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

May 27, 2020

The Board of Directors of School District No. 4J, Lane County, Eugene, Oregon, held a work session at 6 p.m. Notice of the meeting was mailed to the media and posted in the Education Center on May 22, 2020, and published in *The Register-Guard* on May 27, 2020.

NOTICE: In light of current public health concerns related to coronavirus COVID-19, the work session of the Eugene School District Board of Directors on May 27, 2020 took place via Zoom Meeting. Pursuant to ORS 192.670, the meeting was open to the public via live radio broadcast on KRVM 1280-AM and via the internet at www.4j.lane.edu/

ROLL CALL

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

STAFF:
Dr. Gustavo Balderas, Superintendent of Schools
Charis McGaughy, Assistant Superintendent for Instruction
Kerry Delf, Chief of Staff
Brooke Wagner, Director of K-8 Education
Andy Dey, Director of Secondary Education
Kat Lange, Director of Student Services
Kyle Tucker, Chief Operations Officer
Cydney Vandercar, Assistant Superintendent of Administrative Services
Christine Nesbit, General Counsel
Steve Menachemson, Director of Technology Services
Jeffry Johnson, Director of K-8 Education
Andrea Belz, Director of Financial Services
Holly Langan, Director of Support Services
Lisa Fjordbeck, Executive Assistant/Board Secretary
Karen Hardin, Director of Human Resources

MEDIA: KRVM

I. CALL TO ORDER, CORRIDOR PRESENTATION

Chair Levis called the meeting to order at 7 pm. She outlined the point of the meeting, that the board would be discussing the potential closure of the alternative school, Corridor. She outlined that Ms. McGaughy and herself would be using criteria from the last alternative school review to evaluate the issue better and with more structure and compassion.

Dr. Balderas presented the core issue about the budget shortage and the potential closure of Corridor.

All full presentations can be found on 4J's website.

Ms. Delf began the data presentation. Corridor has 142 students, making it one of the smallest alternative learning schools in the district, with declining enrollment trends. Student numbers have gone from 278 to 142, a 49% decrease. Looking at student diversity, Corridor has the least amount of diversity. Because of how small Corridor is, the costs per student are significantly higher as well.

Mr. Torrey expressed that he wondered why these criteria hadn't been evaluated in the past.

Ms. Shabram asked about the distinctive strategy and to what degree would this curriculum be able to be utilized in neighboring schools to help with not having a separate school.

Dr. Balderas spoke on finding this program during this founding in 1974, and if magnet programs were to include this curriculum it needed to be well developed and thought out.

Ms. Newman agreed that these criteria evaluations needed to be done regularly and on a timeline. In criteria one, the most important thing to be thinking about is the alignment with district goals and there needs to be an important unique aspect to the curriculum to justify it.

Ms. McGaughy mused that they should use the guiding questions they had for each criteria and that the incoming Corridor principal, Levinia Paige, was to give a brief statement on what the distinctive qualities of Corridor was. These guiding questions are:

1.) What do we already know about this criteria?
2.) What additional questions are there about this criteria?

Ms. Paige spoke about what makes Corridor unique. She said the 3 C's in Corridor were creativity, collaboration, and community. She spoke on the sense of community that comes from the performing arts at this school and cross grade collaboration. She also spoke about the Elective program in Corridor and how it is unique.

Ms. Wagner spoke on how this curriculum compared to other schools in the district. There are a few other schools, such as Family school and Camas Ridge, have elective schedules like Corridor that also have multi age grouping as well as a few schools that focus on performance arts. Corridor is the only one that does a performance outside of the school building; usually held at the Hult Center.

Ms. Newman spoke about an email testimony that she received that this setup of a school did not work for their family.

Mr. Torrey was taken by the number of students in Corridor that live on the south side of the beltline that choose to go to Madison instead of Kelly. This tends to increase the lack of diversity in these schools.

Mr. Lafer spoke that the biggest issue for him is money vs. the value of the program, especially with how small the school is. However, he wondered how they would be able to make up for the growing elementary school population in the North Eugene region.

Ms. McGaughy asked Ms. Delf to share the slide on North Eugene to receive elementary school kids and the most important thing right now is to look at costs.

Mr. Lafer asked if there was any money that would be lost from kids that come from out of district to go to Corridor, and how they were planning on helping to accommodate the overcrowding in the district and how to accommodate a performing arts school in the district the best.

Dr. Balderas spoke on transferring kids out of the district is problematic, and with small class sizes the cost of keeping these teachers and small class sizes. He posed the question “Would we start a school with 115 kids right now?” and highlighted the answer would probably be no.

Ms. Hayes asked what other programs may move in the district, and how having kids transfer and move again is very compelling and a challenge.

Ms. McGaughy spoke about moving the program at North Eugene would be a cost as well.

Ms. Lange said that the number of students that would be moved in this life skills program would be about 25, and they would move for a few years and then have to move back.

Mr. Torrey said what he was really concerned about the kids at Corridor that are lead to believe that they are going to North Eugene, and as of March 1st this has changed. They don’t know if Corridor next year is going to be the same, and how many kids are going to be

allowed in the classroom. In terms of cost, he does not think it is a fiscally responsible thing to do to make these improvements right now.

Chair Levis stated that there are 2 buckets of cost, bond dollars that can only be used for bond projects, and general fund dollars. They need to look at using short general dollars to fund this school, and bond dollars never accounted for promising a school other than North Eugene. There is currently a program at North that will need to be moved to South, because there isn't space for them elsewhere at this moment.

Ms. Lange clarified that there is a CLC program that they do not have a definitive answer for, and they are looking for space hopefully to stay in the North region, just moving them intact to a new region.

Mr. Lafer asked if staying at Corridor would be an option if they chose to keep it.

Ms. Lange said if they chose to keep Corridor they would just stay there.
Dr. Balderas spoke on being lucky that this district is expected to grow, and a lot of new installments in housing is going to affect this very quickly.

Mr. Torrey spoke on the CLC program moving to South, and how this would negatively affect the students and possibly building a new YG.

The discussion then moved to the alternative to moving students instead of building a new school. Portables would not cost as much as building new schools, as well as just adding staff to current schools and with the current environment this may be the best decision.

Ms. Newman spoke about the rumor of Corridor closing affecting the enrollment.

Chair Levis then spoke that Corridor closing was not under consideration until the hit of COVID-19.

Ms. Shabram talked about the criteria being useful, however she spoke about wanting to do progress and reevaluation metrics as time went on in the alternative school review. She was curious about data for how recommendations in the report are implemented. She believes a more diverse student body would also require more diversity in curriculum and student metrics, and that this problem still needed to be looked at.

Mr. Lafer asked for some information on what support and services would be available to students, staff, and families if Corridor would be closed.

Dr. Balderas urged the Board to look at equity and diversity issues, and utilize the community as much as possible.

Chair Levis reiterated that they would be back the following Wednesday and if anyone has any items for discussion to please send it to Dr. Balderas to look at before the meeting next week.

XIV. ADJOURNMENT

Chair Levis adjourned the meeting at 8:35 p.m.

(Recorded by Rodney Cimburke)

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Cydney Vandercar	Mary Walston
District Clerk	Board Chair