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

**March 18, 2020**

The Board of Directors of School District No. 4J, Lane County, Eugene, Oregon, held a regular session at 6 p.m. Notice of the meeting was mailed to the media and posted in the Education Center on March 13, 2020, and published in *The Register-Guard* on March 18, 2020.

**NOTICE: In light of current public health concerns related to coronavirus COVID-19, the regular meeting of the Eugene School District Board of Directors on March 18, 2020 took place via tele-conference. Pursuant to ORS 192.670, the meeting was open to the public via live broadcast on KRVM 1280-AM and via the internet at www.4j.lane.edu/stream**

**ROLL CALL**

**BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:**
Anne Marie Levis, Chair
Mary Walston, Vice Chair
Alicia Hays
Judy Newman
Gordon Lafer
Martina Shabram
Jim Torrey

**MEDIA:** KRVM

## II. REGULAR BOARD MEETING
Chair Levis called the Regular Session to order at 6 p.m.

## III. AGENDA REVIEW
Mr. Lafer wished to add an item under 'Suggestions by the Board for Consideration of Items at a Future Meeting.' He also wished to pull an item from the Consent Calendar.

## IV. INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS AND SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT
Dr. Balderas thanked the Board for making this teleconference meeting happen. He said the Governor, by Executive Order, has closed all schools in the state at least until April 28. Dr. Balderas said the Executive Order states that school districts will continue to receive funding as long as schools continue providing: meals to students, supplemental education/learning supports, childcare services for emergency employees, and staff salaries.
Dr. Balderas reported that plans for the Kelly Middle School/Yujin Gakuen co-location were still moving forward, and there would not be portable spaces added for the September opening. He said the District would be looking at this very closely in September, and would discuss adding portables if needed.

## V. COMMENTS BY BOARD CHAIR
Chair Levis thanked the community members who were tuned into this "virtual" meeting. She also thanked the 4J staff who were on site, making sure the meeting happened as smoothly as possible.

## VI ITEMS RAISED BY THE COMMUNITY

Each Board member confirmed they read all missives sent in by the community at large.

## VII. COMMENTS BY EMPLOYEE GROUPS

Sabrina Gordon offered prepared remarks about the Eugene Education Association (EEA), and their current relationship with School District 4J. She thanked 4J staff and leadership for their dedication to the students and faculties of all District schools during the coronavirus pandemic, and she thanked School District 4J for their invitation for EEA to join them in their planning in this strange, trying time. Finally, Ms. Gordon thanked the District for considering all or part of the EEA calendar when drafting their own calendar.

## X. COMMENTS AND COMMITTEE REPORTS BY INDIVIDUAL BOARD MEMBERS

Mr. Lafer thanked the Superintendent and staff for working around the clock to keep School District 4J operational through the pandemic. He thanked staff too for their work on the Student Success Act (SSA), especially considering they were working under a strict deadline set by the State.

Mr. Torrey praised 4J Nutrition Services for continuing to prepare and distribute meals to District kids during the pandemic and subsequent shelter in place order from the Governor.

Ms. Newman thanked School District 4J staff for their continued hard work, much of it behind the scenes, during this trying time. She stressed the importance of the Board working with the teachers' union or EEA. Finally, Ms. Newman asserted that, now more than ever, transparency on the part of the Board was essential.

Ms. Shabram thanked the community that had chosen to join the meeting via radio/internet. She also thanked School District 4J staff for their unwavering dedication to their duties during the coronavirus pandemic, and she reminded everyone that said pandemic was just beginning, and there were hard, trying times ahead for everyone.

Vice Chair Walston thanked Chair Levis for her leadership during this time, and she especially thanked her for answering each and every email sent in by the community. Vice Chair Walston thanked those community members who took the time to draft correspondences for the meeting. Finally, she supported moving forward with the Yujin Gakuen/Kelly Middle School merger, despite most of the normal operations of School District 4J being suspended.

## XI. CONSENT GROUP – ITEMS FOR ACTION

Information about the consent group items was included in the board packet.

**1. Advanced Refunding Bond Sale**
**2. Ratify Awards for Capital Improvement Program (CIP) Bond Funded Projects**
**3. Approve the First Round Replacement of Staff Devices That are Greater Than Six Years Old**
**4. Approve Minutes from February 5, 2020 Board Meeting**
**5. Approve Minutes from February 19, 2020 Board Meeting**

Mr. Lafer wished to pull item 2, Ratify Awards for Capital Improvement Program (CIP) Bond Funded Projects. His reasoning was this money, leftover from a 2011-13 bond, could be used for portables at Kelly Middle School, instead of being earmarked to re-turf middle school sport fields.

**MOTION:** Vice Chair Walston moved, seconded by Mr. Torrey, to approve the Consent Group without Item 2, Ratify Awards for Capital Improvement Program (CIP) Bond Funded Projects.

**VOTE:** The motion passed unanimously - 7:0.

**MOTION:** Mr. Lafer moved, seconded by Ms. Newman that the decision laid out in item 2 be held until the fall, or until such time that the Board has made a final decision about portables at Kelly Middle School.

Dr. Balderas offered the process for this was very complex, and involved the contract agreement with the City of Eugene; he continued the fields that were to be re-turfed under item 2 in the Consent Calendar would need to be re-evaluated, and possibly closed to the community until such time as the proper re-turfing could be done. In addition, delaying the work to re-turf the field would cost more money in the long run.

In light of Dr. Balderas' comments, Mr. Lafer withdrew his previous motion.

**MOTION:** Vice Chair Walston moved, seconded by Mr. Torrey, to approve Consent Group Item 2, Ratify Awards for Capital Improvement Program (CIP) Bond Funded Projects.
**VOTE:** The motion passed unanimously - 7:0.

## XII. ITEMS FOR ACTION

### 1. Approve Student Success Act - Student Investment Account Plan

Ms. McGaughy offered the Board a report on the Student Investment Account (SIA) Plan.

Chair Levis asked the Superintendent and staff if there were any changes they would suggest the Board make to the current SIA plan.

Dr. Balderas responded not at this time.

**MOTION:** Vice Chair Walston moved, seconded by Mr. Torrey, to approve the School District 4J Student Success Act - Student Investment Account Plan, and Charter School Agreement as presented, for submission to the Oregon Department of Education (ODE) by April 15, 2020

**MOTION:** Mr. Lafer moved, seconded by Ms. Shabram, that the Board postpone the vote, and ask School District 4J staff to come back in two weeks with the appropriate revisions.

**VOTE:** The motion failed - 2:5, with only Mr. Lafer and Ms. Shabram voting for the amendment.

**VOTE (original motion):** The motion passed 6:1, with Mr. Lafer voting against.

## XIII. ITEMS FOR ACTION AT A FUTURE MEETING

### 1. Consider for Approval Proposed 2020–21 Academic Calendars

Ms. Nesbit offered the Board a report on the proposed 2020-21 Academic Calendars.

Mr. Lafer asked about the elementary school grading day. He wondered why School District 4J did not have this grading day a week before school ended, in order to set student goals and identify areas needing attention for the next school year. He also asked why the District did not allow things like recess in elementary school to count towards instruction time.

Dr. Balderas said he believed it was very unorthodox to have multiple grading days—as School District 4J does—instead of just one, at the end of the school year. He went on to say the District wanted the absolute most instructional minutes as possible for our students.

### 2. Consider Process for Interim Superintendent Search

Chair Levis offered the Board a brief report on the process for an interim Superintendent search. She announced that at the last School District 4J board meeting, the Board had delegated the authority to leadership to put together a process to look for an interim Superintendent. Chair Levis said the two Board policies, which governed this process, were CBA, and CBB.

Chair Levis stated there were three general options for this process: a full hiring process, a shortened hiring process, or an internal hiring process.

Chair Levis pointed to the "desired characteristics" document in the meeting packet. She said she and Vice Chair Walston put together this draft from materials gleaned from the hiring process of Dr. Balderas. She said this document would be posted publicly to capture community feedback on the draft, and she asked the Board to review it thoroughly.
Chair Levis also announced she had emailed a draft timeline for the interim Superintendent search to the Board, and she asked Board members to look over it, and hopefully they could approve the timeline at the upcoming meeting on April 1, 2020.

Ms. Newman asserted it was important to have the ability to edit the draft documents mentioned by the Board Chair, given the nature of the present state of Oregon, the country, and the World.

Ms. Shabram asked if there was a reason the third option, hiring internally, was chosen as the most expedited option.

Chair Levis replied, since time was of the essence, hiring someone internally—someone who knows the ins and outs not only of School District 4J, but of the Eugene community at large—would be the most efficient option toward hiring an interim Superintendent.

Vice Chair Walston said the School District 4J Board will begin the process for hiring a permanent Superintendent in October of 2020 for the following school year.

Mr. Torrey asked if this would be a Board decision.

Chair Levis replied it would.

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

Mr. Lafer said he would like to see an item dealing with portables at Kelly Middle School on the next meeting's agenda. He said he recently learned this decision was a District decision, and not a Board decision, so he would like to see the aforementioned future agenda item be represented as a non-binding statement of values, or a non-binding resolution from the Board encouraging the District to add portables at Kelly Middle School.

There was not enough Board support to add the item Mr. Lafer described to the next meeting's agenda; only himself and Ms. Shabram were in favor of adding it.

Ms. Hays said she would like to add an item to the next meeting's agenda in which leadership was asked to look at the possible Board retreat that was originally scheduled for April 17, 2020.

## XV. ADJOURNMENT

Chair Levis adjourned the meeting at 8:23 p.m.

*(Recorded by Rodney Cimburke)*

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| Dr. Gustavo Balderas | Anne Marie Levis |
| District Clerk | Board Chair |