

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

December 18, 2019

The Board of Directors of School District No. 4J, Lane County, Eugene, Oregon, held a work session at 5:30 p.m., and a regular session at 7 p.m. at the Education Center, 200 North Monroe Street in Eugene, Oregon. Notice of the meeting was mailed to the media and posted in the Education Center on December 13, 2019, and published in *The Register-Guard* on December 18, 2019.

ROLL CALL

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:

Anne Marie Levis, Chair
Mary Walston, Vice Chair
Alicia Hays
Judy Newman via teleconference
Martina Shabram
Jim Torrey

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT: Gordon Lafer

STAFF:

Dr. Gustavo Balderas, Superintendent of Schools
Charis McGaughy, Assistant Superintendent of Instruction
Kerry Delf, Chief of Staff
Brooke Wagner, Director of School Services K-8
Andy Dey, Director of Secondary Education
Kat Lange, Director of Ed Support Services
Cydney Vandercar, Assistant Superintendent of Admin Services
Christine Nesbit, In-House Counsel
Ryan Spain, Director of Facilities Management
Steve Menachemson, Director of Technology
Jeffrey Johnson, Director of School Services K-8
Lisa Fjordbeck, Executive Assistant / Board Secretary
Chris Ellison, Director of Transportation and Fleet Services
Karen Hardin, Director of Human Resources
Carole Knapel, Capital Improvement Program Manager
Randy Bernstein, Retired Administrator

STUDENT ADVISORY PANEL MEMBERS:

Nick Clendenen, Churchill High School
Joel Sadofsky, International High School
Hannah Mitchell, North Eugene High School
Kassidy Hampton, Sheldon High School
Noa Ablow-Measelle, South Eugene High School

MEDIA: KRVM,

I. EXECUTIVE SESSION: The board convened in executive session to consider records that are exempt by law from public inspection pursuant to ORS 192.660 (2)(f)

Executive Sessions are not open to the public. Executive sessions involving deliberations with persons to carry on labor negotiations, or to consider the expulsion of a student or matters pertaining to a student's confidential medical records, are not open to the news media.

II. WORK SESSION: BOND UPDATE – Program Moves Yujin Gakuen Japanese Immersion Elementary School and Kelly Middle School

Board Chair Levis opened the work session at 5:33 p.m.

Ms. Delf, Mr. Spain, Ms. Knapel, and Mr. Johnson offered those present a bond update and Power Point presentation on the plan for the Yujin Gakuen move to Kelly Middle School.

The primary topics of the presentation were:

- Review of Roles and Responsibilities
- Communication and Project Plan
- Overlay and Building Logistics
- Student Enrollment
- Bond Funding Available for Program Moves
- Long-Range Goals for Yujin Gakuen and Kelly Middle School
- Frequently Asked Questions

Ms. Shabram asked for a snapshot of other locations that were considered for the Yujin Gakuen move.

Ms. Knapel said the best new site for North Eugene High School was determined to be the west end of the Silver Lea property. She said there were existing school buildings in the region with adequate space and capacity to house Yujin Gakuen and Kelly Middle School, and it was decided to co-locate Yujin Gakuen into the existing Kelly Middle School building, mostly due to capacity.

Ms. Walston wondered if Kelly Middle School was moved to North Eugene High School, would there be another track built for the middle school.

Dr. Balderas said no, there would remain one track that would be shared by North Eugene High School and Yujin Gakuen.

Chair Levis asked if the District were to use a portable building in the move, would that portable be considered part of the bond, and would it trigger a municipal process in which more parking would need to be sought, causing delays on the project.

Dr. Balderas stated it was possible, because a portable building would technically be more space added to the overall design.

Mr. Torrey asked if there would be any change to classroom sizes at Kelly Middle School.

Mr. Spain replied that, on average, the classrooms would be slightly smaller.

Ms. Walston asked, when discussing the topic of School Choice, if there could be an extra sidebar in which the Yujin Gakuen /Kelly Middle School merger was discussed.

Mr. Torrey asked if anyone had talked to the parents of Corridor students, and if so, what were there concerns if any.

Dr. Balderas replied that amidst constant rumors that Corridor was going to close, the Corridor parents are happy the school will continue to exist, and there's a place for the students.

Chair Levis offered a lesson learned throughout this process was the importance of communicating early and often. She asked about the additional staffing that would be provided for the combined schools.

Dr. Balderas listed the following staff positions for the combined school of Yujin Gakuen / Kelly Middle School: three administrators (separate according to their respective schools, Principal and Vice Principal for Kelly Middle School, and a Principal for Yujin Gakuen, counselors for each school, and possibly additional classified staff for support.

Mr. Torrey warned against the notion that some members of the public may have, that there is an alternative to the joint co-location of Yujin Gakuen and Kelly Middle School and the demolition of the old Silver Lea elementary school.

Ms. Shabram asked if there were any mechanisms in place to address space limitations that may arise after the Yujin Gakuen / Yujin Gakuen co-location.

Dr. Balderas said that was a conversation to be had for the two Principals of the schools.

Ms. Walston wondered if the results of a survey sent out to Yujin Gakuen and Kelly Middle School parents in September 2019 had been made public.

Ms. Delf answered the results of that survey were posted at the pertinent schools (Yujin Gakuen, Corridor, and Kelly Middle School), and staff could post the results publicly if there was a public interest in reading them.

Chair Levis committed to attending as many different meetings pertaining to the Yujin Gakuen / Kelly Middle School merger as possible, and bringing back information gathered therein to the School District. She added if it was determined another Work Session on the topic was warranted, one would be scheduled.

The work session was adjourned at 6:28 p.m.

III. REGULAR BOARD MEETING

IV. CALL TO ORDER, ROLL CALL, FLAG SALUTE, LAND ACKNOWLEDGMENT

Board Vice Chair Walston called the regular meeting to order at 7 p.m., and led everyone present in the pledge of allegiance. She then acknowledged the land on which the meeting was taking place was the Traditional Homelands of the Kalapuya People, who have been stewards of the land for approximately 14,000 years.

V. AGENDA REVIEW

There were no changes or additions to the agenda.

VI. INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS AND SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT: STUDENT RECOGNITION

Dr. Balderas recognized 4J students for achievements in fall sports and activities.

Dr. Balderas thanked staff for preparing and executing the last two Work Sessions; he also expressed gratitude to all 2,700 employees of SD4J, and the School Board members.

VII. COMMENTS BY BOARD CHAIR

Vice Chair Walston congratulated Dr. Balderas for being one of the four finalists for the National Superintendent of the Year.

VIII. RECEIVE REPORTS FROM HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT REPRESENTATIVES

Joel Sadofsky, representing International High School (IHS), reported the annual Penny Wars fundraiser was underway, and it was raising money for one local and one international charity (WellMama and Save the Reef, respectively).

Noa Ablow-Measelle, representing South Eugene High School, reported the current week at South was Acts of Kindness week, wherein the school participated in activities designed to bring students together. She also mentioned the prior Friday, South put on a movie night, with all monies raised by snack sales going to the Eugene Education Fund. She announced South's Black Student Union and other groups were working in preparation for the upcoming Martin Luther King Jr. Assembly. Finally, they announced South's Performing Arts Department recently presented a Winter Concert Series, including performances from many South Eugene High School ensembles and groups.

Hannah Mitchell, representing North Eugene High School, reported there was a recent presentation at North about cybercrimes/cyberbullying, and how to be safe online. She said there was an ugly sweater-themed basketball game scheduled for the Friday before Winter Break. Finally, she announced there would be an impromptu performance by the North Jazz Band to see the students and faculty off to Winter Break.

Kassidy Hampton, representing Sheldon High School, reported that Sheldon's Giving Tree was a success, helping 400 local kids receive presents for Christmas. She announced Sheldon also had the cyberbullying presentation. Finally, she announced that girls' basketball at Sheldon remained undefeated.

Nick Clendenen, representing Churchill High School (CHS), reported this week was CHS Spirit Week. He congratulated CHS fall athletes for their outstanding academic achievements at the end of that season. Lastly, he announced that CHS boys' basketball was number one in the state, and CHS girls' basketball was sixth.

IX. PUBLIC HEARING REGARDING THE RENEWAL OF THE PUBLIC CHARTER SCHOOL CONTRACT WITH RIDGELINE MONTESSORI CHARTER SCHOOL

Vice Chair Walston opened the public hearing at 7:30 p.m.

Amy Sage thanked 4J for their continued support of the Montessori model in Ridgeline Montessori School, and asked them to please continue that support, and renew Ridgeline Montessori School's Charter for the next decade. She offered that while the Montessori model was a different path than traditional education, the success of each Montessori student was just as important as the success of traditional public school students.

Emily Caldera said she had two kids at Ridgeline Montessori School. She offered that her son had Selective Mutism, and he did not speak to anyone at school. After three-and-a-half years at Ridgeline Montessori School, Ms. Caldera said, her son began to vocalize sounds, and by the time he was in fifth grade, he was speaking to others at full volume. She contributed her son's success to Ridgeline Montessori School, and she said her family was forever grateful to be a part of the Ridgeline Montessori School community.

Meridy Wheeler, an upper elementary teacher at Ridgeline Montessori School, praised the education techniques fostered at the school. She offered that when she first began teaching at Ridgeline Montessori School, her classroom was almost exactly as she had envisioned it, and she was impressed by the confidence and ownership the students had of their class. Ms. Wheeler said she could not imagine working as a teacher at any other school.

Luke Lodwig, a student at Baker Early Charter (BEC) and an Ridgeline Montessori School alumnus, spoke to the importance of institutions like Ridgeline Montessori School. He said that Ridgeline Montessori School facilitated growth both intellectually and socially. Mr. Lodwig offered that without RMS, he might never have learned how to evaluate himself or others fairly.

Sara Mader said she had two kids at Ridgeline Montessori School. She stated her son, who had gone through kindergarten in Taiwan, lotteried into Ridgeline Montessori School several weeks into the school year. Ms. Mader said her son could not read or write in English, and the American school in which he enrolled after his return from Taiwan pressured him to learn to read and write in English to the point, he no longer wanted to go to that school. She said her son's attitude toward education had totally changed after a short time at Ridgeline Montessori School.

Jay Snider wished to speak on how the experience at Ridgeline Montessori School affects kids outside of the school. He spoke of his daughter, who, at seven years old, had begun an annual bake sale for various nonprofits. Mr. Snider reported that, in three years, his daughter's bake sales had raised over \$3,000 for a number of nonprofits. Mr. Snider accredited his daughter's self-confidence, her willingness to take on complex tasks, and her desire to be the change she wants to see in the world, to her time at Ridgeline Montessori School.

Michelle Texley, the Principal of Ridgeline Montessori School, spoke of the positive impact Ridgeline Montessori School has had on the community. She thanked the Board and 4J for making space for their school, and for enriching the community through the human flourishing central to the Montessori model.

Alexis Reed stated she was a parent of a 10-year-old in a blended upper-elementary class, and that her son had been attending Ridgeline since fall of 2018. She praised the school (especially how it facilitated the learning of math for her son), and thanked 4J for their continued support of the Montessori model in Ridgeline Montessori School.

Chrystell Reed, the Executive Director of Ridgeline Montessori School, and parent of two Ridgeline Montessori School graduates, praised the sense of love and inclusion fostered at Ridgeline Montessori School. She thanked 4J for their continued support of the Montessori model in Ridgeline Montessori School, and asked them to please continue that support, and renew Ridgeline Montessori School Charter for the next decade.

Pete Goldlust said he was the parent of two Ridgeline Montessori School students, and he said his family's experience with the school had been nothing less than life changing. He thanked 4J for their

continued support of the Montessori model in Ridgeline Montessori School, and asked them to please continue that support, and renew Ridgeline Montessori School's Charter for the next decade.

Jean Kang, the parent of an Ridgeline Montessori School student, talked about the importance of the Montessori model, and how it prepares students for a lifetime of learning by producing children who are self-directed, inquisitive, honest, and courageous. Ms. Kang offered her daughter was now in high school, where, thanks to her time at Ridgeline Montessori School, she was flourishing—taking Advanced Placement classes already in only her second year at South Eugene High School.

Andrea Skehan said she has two kids currently enrolled at Ridgeline Montessori School. She offered that, as a teacher, she had worked in over nine different schools in five States, and two countries, and Ridgeline Montessori School was the best school she had ever experienced. She thanked 4J for their continued support of the Montessori model in Ridgeline Montessori School.

Vice Chair Walston closed the public Hearing at 8:02 p.m.

X. ITEMS RAISED BY THE AUDIENCE

Alison Corwin, a Yujin Gakuen Japanese Immersion Elementary School parent, thanked the Board for the Work Sessions the body had called on the co-relocation of Yujin Gakuen and Kelly Middle School. She wondered if the bond funds allocated included future relocations, or if the funds were solely for this co-location of YG and Kelly Middle School. Ms. Corwin also asked for the school start times as soon as possible, including any staggering that would take place between YG and KMS start times.

Jonathan McNeil advocated to the Board for the use of Student Success Act (SSA) funds to support a transition to full inclusion in general education classrooms for students utilizing Individualized Education Programs, and using the Universal Design for Learning framework to help make that transition successful.

Erika Thessen told the Board she was glad that statewide standards required Comprehensive Sex Education, that was inclusive, science-based, and developmentally appropriate. She also spoke highly of Oregon educational laws that required lessons on gender identity and sexual orientation be taught. Ms. Thessen said these things were important, because it taught kids to treat others with dignity and respect.

Larry Lewin, a retired 4J teacher, and member of the Community Alliance for Public Education (CAPE), pointed to deficiencies in the standardized test scores of Oregon students locally, nationally, and internationally. He asserted, since the standardized model has been in practice now for 18 years, now was a good time to reassess just how well said model was working out for students. Mr. Lewin urged the Board to reject the standardized, centralized model, in favor of trusting school faculty and administrators, and parents, to make more local decisions about education.

Robert Spevak asserted that the old Silver Lea elementary school did not need to be torn down to make space for the new North Eugene High School, and instead of Board members saying the demolition could not be avoided, it would be more honest for them to say they were unwilling to even try. He urged the Board to find a way to build the new North Eugene High School—exhausting all options—without demolishing the Silver Lea Elementary building.

Chair Levis returned to the meeting at 8:18 p.m.

Joey Carlson addressed the Board concerning School Choice and its process. He implored the Board and the school district itself, to get the alternative schools in 4J all the information they would need for School Choice as quickly as possible, because prospective new students and their families would be touring those schools in January.

John McConnell, the Yujin Gakuen PTO President, requested two things from the Board: He wanted to ensure there would be a storage shed at the new Yujin Gakuen /Kelly Middle School site to house supplies, and Mr. McConnell also asked 4J to develop at least a working plan for this move/merger, so that students, faculty, and parents would have a clearer idea on what exactly the move and the new site would look like.

Julia Sage-Lauck spoke to the Board about the benefits of inclusive classrooms. She listed: a more efficient use of staff availability and student materials, fostering empathy, inclusion, and flexibility, fostering connectivity to others of all abilities, and an increase in the understanding and the achievement of all students.

XI. COMMENTS FROM EMPLOYEE GROUPS

None

XII. COMMENTS AND COMMITTEE REPORTS BY INDIVIDUAL BOARD MEMBERS

Vice Chair Walston thanked the staff for the Equity Forum on December 5, 2019. She also announced she attended the community meeting about Edison ahead of that school's upcoming move in the fall of 2020.

Ms. Shabram acknowledged the seven-year anniversary of the Sandy Hook tragedy.

Ms. Hays was hopeful that she could get a meeting with staff about Universal Design (UD); she did not believe a Work Session was necessarily warranted, but she wanted to educate herself on UD.

Ms. Newman offered she was supportive of 4J making big strides toward inclusion in the district. She also spoke favorably about UD, and she said she was looking forward to learning more about it.

XIII. CONSENT GROUP – ITEMS FOR ACTION

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

- 1. Approve Personnel Actions**
- 2. Approve Minutes from Board Meeting on November 6, 2019**
- 3. Approve Minutes from Board Meeting on November 20, 2019**
- 4. Ratify Award for Willard Swing School – Prefabricated & Modular Building Approval**

MOTION: Vice Chair Walston moved, seconded by Mr. Torrey, to approve the items in the Consent Group as presented.

VOTE: The motion carried unanimously - 6:0.

XIV. ITEMS FOR INFORMATION

1. Student Success Act: Student Investment Account Plan Phase 2

Ms. Delf and Ms. McGaughy offered the Board a report and Power Point presentation on the Student Success Act: Student Investment Account (SIA) Plan Phase 2.

Mr. Torrey asked if the budget discussed in the presentation has to be approved by June 2020.

Dr. Balderas said 4J's goal was to have a separate budget for the SIA, and more information would be available at the beginning of January 2020.

2. Receive a Report on 4J School Choice Process

Ms. Delf offered the Board a report and Power Point presentation on the 4J School Choice process.

Ms. Hays said she was unsure if 4J had delved fully into equitable access as far as School Choice is concerned.

Dr. Balderas stated the staff recommendation was to convene an Exploratory Advisory Group to look deeper into 4J School Choice.

3. Discuss Trial Change in Board Meeting Start Times

Ms. Delf engaged the Board in a discussion about the trial change in Board meeting start times.

Ms. Walston offered that she had talked to 4J students, and they were in support of changing the start times of the meetings.

Mr. Torrey suggested making the meeting agendas more efficient.

Ms. Shabram suggested moving the action items up in the agenda in order to give the public a better chance at witnessing them during meetings.

4. Review Board Goals for 2019-20 School Year

Chair Levis recommended putting this item on next month's agenda, because there were two Board members that were not able to participate in the conversation on the item.

XV. ITEMS FOR ACTION

1. Review Board Working Agreements

MOTION: Ms. Hays moved, seconded by Ms. Shabram, to table this item until the January meeting

VOTE: The motion carried unanimously - 6:0.

2. Approve Revisions to Board Policies

Ms. Nesbit offered the Board a staff report on the revisions to Board policies, specifically Policies IGAI, IGBBA, and JGE, human Sexuality, AIDS/HIV, Sexually Transmitted Diseases, and Health Education, Identification of Talented and Gifted Students, and Expulsion, respectively.

MOTION: Mr. Torrey moved, seconded by Vice Chair Walston, to approve the aforementioned revisions to Board policies

VOTE: The motion carried unanimously - 6:0.

XVI. ITEMS FOR ACTION AT A FUTURE MEETING

1. Consider Approving the Renewal of the Public Charter School Contract with the Ridgeline Montessori Public Charter School

Ms. McGaughy and Mr. Bernstein offered the Board a report on the renewal of the charter for RMS.

Ms. Hays voiced her support for the renewal.

Vice Chair Walston expressed concern over the lack of a formal nutrition program at RMS.

Mr. Torrey said it would be helpful if the Board were kept up to date on SSA funding for 4J charter schools.

Ms. Shabram expressed concern over vaccination rates at 4J charter schools.

**2. Consider Revisions to and Deletion of Board Policies:
BBFC Reporting Suspected Abuse of a Child
GBA Equal Employment Opportunity
JHFF/GBNAA and GBNAA/JHFF Reporting Requirements for Suspected Sexual Conduct with Students**

Ms. Nesbit offered the Board a report on revisions to, and deletion of the aforementioned board policies.

Ms. Shabram stated she was uncomfortable with the suggested language of JHFF/GBNAA and GBNAA/JHFF, and wondered if it might be changed.

Ms. Nesbit asked if Ms. Shabram would be more comfortable with a different policy title altogether.

Ms. Shabram said she was not sure.

Ms. Shabram wondered, as per policy BBFC, if it would be beneficial for the District to have clearer policy guidance and Board training on the policy itself.

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

Ms. Shabram wondered about the future of the Chinese Immersion and Family School.

Dr. Balderas said that he would add that information to a Friday Memo to the Board.

Chair Levis announced that Judy Newman had been elected to the Oregon School Boards Association (OSBA) Policy Committee.

XVI. ADJOURNMENT

Chair Levis adjourned the meeting at 9:37 pm.

(Recorded by Rodney Cimburke)

Dr. Gustavo Balderas
District Clerk

Anne Marie Levis
Board Chair