

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

February 14, 2018

The Board of Directors of School District No. 4J, Lane County, Eugene, Oregon, held a work session at 6:30 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 February 9, 2018 and published in *The Register-Guard* on February 14, 2018.

ROLL CALL

BOARD MEMBERS:

Eileen Nittler, Chair
Evangelina Sundgrenz
Judy Newman
Anne Marie Levis
Jim Torrey
Mary Walston

STAFF:

Gustavo Balderas, Superintendent of Schools
Charis McGaughy, Assistant Superintendent for Instruction
BJ Blake, Director of Secondary Education
Cheryl Linder, Director for Student Services
Cydney Vandercar, Assistant Superintendent for Administrative Services
Christine Nesbit, Associate Director of Human Resources
Harlan Coats, Director of Facilities Management
Steve Menachemson, Director of Technology
Kerry Delf, Associate Director of Communications
Lisa Fjordbeck, Executive Assistant / Board Secretary

STUDENT REPRESENTATIVES:

Jack Ohlsen-Johnson, Churchill High School
Maya Treder, ECCO High School
Zoe Chilhorek, International High School
Jane Brinkley, International High School (excused)
Claire Baboyan, North Eugene High School
Jillian Peterson, Sheldon High School
Tiffany Huang, South Eugene High School

MEDIA:

KRVM
Register Guard

OTHER:

I. Executive Session

At 5:30 p.m. the board convened in executive session to review and evaluate the employment related performance of the chief executive officers, pursuant to OS 192. 660(2)(1).

II. Work Session

Ms. Delf presented a PowerPoint on community listening sessions. Dr. Balderas clarified that the sessions will be run by the board and supported by staff.

Mr. Torrey suggested reminding the public of the long-range facility plan. Ms. Levis and Ms. Newman suggested minimizing texts on the slides.

Mr. Torrey also recommended highlighting career technical education (CTE) because it is a phrase that people are seeing in the news.

Ms. Delf described several breakout station topics.

Mr. Torrey stated that anything that has a life of more than a year is eligible to be in the bond. Ms. Levis suggested using a big sheet of paper or a laptop for people to give feedback and ask questions. She also said that we should emphasize that 70% of what the district pays for buses is reimbursed. Ms. Delf confirmed that this information will be available at the station.

Ms. Walston also recommended an online form. Ms. Delf agreed that several methods of gathering input, including a short online survey would be used. Ms. Newman said that it may be difficult to gather a comprehensive view from feedback related to each station, so the survey will be important. Mr. Torrey acknowledged that these meetings will not provide input that represents the entire community, but it is a way to start the conversation.

Ms. Delf said that meeting materials will also be available online. Ms. Newman and Mr. Torrey suggested including information on the changing costs of capital investments. Ms. Nittler adjourned for a 15-minute recess.

REGULAR BOARD MEETING

III. Call To Order, Roll Call, Flag Salute

Board Chair Nittler called the regular meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. Ms. Levis led everyone present in the pledge of allegiance.

IV. Agenda Review

There were no changes or additions to the agenda.

V. Superintendent's Comments

Dr. Balderas shared that February is Black History Month and last week was National School Counselor Week. He expressed that he was very saddened to hear about the violence in Florida.

VI. Student Representatives

Jillian Peterson, Sheldon High School, shared that spring sports registration took place on February 13 for track, lacrosse, and tennis. The Sheldon Athletic Auction will be on Thursday, February 22. She stated that Senior Athletic Signing Day was canceled, allegedly because no

athletes were signing to D1 schools for football. Students are looking forward to the Martin Luther King Jr. Unity Assembly on Friday.

Maya Treder, ECCO High School, shared that two school board members and Dr. Balderas visited for a tour. During the advisory period today, there was a Women's Advocacy Panel for students to engage with local leaders. Ms. Treder remarked that ECCO students are concerned about the school's move and they hope to be involved in the discussion. She said that attendance continues to be an important topic at ECCO and the school will be gathering input from students with the hope to improve engagement.

Zoe Chilhorek, International High School, shared that school choice season has kept the administration busy the past month with sessions for families with current 8th graders. Last Thursday, there was an informational session for sophomores and their families on IB diplomas. Student Government started a Giving Love Campaign for Bags of Love. Lastly, IHS enjoyed attending South Eugene High School winter assembly.

Jack Ohlsen-Johnson, Churchill High School, shared that there will be a Black Lives Matter presentation in the library. He noted that alumni answered the call to help replace the school's broken light board. He shared that Advanced Ed. assessed Churchill to grant accreditation. The Why symposium will be held on February 22.

Tiffany Huang, South Eugene High School, shared that Principal Andy Dey decided to change the school name from the Axeman to the Axe. She shared that The Axe Magazine released their February print issue on sexual harassment and assault. Last Friday, there was a winter pep rally and Saturday winter formal, which was held in the gym. She added that Dogfight, The Musical opened last weekend and will run for two more weeks.

VII. Board Members

Mr. Torrey complimented the tour of the career technology programs at South Eugene High School. He shared that he visited ECCO and had a tour from Ms. Treder. Mr. Torrey attended the Charter School Council Meeting and he encouraged the charters to update the board consistently, not just when renewing charter.

Ms. Newman said that she also enjoyed her visit at ECCO. She complimented ECCO on their relevant curriculum and engaged staff. She thanked South Eugene's Principal, Andy Dey and the community for participating in the name change process of their school. She shared that she attended the Backpack Full of Cash movie, which was co-sponsored by the University of Oregon Education Department and CAPE.

Ms. Walston agreed with Ms. Newman's comments about the South Eugene name change process. She shared that she attended the 64th Annual Celebration of Business by the Eugene Chamber of Commerce on January 30. She congratulated 4J nominees for Future First Citizen and the South Eugene student who won the title. She said that she had a great lunch at McCornack Elementary School. She attended the LCOG Member Appreciation Dinner on February 10. The Eugene Education Foundation Annual Dinner is on March 6, 2018. She also noted that the Community Forums on the bond begin next week and dates can be found on the website.

Ms. Levis said that she attended the City Council meeting on Monday night where Council began the process to address the land-use parking issues at Edison. She also shared that she

attended the OSBA Bonds Training on Friday. She commended South Eugene for the name change, which represents equality.

Ms. Sundgrenz mentioned that she also attended the Backpack Full of Cash film. She said she enjoyed attending the Blacks in Government Dinner. She reminded parents who are getting ready to start kindergarten to make sure they know when orientation is.

Mr. Torrey agreed with the comments of others with respect to Principal Andy Dey.

VIII. Board Chair

Ms. Nittler said she attended the Churchill accreditation yesterday. She and Ms. Sundgrenz visited the Natives Program at Bailey Hill Elementary. She stated that board policy states that the board has a role in naming schools, but not mascots.

Ms. Nittler also expressed her sadness for the community in Florida and mentioned that there had been twelve school shootings since last meeting. She asked for those listening to take some action to prevent violence in schools.

IX. Items Raise by the Audience

Ms. Nittler read the policies related to speaking at meetings or filing complaints. She explained that each person will have three minutes to speak. She encouraged the community to email the board at Board@4j.lane.edu.

Colleen Hunter, retired fourth grade teacher from Springfield School District, member of CAPE shared a statement on behalf of Larry Lewin. Mr. Lewin referenced the article *Better Uses for Time Lost to Excessive Testing* and asked the board for information on which tests are being administered, their schedule, the learning time sacrificed to take tests, and the cost. He suggested using time in the first week of school to get to know students as a useful assessment technique.

Roscoe Caron, retired 4J teacher, member of CAPE and OPEN, shared that last month the National Superintendent Roundtable released a report the most students cannot demonstrate proficiency as defined by NAPE tests. He recommended that board reconsider the testing model.

Tor Parsons, EG 350 Environmental Club from South Eugene High School, said that the student group hopes to improve energy efficiency at the school with solar panels and double pane windows. He noted that these upgrades will save money in heating bills. He said that the school has secured funding for partial window treatments and mentioned that solar panels might be funded through the 2019 bond.

X. Board's Response

Ms. Nittler thanked the members of the EG 350 Environmental Club for sharing their ideas. Dr. Balderas said that the school will be receiving double pane windows this summer. He said that they can continue to have a discussion about solar panels. Ms. Walston encouraged the students to be involved in the bond campaign over the summer.

Ms. Levis thanked Mr. Caron and Ms. Hunter for their comments. She asked the EG 350 Environmental Club if they had any research on solar panels and mentioned that she is

interested in attending one of their meetings. Ms. Newman agreed that a cost analysis that shows the return on investment of solar panels would be interesting. She also mentioned the possibility of using EWEB grants to partially fund the project.

Comments by Employee Group

Tad Shannon, Eugene Education Association, thanked board members who came to the EAA legislative breakfast. He shared that some educators went to Salem on the opening day of the short session. They spoke with legislators to highlight topics including class size and disruptive behaviors.

Mr. Shannon shared that there is an effort to develop a task force to address disruptive behaviors and revisit policies. He encouraged the board to be actively engaged in this issue and noted that teachers are having difficulty with classroom management. He said that teachers need training and support before the state will be able to take action.

XI. Items for Information

1. Assessment Adoption Process included in 2017-2018 Budget.

Charis McGaughy presented a PowerPoint on the vision and philosophy of assessment, and process of adoption of testing. She discussed the definition of assessment and noted that assessment of learning also helps the district to evaluate equity.

Oscar Loureiro reported that the district conducted an assessment inventory. He reviewed the assessments required by state/federal law, including details such as testing time. He reported that students take an average of six and a half hours of assessment per year. He also reported on teacher selected assessments. Cheryl Linder presented on assessments for student identification purposes, both in talented and gifted (TAG) and special education students (SpEd).

Mr. Loureiro said that an inventory was the first step in the adoption process. The district will form a workgroup in March. He explained that part of the process will include piloting assessments in classrooms. After this process, staff will make a recommendation to the Superintendent in the third trimester in 2018-2019.

Ms. Walston asked what the difference is between EasyCBM and LearnZillion. Ms. Linder replied that LearnZillion tests student progress and knowledge in curriculum. Mr. Loureiro explained that EasyCBM highlights student growth in overall curriculum. Dr. Balderas added that EasyCBM is also used for grouping.

Mr. Torrey said that when the adoption is completed, it should be more efficient and effective in terms of producing outcomes educationally.

Ms. Treder asked for a definition of assessment literacy. Ms. McGaughy replied that this refers to effectiveness. She also asked if the assessment reflects on the student or the instructor. Ms. McGaughy replied that it allows staff to understand that the student is not learning, which can lead to different practices or supports.

Ms. Treder asked if assessments align with proficiency based-grading. Ms. McGaughy answered that formative assessments help instructors to monitor progress.

Ms. Treder asked if there was a direct benefit to students, such as accessing data from the state and federal level. Ms. McGaughy replied that there is a delay in getting this data and it does not provide an in-depth assessment. She added that data teams are monitoring each school. She said that the district needs a student and parent family-friendly report so that students can drive their learning.

Ms. Newman thanked the presenters. She asked if the district requires teachers to do certain formative or interim assessments. Ms. McGaughy answered that the district provides the resources and the teachers can modify and use them as desired.

Ms. Newman asked if the piloting program is based on formative and interim assessments. Ms. McGaughy responded that the pilots will determine if the district will continue to use EasyCBM.

Ms. Peterson said that many high achieving students opt out of state testing. Ms. McGaughy said that the state requires each district to have 95% of students complete assessments. This percentage effects state accountability report cards. Ms. McGaughy also said that eleventh graders who opt out of tests and then fail to pass have to take essential skills testing. Ms. Peterson asked how schools might remove the stigma of testing. Ms. McGaughy acknowledged that this is a significant issue. Dr. Balderas added that eleventh graders will be taking the SAT or ACT moving forward.

Ms. Levis mentioned that she felt this topic needed more time. Dr. Balderas agreed that a work session on the topic would be useful.

Ms. Levis asked if the 6.5-hour estimate considered grade levels. Ms. McGaughy said that this number is derived from computer completed testing. She acknowledged that the 6.5-hour estimate is averaged from K-12. She expressed that a table by grade level would better represent this information.

Ms. Sundgrenz asked for an average number of assessments for SpEd and TAG students. Ms. Linder replied that the assessments depend on the eligibility category, which could be behavioral or academic. She added that staff also use other assessments to evaluate these students and only test in ways needed.

Ms. Nittler suggested that board members and students email Dr. Balderas with any additional thoughts or questions.

2. Report on 2017 Graduation Rates

Mr. Loureiro presented a summary of graduation rates for 2016-2017. He noted that a higher proportion of students earned GEDs and that the drop-out rate decreased.

Ms. Walston asked why graduation dates were slipping. Ms. McGaughy agreed that this was concerning and noted that it is the district's top priority. She said that Measure 98 resources will help address graduation rates.

Mr. Torrey asked if the traditional and modified diploma both count for graduation. Mr. Loureiro replied that they do, while a GED counts for completion. Mr. Torrey asked staff to consider the three most significant reasons for current graduation rates to share with the board in the future.

Ms. Nittler encouraged board members to send questions to Dr. Balderas.

XII. Consent Group

1. Approve Minutes from Board Meetings on October 4, 2017, November 1, 2017, November 13, 2017, November 15, 2017, November 29, 2017, December 6, 2017, and December 11, 2017

MOTION: Ms. Walston moved to approve the minutes of October 4, 2017, November 1, 2017, November 13, 2017, November 15, 2017, November 29, 2017, December 6, 2017, and December 11, 2017. Mr. Torrey seconded.

VOTE: The motion passed unanimously, 6:0.

XIII. Items for Action

1. Approve Board Policies from Section “D”

MOTION: Ms. Walston moved to approve policies from Section “D,” Mr. Torrey provided the second.

VOTE: The motion passed unanimously, 6:0.

2. Approve the Adoption of Board Policy KL – Published Complaints and Repeal of KLD – Commendation and Criticism of Employees

Ms. Nesbit noted that Board Policy KL was discussed at the last meeting.

MOTION: Mr. Torrey moved to approve the adoption of Board Policy KL – Published Complaints and Repeal KLD – Commendation and Criticism of Employees, Ms. Newman provided the second.

VOTE: The motion passed unanimously, 6:0.

3. Approve Recommendations for Enrolling for Out-of-District Students

Ms. Delf stated that the board must approve out of district enrollment. She summarized the Superintendent’s recommendation.

MOTION: Mr. Torrey moved to approve the recommendations for enrolling out-of-district students, Ms. Levis provided the second.

VOTE: The motion passed unanimously, 6:0.

4. Postponement of State-Adopted Instructional Materials

Ms. McGaughy stated that the district is required to report on the Standards for Public Elementary and Secondary Schools, Division 22 State Requirements. She said that the Superintendent recommends the postponements of instructional materials for health and fine arts.

MOTION: Mr. Torrey moved to postpone state-adopted instruction materials, Ms. Sundgren provided the second.

VOTE: The motion passed unanimously, 6:0.

XIV. Items for Action at a Future Meeting

1. Consider Proposed Amendment

Ms. Nesbit stated that the Proposed Amendment is in board packet. She said the pilot program has been running for three years, and it has been successful in meeting 4J's goals. She explained that the amendment incorporates language changes that support that pilot to help with placement and permanently establish the licensed job expo.

2. Suggestions by the Board for Consideration of Items at a Future Meeting

Ms. Nittler reviewed suggestions for a future meeting including a work session on testing and graduation rates. There is a work session tentatively scheduled for next week. Dr. Balderas suggested having a work session prior to a bond meeting on Tuesday or Thursday at the school site.

Ms. Walston asked why there was no board meeting on March 7. She also asked if there will be a work session before the meeting on February 28.

Ms. Nittler encouraged members to sign up for a bond meeting on the poll sent by Ms. Fjordbeck. She also reminded members to complete the self-evaluation for the board retreat.

XV. Adjourn

Ms. Nittler adjourned the meeting at 9:10pm.

(Recorded by Dana Shinnors)

Dr. Gustavo Balderas
District Clerk

Eileen Nittler
Board Chair