow.

At the forum there were three different stations and about 45 minutes to talk with community members at each station. Ms. Delf said there were facility, curriculum, technology, and capital improvement needs. During the forum it was explained the four newest buildings in 4J were built

with the most recent bond measure; however, every other building was 50 years old or more. Enrollment patterns were also changing. There was growing enrollment in the Sheldon region at the elementary level, which would outstrip current school capacity. Additionally, there were changing needs for materials and learning environments to meet 21st century education.

Ms. Delf explained the district had a long range facilities plan (first approved by the board in 2002) which detailed needs. It was updated several years ago after community input in 2013 and again in 2018.

Ms. Delf said after the community forum, staff and board members were able to discuss proposed projects as well as some alternatives with those at the meeting. She briefly explained some of those alternatives. Ms. Delf shared bond tax rates and effects to taxpayers for some of the proposed packages.

Ms. McGaughy sat at the station focused on the full bond package. Some themes she heard included: increasing construction costs, the desire to have high quality educational spaces, and the need for safe schools. In addition, Ms. McGaughy said people wanted to address equity and access issues. Specific wants included a new facility for North Eugene High School (rather than a remodel); a new Camas Ridge Elementary and a new Edison Elementary; spaces for 21st century learning; and upgraded food service facilities. Ms. McGaughy concluded citizens wanted the board and district to be good stewards of public money, and part of that included creating specific plans for programs.

Ms. Vandercar was at the second station which discussed the second bond package. That package proposed expanding Gilham Elementary School instead of building at the Kinney Loop site. She said most people wanted a new North Eugene High School because the difference in costs when compared to a remodel were not significant. Staff and board members were able to educate community members on some aspects of the bond such as bussing and safety, but Ms. Vandercar believed more was needed. Additionally, a number of folks didn't want colocation of YG and wanted to see a firm plan. Five or six folks present wanted the whole package, and to not dilute the needs of the district by choosing a low or middle dollar amount. Finally, Not everyone was for the bond, but most folks they talked to were fully supportive.

Ms. Delf was at the third station, which proposed an alternate \$275 million bond. Key differences were expanding Gilham Elementary rather than building new, and renovating North Eugene High School for a cost of \$90 million instead of \$150 million. Ms. Delf reported people wanted Gilham Elementary School complete before building a new facility in the Sheldon region, and most people wanted a new high school, because renovation wasn't a good use of resources long term. There were a few comments around funding support and a long term plan for YG. Ms. Delf noted there were also some conversations about long term finances and the affects to those on fixed incomes.

After the PowerPoint presentation, Chair Hays asked if board members had questions. Ms. Nittler asked to see the slide where costs to tax payers were broken down by month. Ms. Delf shared the slide.

Ms. Newman noted she thought there was an option for a smaller new North Eugene High School, but she didn't see it listed. Ms. Delf said it was not included in a package but was an alternative in materials provided to those at the forum. The option would also be in other materials available to the public. In addition, one alternative not included was a smaller school at Kinney Loop that could be expanded as needed to accommodate future growth.

Mr. Torrey asked when the Silver Lee facility was built. It was built in 1961. Mr. Torrey noted it would need replacement soon because it was not a quality school. If North Eugene High School was renovated, a new school would still need to be built on the site to replace Silver Lee. Replacement would cost another \$43-50 million, and Mr. Torrey thought that amount got lost in computing the "real" cost of a new North Eugene High School.

Ms. Levis appreciated the impartial summary provided by staff. She wanted to ensure all permutations and combinations were considered and thought the board had gone through all the different options. There was an overwhelming need, and the need for prioritization. She wanted to consider feedback from all forums in totality, rather than overrepresenting feedback from a single one. Ms. Levis appreciated the input from Mr. Ross; the school district did more on less money than any other district she had been a part of. She thought it was important to always consider the long term plan and to ensure decisions were not creating unintended consequences. There were many aspects to consider. Not everyone would love the decision made by the board, but it was critical to think about the bond in a long term perspective.

Chair Hays said there would be a work session the following Wednesday, August 8, 2018 during which she would ask members to share their thoughts on price points and what needed to be included in the submitted bond. There were some prepackaged ideas to start from, but that didn't mean other ideas couldn't be discussed during the work session.

Ms. Delf said anyone not able to come to the forum could email their thoughts to board@4j.lane.edu. If anyone wanted to sign up to receive updates on the bond process, they could email bond@4j.lane.edu. There would be an online comment form posted online on Thursday, August 2, 2018 as well as the PowerPoint presentation given that evening.

X. ITEMS FOR ACTION AT A FUTURE MEETING

1. Consider Oregon School Board Association Membership for 2018-2019

Dr. Balderas reminded the board there were three costs associated with the membership: annual dues, Oregon School Board Association (OSBA) legal assistance dues, and policy update fees. The costs were \$10,823, \$3,200, and \$1,095, respectively.

2. Consider Approving the Request from Lane County to Purchase the Drainage Easement at Awbrey Park Elementary School

Mr. Spain explained Lane County approached the district about purchasing an easement of about 275 square feet. Mr. Spain and Ms. Vandercar shared a picture of the drainage easement under consideration. The purpose of the sale was to extend the width of the bike path, to build a side walk in space. Kids currently walked into the bike path while on their way to school. Staff were working with various agencies across the community working to create a Safe Route to School.

Mr. Torrey wondered if Mr. Spain was comfortable moving forward. Mr. Spain said absolutely. Mr. Torrey thought the district needed to be good partners with the community.

3. Consider for Adoption Revisions to Board Policies in Section E

Dr. Balderas said Ms. Walston and Mr. Torrey worked with staff on revisions to board policies over the past year. In particular, section E would be amended and would be up for action at a future meeting.

XI. SUGGESTIONS BY THE BOARD FOR CONSIDERATION OF ITEMS AT A FUTURE MEETING

There were no suggestions by the board.

XII. 2018-2019 BOARD MEETING DATES

Chair Hays reported there would be a board work session Wednesday, August 8, 2018 at 5:15 p.m., a board retreat Wednesday, August 15, 2018 from 11:30 a.m. until 6:30 p.m., and a regular meeting starting at 7:00 p.m.

XIII. EXECUTIVE SESSIONS

Chair Hays transitioned into executive session at 8:13 p.m.

XIV. ADJOURN

Chair Hays adjourned the executive session at 9:00 p.m.

(Recorded by Marina Brassfield)

Dr. Gustavo Balderas
District Clerk

Alicia Hays
Board Chair