

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

May 19, 2021

The Board of Directors of School District No. 4J, Lane County, Eugene, Oregon, held an executive session at 5:30 p.m., a regular session at 7:00 p.m. Notice of the meeting was mailed to the media and posted in the Education Center on April 30, 2021, and published in The Register-Guard on May 5, 2021.

NOTICE: In light of current public health concerns related to coronavirus COVID-19, (pursuant to ORS 192.670), the meeting was open to the public via zoom webinar live stream via the Internet at www.4j.lane.edu/

ROLL CALL

BOARD MEMBERS:

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

STAFF:

Cydney Vandercar, Superintendent
Charis McGaughy, Assistant Superintendent for Instruction
Kerry Delf, Chief of Staff
Brooke Wagner, Director of K-8 Education
Jeff Johnson, Director of K-8 Education
Andy Dey, Director of Secondary Education
Christine Nesbit, General Counsel
Steve Menachemson, Direction of Technology
Kyle Tucker, Chief Operations Office
Oscar Loureiro, Director of Research and Planning
Karen Hardin, Director of Human Resources
Andrea Betz, Director of Finance
Holly Langan, Director of Nutrition Services
Misael Flores Gutierrez, Equity, Instruction, and Partnerships Administrator
Eric Anderson, Director of Curriculum
Lisa Fjordbeck, Executive Assistant/Board Secretary

STUDENT ADVISORY PANEL MEMBERS:

Joel Sadofsky, IHS
Noa Ablow Measelle, South Eugene High School
Harmony Simmons, Churchill High School

EMPLOYEE ASSOCIATIONS:

Sabrina Gordon, EEA

MEDIA: KRVM

OTHER:

I. Executive Session

1. The Board convened in executive session to evaluate the employment related performance of the chief executive officer, pursuant to ORS 192.660 (2)(i).

II. Call Regular Board Meeting to Order

Ms. Walston called the regular Board meeting to order at 7:02 p.m.

III. Roll Call, Flag Salute, Land Acknowledgement

Ms. Walston called out roll, led everyone in the Pledge of Allegiance, and read out the land acknowledgement.

IV. Agenda Review

Ms. Walston announced that Item #1, under Items for Action at a Future Meeting, would be moved up to Items for Action.

V. Introduction of Guests and Superintendent's Report

Superintendent Vandercar congratulated newly elected board members, Laural O'Rourke, Maya Rabasa, and re-elected board member, Judy Newman.

Superintendent Vandercar reported there would be an update on the Camas building progress as well an update on the damage at a gym at Kelly Middle School adding that those students have returned to distance learning. The board would also be hearing about vaccines, facemasks, and the constant guideline changes by OHA. She commented that everyone is invited to comment, or submit ideas, by the end of May, regarding the one-time ESSER funding.

VI. Comments by Board Chair

Ms. Walston indicated the board would take a break at 8:00 p.m., for 10 minutes, due to the length of the meeting. She also indicated there would be an update on Camas Ridge, with a community input meeting on June 26th, as well as an update on Kelly.

VII. Receive Reports from High School Student Representatives

Joel Sadofsky, IHS, shared his concerns regarding the building of the Camas Ridge facility and the size of the parking lot and believed that there is still room for sustainability improvement.

Noa Ablow Measelle, South Eugene High School, reported that South Eugene had launched their time capsule which would be stored at South Eugene High School for fifty years. In addition, students started reaching out to incoming middle schoolers, basketball would be starting via live-stream, kick off for graduation had taken place and AP testing had begun.

Harmony Simmons, Churchill High School Ms. Newman read the report which confirmed Churchill seniors had received their caps and gowns, AP testing had started, and they would be asking for approval for a chalk event.

VIII. Items Raised by the Audience

Henry Sanger commented on the recent election indicating that he would like to see election reform. He added that he would also like to see consistency in mask wearing and social distancing.

Julie Daniel expressed concern regarding the fact that one-quarter of the new building site grounds, would be for parking, indicating that would be a significant oversight on behalf of climate change.

Lindsay Selser, a Camas parent who states her family is pro-public school, expressed her thanks for the creativity of the staff throughout the COVID-19 and asked for continued correspondence from the board to bridge the communication gap.

Timothy Sutherland commented that he does not believe the hybrid teaching method is working. He affirmed that while the CDC no longer requires face masks the board was masked.

IX. Comments by Employee Groups

Sabrina Gordon, President, Eugene Education Association (EEA) joined by EEA Vice-President Ms. Gordon commented she is concerned regarding the forthcoming 4J/EEA contract approval and is hopeful that the district's concern for students will be evident in voting.

X. Comments and Committee Reports by Individual Board Members

Mr. Torrey reported that yesterday he attended the BEST meeting where students worked on a project that involved designing hats.

Ms. Shabram mentioned she appreciated the democracy involved in voting and expressed encouragement to those who run for office, adding that there are many ways to serve and should anyone be interested they could contact her.

Ms. Newman shared it had been an eventful week for her and she would be looking ahead to moving forward with the anti-racist project, science based instruction, an approved budget, and another four years on the board.

Ms. Hays expressed appreciation for an incredible year.

Ms. Levis noted her thanks to the public speakers and added that running for office is not easy and focus should change from people to issues.

Mr. Lafer stated that he appreciated school testing had been scheduled to avoid using instructional time. He also expressed concern that parents who opt out of student testing cannot, actually, opt out of all tests. He commented that a work group would be needed to address vaccines for those with disabilities. He then reiterated his concern regarding the addition of portable classrooms for Kelly.

Ms. Walston noted that the budget committee had met on May 10th.

XI. Items for Information

1. Receive Update on Building Issues at Kelly Middle School

Kyle Tucker, Chief Operations Office and Ryan Spain, Director of Facilities, reported on the timeline and progress regarding a truss stress in the roof of one of Kelly Middle School's gym. On 5/7/2021 a maintenance worker noticed a bulge in a wall; on 05/10/2021 cracks became visible in the sheetrock, at which time a structural engineer was called. Inspection revealed two

failing trusts on 05/11/2021. Hyland Construction was contacted and responded by shoring up the roofing on 05/07/2021. As of 05/19-2021 additional shoring would be added to ensure safety.

Discussion followed regarding the time format and expenses that would be involved. Mr. Tucker and Mr. Spain stated their number one goal would be to complete repairs by fall and return to school. However, until contractors start working on the site, no concrete finish date or cost would be available.

Mr. Lafer indicated there would not be enough room for all Kelly students so now would be a good time to reconsider modular units; to which Mr. Spain responded they have been considering such.

Ms. Shabram asked if summer programs would be affected and Mr. Johnson responded alternate schools have been made available so those programs could proceed.

2. Bond Update: Camas Ridge Elementary School Design

Mr. Tucker presented slides of which the first indicated the chosen architect to be PIVOT Architect; the second slide portrayed a timeline showing a start point of 2017, followed by a 2018 bond and 2019 school design. Facility users have been surveyed regarding potential school design, vision, values, workshops, and consistency across the district. A projected schedule will be addressed at the May 26th (6:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.) meeting.

Mr. Spain added that an undated parking lot plan would reduce the lot size with multiple access points. Items that have been requested are: garden space, outdoor learning relocated, covered and open outdoor learning areas, bike parking, and employee showers and lockers.

Ms. Hays interjected that the original bond figures were higher and it would be confusing if additions were submitted for a limited bond. Mr. Lafer responded by questioning what community input could still change as there are no unlimited funds. Mr. Tucker replied that they would have a process and with increasing building costs additional changes would be limited. To date, forty options have been reviewed and the building plans are currently displayed on the strongest layout.

Mr. Torrey expressed a concern about the growth and overflow of the schools in the Sheldon area stating there is no more ground in that area to build on.

Discussion that followed revolved around the issue of parking at Camas Ridge including saving the camas bulbs. It was mentioned that previous issues with lack of parking had been addressed by submitting a waiver to the city; however, that process would take eighteen months and inflationary building costs deter any building. Ten parking spaces have been cut from the plans and all other options would be considered.

Mr. Lafer questioned if architecture expenses were lower, than previous buildings, since the same layout is being used across the district. Mr. Spain answered in the affirmative adding inflation building rate is currently 12.4%.

Ms. Hays stated changes could always be made after the fact (move the bulbs) however, choosing bulbs for being school-less is not an option.

3. Update on All Students Belong

Pooja Bhatt, Aimee Craig and Monica Cox, all of SeeChange presented an update of the progress of their research.

Ms. Bhatt reminded the board that their goals would be to address: racial inequity, Student Resource Officers (SRO), re-orienting justice, and work groups. She queried what does safety mean; what functional role did SROs have and what would replace them. She followed with a review of findings from the equity committee meeting which included: discipline use, discipline disparities by race, cultural norms and discipline in relation to teacher race.

Ms. Clark noted they had two administrative focus groups and would have two more prior to the first week of June.

Ms. Bhatt reminded the board that they would be doing a project in three months that generally would take six months to a year. Their next report to the board will be 08/04/2021.

4. Receive Third Quarter Financial Report

Andrea Belz, Director of Finance presented the quarterly financial report that the district is on track to underspend. She reported the budget committee had passed a \$9.3 million budget last week but likely there would be changes to the final amount.

5. Update on COVID-19 School Operations and Planning

Joyce Smith-Johnson notified the board that they have held five vaccine clinics and additional clinics would be held every Wednesday at Churchill. These clinics are open to students and the public.

Mr. Sadofsky commented he felt the need for advertising to students who meet the medical age for vaccines without parent consent as he has not seen any. Ms. Smith-Johnson affirmed she would follow through and see that communication would get out and noted on the district website.

Holly Langan, Director of Nutritional Services, updated the board on meals stating three thousand meals are being handed out daily. Summer meals would be available Monday-Thursday with take outs, available Thursdays, for weekend meals. She added they would continue to supply daycares and camps with summer meals.

6. Receive Update for Graduation

Andy Dey noted that new CDC regulations are looking positive for graduation ceremonies and information was sent to families; however, the guidelines change daily. He indicated there would be in-person graduations; but, they may be smaller groups.

XII. Items for Action

1. Approve Board Guiding Beliefs and Values for 2020-2021

MOTION: Ms. Levis moved the Guiding Beliefs and Values for 2020-2021 be approved. Ms. Shabram seconded.

VOTE: The motion passed – 6:0

2. Approve North Eugene High School and South Eugene High School Wrestling Programs to Co-Op During the 2021 Spring Season

MOTION: Ms. Levis moved the above stated approval request be accepted. Mr. Torrey seconded

VOTE: The motion passed – 6:0

XIII. Items for Action at a Future Meeting

None.

1. Meeting Dates:

May 2021: Wednesday, May 5 & Wednesday, May 19

June 2021: Wednesday, June 2 & Wednesday, June 16

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

None.

XV. Adjourn

Ms. Walston adjourned the meeting at 10:12 p.m.

XV. Executive Session

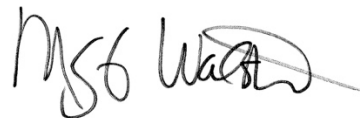
The board will convene in executive session to conduct deliberations with persons designated by the governing body to carry on labor negotiations, pursuant to ORS 192.660 (2) (d).

Executive Sessions are closed to the public. All matters discussed during executive sessions are confidential and shall not be disclosed by any representation of the news media without authorization by the school board.

(Minutes recorded by Marlene Hockema)



Cydney Vandercar
District Clerk



Mary Walston
Board Chair