

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

August 5, 2019

The Board of Directors of School District No. 4J, Lane County, Eugene, Oregon, held a work session at 6:00 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 August 2, 2019, and published in The Register-Guard on August 5, 2019.

ROLL CALL

BOARD MEMBERS:

Anne Marie Levis, Chair
Mary Walston, Vice Chair
Alicia Hays
Judy Newman
Martina Shabram

STAFF:

Dr. Gustavo Balderas, Superintendent of Schools
Kerry Delf, Chief of Staff
Cydney Vandercar, Assistant Superintendent of Instruction
Lisa Fjordbeck, Executive Assistant/Board Secretary

MEDIA: Register-Guard

OTHER: Ericka Thessen, Shannon Roseta, Ryan Collay, Cynthia Botsios Danforth, Jim Torrey, Moria Querns, Nazia Ahmad Swartz, Maya Rabasa, Sarah Beth Follett, Elijah Ruth-Cheff, Stephan Parac, Gary Campbell, Danielle Bowerman, Thomas Jeffery Hiura

I. Process Review

Chair Levis called the work session to order at 6:00 p.m.

Before starting Chair Levis said that she was glad the board had received applications from fifteen people who wanted to be on the school board. She wanted to go over the interview process so that all the candidates understood what would be expected of them. Everyone would get ten minutes to answer the four questions that the board had prepared. Each candidate, she clarified, was allowed to spend the ten minutes doing whatever they wished. If they had something prepared they could read that, or go ahead and answer the questions. It was their job to make sure everything fit into ten minutes.

Ms. Delf acted as a timekeeper and would let candidates know when they had a minute left, and when they were out of time. Also, Chair Levis noted, one of the board members, Gordon Lafer, was not able to be at the interviews, however, he would be listening to the audio recording.

After interviews were finished, they would use Doodle Poll to narrow fifteen down to three. The final three would be invited in for a second interview on Thursday August 8, 2019. All voting would be made public so everyone could see which board member voted for whom. Ms.

Shabram asked what would happen if there was a tie or inconclusive vote in the Doodle Poll. Ms. Levis thought they could spend some time at the end of the meeting discussing what they would do in that situation. Ms. Newman wanted to know how long the interviews on Thursday would be. Ms. Levis responded that they could also discuss that at the end of the meeting.

II. Candidate Interviews

a. Erika Thessen

Ms. Hays asked what the candidate hoped to bring to the position that would make them the right person for the position. Ms. Thessen told the board that she has three children currently in the 4J district, and also serves as a psychology counselor at some of the 4J schools. She stated that 4J is her community, and she believed that it can do so much good. The board is in charge of creating change in the district, and Ms. Thessen expressed that she wanted to do her part.

Ms. Newman asked what the candidate's understanding of the duties of the board were and the role of the board in running the school district. Ms. Thessen replied by saying that she knows the board is in charge of finding more funding and creating policy for the district, as well as recruiting and hiring a superintendent when necessary.

Ms. Shabram informed the candidate that the district would be receiving an increase in funds for the 2020/2021 school year from the Student Success Act (SSA). She asked what the candidate's process would be for spending those funds. Ms. Thessen said she understood that money was only one issue that the school district faced, but that it is an important place to start. With the money she would want to hire more staff, and train new and existing staff on safety protocols and ways to ensure their children are always safe. She admired how last year when all schools tried to get on the same schedule they were able to communicate well with each other and did a good job reaching out to the community. Working effectively with the community is something that Ms. Thessen would like to focus on. She would also want to create smaller class sizes.

Ms. Walston informed the candidate that the district has a commitment to diversity, equity and inclusion. She asked the candidate what they thought would be effective ways to get broad community input and engagement that is representative of the community and students that feel left out of the education system. Ms. Thessen responded that their first step should be identifying at-risk students. They also need to provide more guidance counselors that can get to know the kids on a more personal level and create relationships. The board also needs to reach out more, talk to parents and kids, increase the amount of town halls and reach out to community organizations. Starting a dialogue and a zone where everyone feels they have room to speak to the board.

Ms. Levis let her know that she still had a couple minutes if she wanted to add anything else. Ms. Thessen had heard about a grant proposal that would teach children math through quilting. She thought that it would be a good idea for the district to look into new and innovative teaching styles, so they can teach all children in whatever way is best for them.

b. Marlene Pearson

Ms. Pearson was not present at the meeting. It was decided that if she showed up later they would allow her to be interviewed.

c. Shannon Roseta

Ms. Roseta passed out a handout that she had prepared which outlined her reasons for applying for the board position and her areas of interest.

Ms. Hays asked what the candidate hoped to bring to the position that would make them the right person for the position. Ms. Roseta agreed that there were many very qualified people for the board position. Recently retired from the district, she felt that she could bring in a different perspective since she had worked closely with 4J for her whole career.

Ms. Newman asked what the candidate's understanding of the duties of the board are and the role of the board in running the school district. Ms. Roseta said that the school board directs the mission for the district, and provides a visual representation of the community that they serve. The board is responsible for listening and helping the community, as well as doing any financial planning that needs to be done.

Ms. Shabram informed the candidate that the district would be receiving an increase in funds for the 2020/2021 school year from the Student Success Act (SSA). She asked what the candidate's process would be for spending those funds. Ms. Roseta acknowledged that 4J has struggled with funding in the past. Financing STEM is a project she would focus on, and thought they could link with local colleges to loan equipment from them. A focus on students' physical and mental health is also important to her.

Ms. Walston informed the candidate that the district has a commitment to diversity, equity and inclusion. She asked the candidate what they thought would be effective ways to get broad community input and engagement that is representative of the community and students that feel left out of the education system. Ms. Roseta thought they needed to find a space for kids outside of the normal high school system. Also, finding and hiring teachers and staff that can engage with students and genuinely care about their success in and out of school. A focus should be put on acquiring a more diverse staff so students can identify with adults they see everyday. Ms. Walston followed up, asking if Ms. Roseta had any plans for larger community outreach to those that are not participating. Ms. Roseta replied that the board can only do so much to get people involved, but they need to make those connections one-on-one.

Ms. Levis asked if there was anything else she wanted to say. Ms. Roseta told the board that she loves the 4J district, and would not apply for the position if she was not passionate about its success.

d. Ryan Collay

Mr. Collay thanked the board for taking the time to interview everyone, and loved the diversity of the candidates.

Ms. Hays asked what the candidate hoped to bring to the position that would make them the right person for the position. Mr. Collay responded that he has a passion for public education, and had spent the last twenty-one years at Oregon State University helping increase diversity in STEM. The board, he believed, needs to have a good relationship with the community in order to function best.

Ms. Newman asked what the candidate's understanding of the duties of the board were and the role of the board in running the school district. Mr. Collay said that the board is the legislative body that structures policy and the budget, as well as appointing a superintendent.

More importantly, the board sets the tone that ripples out into the community, and because of that it is important to be transparent.

Ms. Shabram informed the candidate that the district would be receiving an increase in funds for the 2020/2021 school year from the Student Success Act (SSA). She asked what the candidate's process would be for spending those funds. Mr. Collay understood that while the money is helpful, that it might not last as long as some people think. They need to ration the money out and balance the ongoing budget. He had worked on budgets in the past during the great recession, and felt he could be a good addition to the board.

Ms. Walston informed the candidate that the district has a commitment to diversity, equity and inclusion. She asked the candidate what they thought would be effective ways to get broad community input and engagement that is representative of the community and students that feel left out of the education system. Mr. Collay stated that he was one of those students himself during his education, and only found solace in after school activities. He spent his career trying to get everyone involved. Their focus should be on the safety of their students, making sure students feel understood, and keeping expectations high for all students.

e. Cynthia Botsios Danforth

Ms. Danforth shared that she is a parent of a 4J student, and has been bounced around schools a lot. She has volunteered as much as possible at the schools, and works in the career center.

Ms. Hays asked what the candidate hoped to bring to the position that would make them the right person for the position. Ms. Danforth said that looking over the list of candidates everyone seemed very qualified, which was a great reflection of the community. The right candidate should balance the board. She has a background in law, working with public records, and worked in communications, which gives her insight into some aspects of the board. She also attended both public and catholic schools, public college and private universities, and was the first person in her family to get a four year degree.

Ms. Newman asked what the candidate's understanding of the duties of the board were and the role of the board in running the school district. Ms. Danforth replied that the board determines how to spend funds and interviews the new superintendent. They also set the mission for the district. She acknowledged that there is probably more that they do that she is not aware of.

Ms. Shabram informed the candidate that the district would be receiving an increase in funds for the 2020/2021 school year from the Student Success Act (SSA). She asked what the candidate's process would be for spending those funds. Ms. Danforth thought they should get feedback from teachers, administrators, students, and the community. Her own focus would be on decreasing classroom size, hiring more teachers, increasing curriculum choices, and expanding the school year.

Ms. Walston informed that candidate that the district has a commitment to diversity, equity and inclusion. She asked the candidate what they thought would be effective ways to get broad community input and engagement that is representative of the community and students that feel left out of the education system. Ms. Danforth did not know how to better get in touch with kids, but thought it might help to utilize the internet. Having speakers come who have gone through some problems current students might be going through might be a good idea, so they can give the students positive role models. It is also important, she noted, to hire a diverse staff that can connect with students.

Ms. Levis asked if there was anything else she wanted to add. Ms. Danforth said she looked forward to the possibility of serving on the board, and sees herself as a team player who is committed to the 4J district.

f. Jim Torrey:

Mr. Torrey started off by saying he has always been a public servant in Eugene, and wants it to be a great place for all children.

Ms. Hays asked what the candidate hoped to bring to the position that would make them the right person for the position. Mr. Torrey had been on the 4J school board for twelve years and had made connections with the staff and community throughout his time serving. He thought it was important to understand that while the money they get from the Student Success Act will last for a long time, it will not last forever. Prior experience means he is ready to help in anyway the board needs.

Ms. Newman asked what the candidate's understanding of the duties of the board were and the role of the board in running the school district. Mr. Torrey reminded the board that they have one employee: the superintendent. It is their job to help the superintendent in anyway they can, and be a figurehead that the community can go to. The board also changes and imposes policy, and can appeal things that the superintendent made that the community might disagree with. Mr. Torrey finished answering the question by saying that the board also finalizes the budget.

Ms. Shabram informed the candidate that the district would be receiving an increase in funds for the 2020/2021 school year from the Student Success Act (SSA). She asked what the candidate's process would be for spending those funds. Mr. Torrey responded that they need to go to their stakeholders, talk to them, and respond to what they want. The board and staff will prioritize what they heard from the community.

Ms. Walston informed the candidate that the district has a commitment to diversity, equity and inclusion. She asked the candidate what they thought would be effective ways to get broad community input and engagement that is representative of the community and students that feel left out of the education system. Mr. Torrey said that this issue is the biggest challenge the board faces. There are some areas of the community that are scared to come talk to them, and that needs to change. He acknowledged that they have student members on the board, with non-voting rights, but thought they could bring another student with them to every meeting that is facing an issue. The board needs to reach out when necessary.

Ms. Levis asked if there was anything else he wanted to say. Mr. Torrey wanted to recognize that he is a straight white man, but that that is a voice that still deserves to be heard, even if he is in the majority. He wanted to help the district as much as possible and put students at the forefront.

g. Moria Querns

Ms. Hays asked what the candidate hoped to bring to the position that would make them the right person for the position. Ms. Querns thought that there were many qualified candidates for the position. She spent every school day for the last two years volunteering at 4J schools. Most of that time was spent in the main office, which meant a lot of time with students that get sent there a lot. Personally she has seen the frustration of the staff, parents, and students.

Ms. Newman asked what the candidate's understanding of the duties of the board were and the role of the board in running the school district. Ms. Querns responded that the board is not responsible for the day to day, but interprets laws, sets the budget, and creates the district goals.

Ms. Shabram informed the candidate that the district would be receiving an increase in funds for the 2020/2021 school year from the Student Success Act (SSA). She asked what the candidate's process would be for spending those funds. Ms. Querns said that they need to focus on hiring good support staff. Shrinking class sizes would be ideal, but she understood how that is not realistic, and thought that hiring more staff to help teachers balance the student load would be a good compromise.

Ms. Walston informed the candidate that the district has a commitment to diversity, equity and inclusion. She asked the candidate what they thought would be effective ways to get broad community input and engagement that is representative of the community and students that feel left out of the education system. Ms. Querns believed that starting young and making students feel safe throughout their whole education would build a sense of community in them and abolish any feeling of being left out. Also, going to parents themselves and not waiting for them to get annoyed and come to them. As a way to get in touch with older students, media outreach in some sense might be a good idea.

Ms. Levis asked if there was anything else she wanted to add. Ms. Querns clarified that she was asked to apply for this board position by the staff and parents at the school where she volunteers. With this in mind she understood that she might not be as qualified as someone else, but has information from the inside.

h. Nazia Ahmad Swartz

Ms. Ahmad Swartz let the board know that she had prepared a statement and would like to read it. She believed that it answered all of their questions and would point out which question she would be answering as she talked. At the end, if there was time, she would try and clarify anything the board felt she did not answer.

Ms. Ahmad Swartz said, starting off with the second question, that she has sat through many board meetings, and understood that everything is brought to the board first. It is up to them to ensure that students are represented in the district and at the forefront of everything they do.

Ms. Ahmad Swartz stated, responding to the first question, that change is all about evolving, which can be scary, but is important to everyone. She is an immigrant, an English teacher at Springfield high, who is also certified in math, and serves on the Springfield Diversity Committee.

Ms. Ahmad Swartz acknowledged, thinking on the third question, that 4J is working to make sure that all students can succeed, but thought there was more they could do. She believed that they needed to make early childhood education accessible to pre-k students to allow them to get a head start, as well as push more teachers to attend teacher workshops. Representation is a major issue as well, and they need to hire more people of color. In a similar vain, they need to be aware of mental health issues in their students, and make sure to act before problems arrive and not just respond as a reaction.

In response to the fourth question, Ms. Ahmad Swartz talked about how they need to focus on trans students, students with mental health issues, and students of color. Hiring more staff of color, and implementing a more diverse curriculum that is not biased to straight white history. She read data that proved making these changes would help improve grades. Students lacking a positive role model can be dangerous, and sets those with privilege up to have a false sense of superiority. Ms. Ahmad Swartz also stated that mental health issues have risen across the board, and are higher in students that are trans or of color. It is important to help every single student in their system be the best and feel the best they can.

III. Break

The 4J School Board took a break from 7:21 p.m. to 7:41 p.m.

IV. Candidate Interviews

a. Maya Rabasa

Ms. Hays asked what the candidate hoped to bring to the position that would make them the right person for the position. Ms. Rabasa said that a board needs to be well rounded, but could benefit from someone who knows what is going on inside the schools, post policy being made. With over 5,000 hours volunteering at nine 4J schools among all her kids, averaging out to around twenty hours a week for thirteen years, she felt she would be a strong candidate. She has coordinated transportation, interpreted for meetings, and has done whatever was asked of her.

Ms. Newman asked what the candidate's understanding of the duties of the board were and the role of the board in running the school district. Ms. Rabasa voiced that the board makes policy, asks questions, makes funding decisions, creates relationships with those in Salem, are ambassadors of 4J, and does whatever they can for the community. They need to be open and transparent with the public about the changes they want to make.

Ms. Shabram informed the candidate that the district would be receiving an increase in funds for the 2020/2021 school year from the Student Success Act (SSA). She asked what the candidate's process would be for spending those funds. Ms. Rabasa countered that the Student Success Act outlines the ways that the funds should be used. She is excited to see what the community wants to do with the money, and emphasized the fact that the board needs to involve the public in the decisions.

Ms. Walston informed the candidate that the district has a commitment to diversity, equity and inclusion. She asked the candidate what they thought would be effective ways to get broad community input and engagement that is representative of the community and students that feel left out of the education system. Ms. Rabasa explained that no matter how friendly an authority figure is, they are hard to approach. As a way to combat this, they need to not only invite people to come and talk to them, but make an effort and go to other organizations meetings.

b. Sarah Beth Follett

Ms. Hays asked what the candidate hoped to bring to the position that would make them the right person for the position. Ms. Follett thought that there was no "right" person for the job, and had fun hearing what the other candidates thought. Having a current 4J parent who is close to what is happening is something she found of great importance to the board. She has a twelve year old that is currently in the system, as well as a fourth grader. Ms. Follett acknowledged that she might not be the best fit for the board, but is passionate about what is going on in schools, and would love to be involved.

Ms. Newman asked what the candidate's understanding of the duties of the board were and the role of the board in running the school district. Ms. Follett replied that the board does budgeting, hires the superintendent, and should be out in their community working as a bridge between people and policy. That last point might not be outlined in their duties, but it is still very critical.

Ms. Shabram informed the candidate that the district would be receiving an increase in funds for the 2020/2021 school year from the Student Success Act (SSA). She asked what the candidate's process would be for spending those funds. Ms. Follett said that it was an exciting time for the district and time for the community to step up. The board needs to do whatever is necessary to increase graduation rates. They need to go out and get community feedback and respond accordingly.

Ms. Walston informed the candidate that the district has a commitment to diversity, equity and inclusion. She asked the candidate what they thought would be effective ways to get broad community input and engagement that is representative of the community and students that feel left out of the education system. Ms. Follett believed that it is easy to get feedback if they are willing to listen, and that the board needs to be there and build trust throughout the district. Reaching out to the University of Oregon to see what they are doing to reach their students, and implementing what seems to work might be a good first step. High school is so focused on graduation, but they need to be aware that not every child is college bound. It is their job to reinforce all potential paths that children might want to pursue. Connecting with trade unions that could come in and talk to students could be a successful way to help all children feel like they have a future.

Ms. Levis asked if she had anything else to add. Ms. Follett said that she has been in Eugene for seventeen years, and has really enjoyed the city and watching her children learn in 4J schools. She would love the opportunity to work with the board.

c. Elijah Ruth-Cheff

Ms. Hays asked what the candidate hoped to bring to the position that would make them the right person for the position. Mr. Ruth-Cheff thought it spoke well of their community that there are so many candidates for the school board. As a child he went all the way through school in the 4J system, and now works as a research assistant at the University of Oregon in the College of Education. The board needs to focus on the different strengths of every student and see to it that the next generation has a voice.

Ms. Newman asked what the candidate's understanding of the duties of the board were and the role of the board in running the school district. Mr. Ruth-Cheff knew that the board is in charge of policy, budgeting, and hiring the superintendent. The board also needs to be a model of the district and not be blind to the issues that students are facing.

Ms. Shabram informed the candidate that the district would be receiving an increase in funds for the 2020/2021 school year from the Student Success Act (SSA). She asked what the candidate's process would be for spending those funds. Mr. Ruth-Cheff thought that the influx of funds that the district will receive is very exciting. He said they should continue to build a successful staff that has the capacity to help all their students. It is important to have a diverse staff so that students can see themselves in their teachers. Mr. Ruth-Cheff said it would be a good idea to extend their free meal program into the summer in order to take care of their

students all year round. Making sure students are well fed can help students more than they might think. They should also hire more counselors and mental health staff.

Ms. Walston informed the candidate that the district has a commitment to diversity, equity and inclusion. She asked the candidate what they thought would be effective ways to get broad community input and engagement that is representative of the community and students that feel left out of the education system. Mr. Ruth-Cheff responded that everyone needs to have access to help and students need to have a teacher or staff member that they can go to. It might help to create forums so people can be heard and know that the board is listening. The board needs to be aware of issues and obstacles that might block parents of color from getting involved. Having a cultural lens is important to making everyone feel comfortable.

d. Stephen Parac

Ms. Hays asked what the candidate hoped to bring to the position that would make them the right person for the position. Mr. Parac said that he is a parent of 4J children, and has experience through the PTO and volunteering at the school. He understood the leadership role that the board holds, as he is the head of his own company. As a straight white man he knows that he has some biases, but wanted the board to understand that he is very open to all perspectives and willing to talk and learn from anyone. Mr. Parac stated that he is also on several education based boards, and is a strong believer that students come first.

Ms. Newman asked what the candidate's understanding of the duties of the board were and the role of the board in running the school district. Mr. Parac responded that the board has a responsibility to their students and needs to listen to feedback from the community and be the bridge between the public and the education system. The board needs to listen to staff and administration, find funding wherever possible, challenge their staff to be the best, and ask the tough questions, as well as create and change policy as needed.

Ms. Shabram informed the candidate that the district would be receiving an increase in funds for the 2020/2021 school year from the Student Success Act (SSA). She asked what the candidate's process would be for spending those funds. Mr. Parac replied that the board needs to be open to feedback and relay that information to whoever can make the change. They need to be fiscally responsible and focus funds on making sure all their students can read by third grade.

Ms. Walston informed the candidate that the district has a commitment to diversity, equity and inclusion. She asked the candidate what they thought would be effective ways to get broad community input and engagement that is representative of the community and students that feel left out of the education system. As someone in the tech world, Mr. Parac thought that they could benefit from getting tech entrepreneurs involved with the schools. It would show students that they have more than one option. Diversity on the board is important as well as being approachable and receptive to feedback. The board itself needs to meet the community and its students on their level.

e. Thomas Jeffery Hiura

Mr. Hiura wanted to start by establishing they/them he/him pronouns. They said they were glad to be there and that if there are any problems in the community they need to take direct action.

Ms. Hays asked what the candidate hoped to bring to the position that would make them the right person for the position. Mr. Hiura stated that 4J education has been the focus of

their whole life and that they grew up in the education system. Since they are only twenty-five they were a high schooler during the smart phone era, and can understand issues children face today. Mr. Hiura said thought that the district was good, but wanted to join the board to help it become great.

Ms. Newman asked what the candidate's understanding of the duties of the board were and the role of the board in running the school district. Mr. Hiura said that the focus of the board is to build a better future for students. Any policy needs to be centered on students and what benefits them. They thought the issue of climate change needed to be addressed so that they could say they tried their best to provide for all children now and in the future.

Ms. Shabram informed the candidate that the district would be receiving an increase in funds for the 2020/2021 school year from the Student Success Act (SSA). She asked what the candidate's process would be for spending those funds. Mr. Hiura voiced that he was excited that 4J was getting more money. He questioned Oregon's legislature since no republican voted to give more funds to their schools. Data has linked technology with rising mental health issues, so they thought that the board's focus should be on student mental health. There should be more resources for students and better pay for teachers. They believed that the 4J school district should be a role model for the nation.

f. Gary Campbell

Mr. Campbell appreciated the time that the board has given and stated that he has a passion for education and believed it can change communities for the better.

Ms. Hays asked what the candidate hoped to bring to the position that would make them the right person for the position. Mr. Campbell said that it was very cool and energizing to see so many folks apply. He is the father of a young girl and has insight and hopes for what 4J could be. Also, he has served on the 4J equity committee for a couple years, and is proud of the work they have been able to do.

Ms. Newman asked what the candidate's understanding of the duties of the board were and the role of the board in running the school district. Mr. Campbell thought the board is a guiding light for the district that makes policy changes to push 4J forward. The board needs to engage with the community and reach everyone possible at both a group and individual level.

Ms. Shabram informed the candidate that the district would be receiving an increase in funds for the 2020/2021 school year from the Student Success Act (SSA). She asked what the candidate's process would be for spending those funds. Mr. Campbell acknowledged that the SSA spells out how the funds should be used. The board should look into doing research into private sector jobs and help students understand how they can establish careers in the private sector. Also, they need to talk to the community and, more importantly, students. Student engagement should be a focus, as they need to help students find their voice and feel heard.

Ms. Walston informed the candidate that the district has a commitment to diversity, equity and inclusion. She asked the candidate what they thought would be effective ways to get broad community input and engagement that is representative of the community and students that feel left out of the education system. Mr. Campbell said that over the past year and a half there has been a good amount of educational forums, but that he would still like to see more of them. Reaching out to minority groups and students on individual and group

levels and figuring out how to implement good and effective change, he believed, would help push the district in the right direction.

g. Danielle Bowerman

Ms. Hays asked what the candidate hoped to bring to the position that would make them the right person for the position. Ms. Bowerman is a 4J parent and volunteer, business owner, and has logged over 800 hours over the last two years volunteering at her children's school library. She was impressed with all the candidates and their ideas. Ms. Bowerman would love the opportunity to be a part of 4J and its future.

Ms. Newman asked what the candidate's understanding of the duties of the board were and the role of the board in running the school district. Ms. Bowerman said that she has attended board meetings in the past and understood the budgeting and policy responsibilities that they hold.

Ms. Shabram informed the candidate that the district would be receiving an increase in funds for the 2020/2021 school year from the Student Success Act (SSA). She asked what the candidate's process would be for spending those funds. Ms. Bowerman thought they should analyze the current process, talk with the community, and work together to create a student focused budget. They should have certified librarians in every school and make change to combat climate change with teachers and board members leading by example.

Ms. Walston informed the candidate that the district has a commitment to diversity, equity and inclusion. She asked the candidate what they thought would be effective ways to get broad community input and engagement that is representative of the community and students that feel left out of the education system. Ms. Bowerman took alternative education paths herself, and can understand how some children need help to find their own path. It was in trade school where she found her passion for reading and writing, and if there is hope for her, there is hope for everyone.

Ms. Levis asked if there was anything she wanted to add. Ms. Bowerman said that 4J has the potential to be a leader in the country and wants to be a part of that.

V. Next Steps

Ms. Walston said she was excited for the rest of the interviews on Thursday. She wanted to know if instead of just narrowing it down to three, if they could do four. Ms. Newman thought that if they could not agree on three, then they could go to four or even five. Ms. Hays chimed in and said they could just do an elimination style round if they could not agree on three. Ms. Shabram concurred with that idea.

Ms. Walston questioned if Marlene Pearson was still someone they were considering. Ms. Levis thought they should have staff reach out to her and make sure there was not an emergency that kept her away. Everyone agreed and thought that seemed fair.

Ms. Levis stated that they should have their Doodle Poll votes in by 5 p.m. on Tuesday, August 6, 2019. Ms. Newman asked if they could move the end time to 8 a.m. on Wednesday August 7, 2019, since she had a full day on Tuesday and did not know if she would have had time to go over her thoughts and cast her vote. Ms. Levis agreed to move the time, but told everyone to keep an eye on their emails in case they needed to do another vote on Wednesday. Ms. Walston wanted to make sure the change would not affect staff getting in contact with the

remaining candidates. Ms. Hays responded, saying that since the original time was when staff would be leaving, changing the time to the morning should not affect them.

VI. Adjournment

Chair Levis adjourned the session at 9:15 p.m.

(Minutes recorded by Lydia Dysart)

Dr. Gustavo Balderas
District Clerk

Anne Marie Levis
Board Chair