

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

April 16, 2021

The Board of Directors of School District No. 4J, Lane County, Eugene, Oregon, held a board retreat 1:00 p.m. Notice of the meeting was mailed to the media and posted in the Education Center on April 9, 2021, and published in The Register-Guard on April 16, 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
Anne Marie Levis
Alicia Hays
Martina Shabram
Jim Torrey
Gordon Lafer

STAFF:

Cydney Vandercar, Superintendent
Kerry Delf, Chief of Staff
Lisa Fjordbeck, Executive Assistant/Board Secretary

I. Call Regular Board Meeting to Order

Chair Walston opened the retreat at 1:00 p.m.

Chair Walston welcomed and thanked the board members for being present for the retreat. She encouraged board members to think about the work that had been done given the challenges with COVID.

Chair Walston said she hoped to walk away with at the end of the day is laying down the groundwork for where we want to go next year given we will still be dealing with COVID challenges.

Chair Walston introduced Kristen Miles from OSBA who would review the first part of the retreat.

II. Lesson for the day:

Review the role of the board and that of district management for 20-25 minutes to set the tone for the discussion on what worked with the board and what can we improve. Using this as a basis or way to compare, the discussion will transition to “what worked well this year, what can we improve upon in the next year?”

Kristen Miles of OSBA led this discussion by asking the following questions:

- What excites you about this work?
- What gives you pause?

- How long have you been on the board?

Ms. Miles reviewed the impact boards have on the district.

- How far do board members get to go into personnel?
- How far do board members get to go into budget decisions?
- How far do board members get to go into decisions on facilities?
- How specific and how do we make sure board values are matching district investments?

The All Students Belong process is an example of the board involvement. The board decided to make a budget decisions not renew a contract with Eugene Police Department. Now the board has contracted with a facilitator to do a high level review of systems and processes that will help advise how the superintendent and district staff allocate resources and what will be the plan for student safety going forward.

Ms. Miles reminded the board that they are the “what” and the superintendent and staff is the “how.” The board sets expectations and the superintendent gets to make it happen.

Ms. Miles said that if board members hear something in the community, share that information with the superintendent and trust the process. Ms. Miles said if an individual board member just handles the issue that creates inequity in the system. Not every community member has access to an individual board member. Ms. Miles stated that that is why it’s important to share the concern with the superintendent and allow the district process to be used to address the issue. Board policy KF is a helpful reference for the board.

III. Board Values and Beliefs:

The board decided to move this item to a regular board meeting agenda for review and for approval at a later date.

IV. Brief Update on 2020-21 Board goals:

Superintendent Vandercar provided a brief update on each of the board goals.

1. **Plans for North Region:** Decisions about the long-term plan for location of each school's program would be made before the new high school building opens in 2023. Over the next year, the district will work with the Kelly and Yujin Gakuen school communities to develop a long-term plan for the best location and co-location of the two schools and other programs housed in the Kelly building, the original North Eugene building, or other available space. The district has enlisted a retired administrator to engage with 4J staff and community members over the next school year to develop the long-term plan. Preliminary discussions will begin this spring, followed by a comprehensive visioning process starting in the fall. A recommendation on each school’s long-term future location and programming will go to the interim superintendent by the end of the 2021-22 school year for a decision.
2. **All Students Belong work and student safety:** The board had selected SeeChange to facilitate the work. SeeChange will work in three phases: First phase is planning and discovery. They would do inventory and collect what data already existed. Second phase will be to explain and outline the data and suggest potential surveys and focus groups to engage with the community and staff. Third phase is communication. The facilitators from SeeChange plan to present findings and give an update to the board in June.
3. **On-going response to Covid-19 and plans for fall:** Kids are back in schools and it is heartening and exciting to see that happening. The district is continuing to feed kids, with free meals for all 4J students and other youth up to 18. Free meals are provided to

students in schools and meal boxes or meal bags are available for others. This is made possible by a federal program funding meals for all students without needing to qualify..

The district is helping to control the spread of COVID by helping our community get vaccinated. All 4J staff have already had the opportunity to be fully vaccinated. Now that vaccines are available for everyone age 16 and up, 4J is partnering with healthcare providers to share vaccine opportunities for our students who are at least sixteen years old. The district will continue to work with providers to provide access to vaccines to our students as they become eligible.

Staff is looking ahead to summer programs. The district offers summer school programs for selected students every year, and we are looking to expand services this summer after a year of distance learning.

The district is also planning for the fall, and planning for that to be a return to in-person learning five days a week. Our schools will continue to follow all of the health and safety requirements from the Oregon Department of Education and Oregon Health Authority. This could include protocols such as physical distancing of less than 6 feet, and wearing face coverings at school.

The district will continue to offer an online option for families who prefer all online learning, however, resources will need to be focused in our brick-and-mortar school programs and the district does not expect to be able to also provide an online program tied to each individual school like the Same School Online option that was created during this exceptional year.

Mr. Torrey suggested that the board spend time reviewing the district Strategic Plan at the August retreat. He also proposed that the board hold a work session and review the budget process and strategic plan for alignment, prior to the beginning of the budget committee meetings for the next year.

V. Laying groundwork for next year

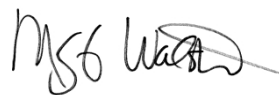
The board selected to schedule another board retreat for June 23 to plan for onboarding new board members and laying the groundwork of the board for the next school year.

VI. Adjournment

Chair Walston adjourned the board retreat at 4:55 p.m.



Cydney Vandercar
District Clerk



Mary Walston
Board Chair