

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

June 3, 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 May 29, 2020, and published in *The Register-Guard* on June 3, 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 June 3, 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/stream

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 for Administrative Services
Christine Nesbit, General Counsel
Steve Menachemson, Director of Technology Services
Jeffrey 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

STUDENT ADVISORY PANEL MEMBERS:

Hannah Mitchell, North Eugene High School
Noa Ablow-Measelle, South Eugene High School

MEDIA: KRVM

I.: REGULAR BOARD MEETING

Chair Levis called the meeting to order at 6:01 pm and announced all board members were there. She thanked the student board members Noa and Hannah for being there.

II. AGENDA REVIEW

There were no additions or changes to the agenda.

III. INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS AND SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Dr. Balderas spoke on his report and read what he wrote to the staff. He acknowledged the current political climate around the deaths of Ahmaud Arbery and George Floyd, and communities of color around the nation. He stated he would keep everyone informed on student outreach to address concerns around these issues.

IV. COMMENTS BY BOARD CHAIR

Chair Levis spoke of her concern with the state of the world, but with hope for change. She took a moment to address the death of George Floyd and the many before him and express her sorrow. She stood with those demanding change. She took a moment to address that schools should be a great place for students to discuss and learn about these life changing issues, and how COVID has taken that away as well. Chair Levis spoke about the budget committee's approved budget for the 2020/2021 budget on May 20th, 2020 and opened the hearing.

V. RECEIVE REPORTS FROM HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT REPRESENTATIVES

Noa Ablow-Measelle, representing South Eugene High School, spoke on graduation and AP testing, and focused on how proud she was of her fellow students for coming together to have conversations on the world's climate and privilege during this time.

Hannah Mitchell, representing North Eugene High School, said she hoped that everyone's family was safe and healthy. She spoke on senior sendoff and how it went amazing, all but 7 students attended.

VI. CONDUCT A PUBLIC HEARING ON THE 2020-21 BUDGET

Staff: Cydney Vandercar, Assistant Superintendent for Administrative Services and Andrea Belz, Director of Financial Services This hearing is on the 2020-21 budget as approved by the Budget Committee on May 20, 2020.

Chair Levis then asked if there was any public comment. There was one by one of the members in the budget committee, but it was not discussed. Chair Levis closed the budget hearing.

VII. ITEMS RAISED BY THE COMMUNITY - WRITTEN COMMENTS ONLY

Chair Levis acknowledged and thanked the comments submitted by the public and assured if they had not been answered yet than they would be.

VIII. COMMENTS BY EMPLOYEE GROUPS

Sabrina Gordon, president of Eugene Education Association (EEA), joined by

Imelda Cortez, EEA's vice president. She spoke on the times of civil unrest, and said that EEA stands with the communities affected by systemic racism.

IX. COMMENTS AND COMMITTEE REPORTS BY INDIVIDUAL BOARD MEMBERS

Ms. Shabram went first. She spoke about reaching out to the students affected by systemic racism. She read a poem written about standing in solidarity with the communities affected. She made her position on police presence clear, that she believes that all police officers and presence should be removed from schools, and that police should only be called to schools in case of an emergency. She ended by saying that she stands in solidarity with this movement and that Black Lives Matter.

Ms. Walston echoed the statements made by Ms. Shabram and Dr. Balderas. She believed that more needed to be done and thanked the EEA for their offer to rewrite policies that deal with systemic racism, and she congratulated the winners of the ACE award and the 2020 seniors.

Ms. Hayes spoke on actions that she has taken and what she would like to see in order to alleviate systemic racism in schools.

These views were echoed by all of the members of the board, as they all recounted their own experiences and feelings on the issue and the subject.

XI. CONSENT GROUP - ITEMS FOR ACTION

MOTION: Vice Chair Walston moved, seconded by Ms. Hays, to approve the Consent Group

VOTE: The motion passed unanimously 7:0.

XII. ITEMS FOR INFORMATION

1. Receive an Update on District Response to COVID-19 and Distance Learning

Dr. Balderas gave an update on distance learning and said that there should be more updates on the following school year that following Monday. He stated that they would be meeting with the governor and other governing bodies on a conference call to speak about plans and different aspects on what next school year would look like.

Ms. McGaughy supplemented this statement by speaking on the plans for fall readiness as well as meeting more to deep dive into what Fall was really going to look like. The top three priorities for the district for Fall are as follows: How the district is going to meet the social and emotional needs of students, how the district is going to meet the academic needs of the students and keep them on track to graduate, and how to continue to support educators to continue to provide top quality distance learning.

Ms. Vandercar then thanked the classified staff that stayed working and spoke about the nutrition staff and how they made sure that the students in the community had food throughout the week and even through the weekend.

Ms. Langan spoke about all 6 locations continuing to serve students meal bags. She asked for an additional 8,000 dollars for fruits and vegetables for these meals.

The Board then spoke on ELL and medically fragile students and how they are going to handle reintroducing students back into school. If the number of cases go back up, and school cannot resume, they have a few different plans for sports and extracurriculars.

Ms. McGaughy spoke about the Eugene Online Academy (EOA), and if families choose to do online schooling instead of brick and mortar they are able to sign up easily or request more information. This will be the first year that this is offered for elementary school and these classes will be taught by 4J teachers.

Mr. Lafer thanked Ms. McGaughy for the update, and asked if medically fragile students will be able to come back after the COVID pandemic is over if they choose to do online schooling in the Fall, and if students can be grouped together in online schooling by their schools and neighborhood.

Ms. McGaughy said that when the families choose to send them back, it will be a seamless transition since the students are already enrolled. As for grouping, it is all individualized and not grouped together.

Mr. Torrey asked Ms. McGaughy if there were materials on her update and if so, he would like a copy. He also wondered if there was a way to stay in contact during the recess of the board in July. He also commented that KVAL and KEZI TV were great places to get information. He asked about credit recovery and if there was on campus support for them.

Ms. McGaughy answered that 4J teachers are the ones teaching online classes, and there were also credit recovery programs that were different from the Eugene Online Academy.

XIII. BOND UPDATE: SUMMER WORK PLAN

Mr. Tucker spoke on the summer work plans and about the roofing projects in South Eugene and a few others. For athletics, there are turf replacements at North and South Eugene high school as well as the middle schools in the Spencer Butte areas. The North Eugene softball field is up to bid to have that project begin. The last slide was to cover miscellaneous projects, as well as the design for the remodel at Gillam. DDC stood for climate controls, as asked to be clarified by Ms. Levis.

XIV. STUDENT SUCCESS ACT / STUDENT INVESTMENT ACCOUNT UPDATE

Dr. Balderas discussed the Student Success Act, and how there were previous discussions on how to spend the 13.5 million before COVID. He said now it was a waiting game, and how many dollars will be back billed to fund the Student Investment Account. As of now, everyone is waiting to know if 4J was going to get these dollars at all, and if they were, it would only be about 50%. He also said that before COVID, how they wanted to spend these dollars looked different than how they are wanting to spend it now.

Mr. Lafer asked about the process of how to decide what to spend these dollars on. He asked if it would come back to the board.

Dr. Balderas said they would look at the school and staff needs at first and start there, and they would then reprioritize. For example, he said they may need to purchase computers for each student.

XV. ITEMS FOR ACTION

1. Consider Closure of Corridor Elementary School

Dr. Balderas and Ms. Delf then recounted the issue of closing Corridor, one of the smallest schools in the district and how that would impact the budget and the students in this school. She went over the fact that this school has the highest cost per student yet some of the lowest proficiency numbers, and how these kids would be relocated to surrounding schools as fluidly as possible. As for staff, they would try their best to relocate them within the district.

Ms. Delf spoke on Out of District students, and how the district would in fact lose funding for those students if they leave the district. She also spoke on the outreach efforts to be made to move the students within the district the best they could.

They spoke on increasing population in the North Eugene area, and how the schools would accommodate those students. The consensus was that more staffing would be added to these schools.

Chair Levis addressed the issue that the board has received some comments that this decision was all about cost, and assured whoever was listening that this was not only for cost, but for the wellbeing of students and the students in the district.

Mr. Torrey spoke about other projects in the district that would benefit from bond dollars that wouldn't be used by Corridor if this was closed.

The Board spoke about the theater and community aspect of Corridor and how to preserve that aspect in other areas.

Mr. Lafer spoke about his vote to keep Corridor open, he didn't feel that this was the right choice. He thinks that given a chance, Corridor would thrive and he didn't want to see the end of alternative education in 4J.

Ms. Shabram voiced her opinion that neither decision on voting tonight was "right." And how hearing from the families that chose to send their students to Corridor made it hard to see it close, and how she would like to see the good aspects of Corridor in other schools.

Ms. Newman echoed this and the feelings that parents are probably having right now and how they may be difficult.

Ms. Walston spoke about equity and alternative schooling, and hoping to have a solid plan for the North Eugene school district.

The board members continued to share experiences and opinions on the makeup of Corridor and how closing would affect the students.

Ms. Walston moved to close Corridor after the 2019-2020 school year. Mr. Torrey seconded the motion.

Chair Levis and Ms. Shabram spoke about alternative school reviews.

Dr. Balderas spoke on the heartache of closing Corridor and how this affects the neighboring schools. He expressed the want to create effective magnet programs in the future.

MOTION: Chair Levis moved the motion to close Corridor to a vote.

VOTE: The motion was passed 6:1.

Chair Levis thanked the board members for their thoughtful process.

Dr. Balderas spoke about helping place these families in the next year.

Ms. Shabram spoke about creating a more concrete community conversations for similar evaluation processes for alternative schools.

XVI. ITEMS FOR ACTION AT A FUTURE MEETING

1. Consider Adopting Resolution 2021-01 Adopting The 2020-2021 Budget, Making Appropriations, Imposing and Categorizing Taxes

Dr. Balderas explained at the next board meeting they would be asked to adopt the budget.

Chair Levis spoke on an email she received on the budget, and clarified that they are being asked to pass something with no real information.

2. Consider Adoption of Proposed Board Policy EBC/EBCA Emergency Procedures and Disaster Plans

Ms. Nesbit spoke about the adoption of EBC/EBCA. She spoke about a lot of guidelines needing updated due to recent events. Key elements are to require the superintendent to stay up to date and performative in emergency procedures during a long-term emergency, such as a pandemic.

3. Policy Revisions & Action Plan — Religious Holidays

Mr. Lafer spoke about the community engagement last Fall, and while the issue has not been solved completely, they are hopeful to present a solution soon.

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

Ms. Shabram spoke about possibly having critical questions discussed about police presence in schools.

Dr. Balderas added that he has had conversations with Chief Skinner and that it would be helpful to see a presentation on how this would work not only in 4J but on a larger scale.

Mr. Lafer also added that it would be helpful to hear a broad overview and it would be helpful to hear from some of these officers as well.

1. Meeting Dates: Wednesday, June 17, 2020

XVIII. ADJOURNMENT

Chair Levis adjourned the meeting at 9:12 p.m.

(Recorded by Rodney Cimburke)

Cydney Vandercar
District Clerk

Mary Walston
Board Chair