

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

Date: June 16, 2021

The Board of Directors of School District No. 4J, Lane County, Eugene, Oregon, held an executive session at 5:30 p.m. and a special session at 6:00 p.m. through Zoom, and 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 June 4, 2021 and published in *The Register-Guard* on June 16, 2021.

NOTICE: In light of current public health concerns related to coronavirus COVID-19, the meeting of the Eugene School District Board of Directors was open to the public via Zoom Meeting, live radio broadcast on KRVM 1280-AM and via the Internet at www.4j.lane.edu/.

ROLL CALL

BOARD MEMBERS:

Mary Walston, Chair - absent
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

EMPLOYEE ASSOCIATIONS:

Sabrina Gordon, EEA
Tom Horn, MAPS

MEDIA: KRVM

I. Work Session: Superintendent Recruitment Process

Vice Chair Newman called the work session to order. All board members were present with the exception of Board Chair Mary Walston who was absent. In addition, board members elect, Laural O'Rourke and Maya Rabasa had been invited to attend the work session.

The board discussed the various steps and details that go into a superintendent search. The expense and time investment to this district as well as the time investment required of board members to conduct a superintendent search was discussed as well.

II. Regular Board Meeting

III. Call to Order, Roll Call, Flag Salute, Land Acknowledgement

Ms. Newman opened the meeting at 7:00 p.m., called out roll, led everyone in the Pledge of Allegiance and read out the land acknowledgement.

IV. Agenda Review

Mr. Lafer requested an item be added to the agenda to authorize the drafting of a letter to the legislature in support of full funding. In addition, he requested adding a discussion regarding portable units to Kelly school. Superintendent Vandercar responded that money for portables is available and one has been purchased but they are waiting on a backorder for the second unit. The group agreed to add the letter authorization to "Item for Action."

V. Introduction of Guests and Superintendent's Report

Superintendent Vandercar stated it was great to see graduations taking place and the community coming together. She listed items that would be discussed throughout the meeting: bond work, Kelly/YG updates, additional classrooms update, parking spaces for Camas, and the need to be frugal with funding.

VI. Comments by Board Vice-Chair

Ms. Newman stated the past year has brought about many life transitions: 1200 graduates, 46 staff retiring, 2 board members retiring and 2 new board members joining the board.

VII. Items Raised by the Audience

Megan Kunze thanked Mr. Torrey and Ms. Levis for their support, public service and willingness to be open to listening.

Judy Kerner, a 4J teacher at Churchill, read a letter regarding Learning for All. She affirmed that as IEP Case Manager she had observed growing numbers of students and a need for additional staff resources; she proposed a 1.0 FTE in each high school and 25 or less students per teacher, suggesting ESSER funds could be used.

Harry Sanger stated it would be important for the board to push for fall in-person teaching and hoped that masks would no longer be required at that time. He requested that the board not force COVID-19 vaccinations, nor critical race theory but use classical education.

Timothy Sutherland agreed that critical race teaching should not be used as it is identified with Marxism and the 1619 project. He further stated that he had sent emails to the board regarding the flag salute in the classroom and received no response.

Roscoe Caron, retired 4J teacher, thanked the board for their service and listed nine topics of which he contacted the board without replies.

Stacy Black, 4J parent, would like to see the mask mandate relaxed as teachers could currently go mask-less if students are not in attendance but students cannot play on the playground without masks. She also expressed concern regarding separating students, next fall, into masked and unmasked based on whether they had obtained a COVID-19 vaccine.

Andrew Black, 4J parent, encouraged the board to unmask students and consider the harm being done by masks rather than accepting Oregon's demands.

Susan Walling expressed her concern regarding the board's climate agreement adding that Camas school could further reduce the number of parking places and promote more use of buses, bikes and walking.

Paula Zitterkopf would like to continue to send her children to Sheldon High; however, if the policy there would divide students by vaccinated or non-vaccinated, she would have to choose to continue with online teaching.

Tawnia Ross, 4J mom, commented that one year of isolation has caused trauma to students: anxiety, depression, drugs, suicide, etc. She, too, supported no masking.

Amanda Hvass agreed with Ms. Rosses' previous comments.

VIII. Comments by Employee Groups

None.

VIII. Comments and Committee Reports by Individual Board Members

Ms. Shabram indicated it had been a difficult year which required adaptability, new tooling, and availability.

Mr. Lafer stated they had dealt with many critical issues requiring time and effort (i.e. solution of parking, no increase in costs, community feeling left out), and suggested that another community meeting might be advisable,

Ms. Hays thanked the retiring board members and asked that those in the community wearing masks not be judged. Regarding the parking situation at Camas Ridge, she would like to see additional spaces for the handicapped.

Ms. Newman confirmed that she had drafted a letter regarding support for full funding and comment that Bill 744 would get rid of essential skills.

Mr. Torrey reminded the board that teachers have spent the last fifteen months drawing up two sets of lesson plans. He suggested the board choose fewer goals for the coming year and work them diligently rather than having many goals with no progress. He further suggested that in the future, board members might be elected one per geographical area and represent that group of people instead of serving at large as they do now.

Ms. Levis thanked the board and the public for allowing her to work for them for the past 12 years and giving her a chance to make a difference.

IX: Consent Group – Items for Action

- 1. Approve Resolution Making Appropriations Resulting from Transfers**
- 2. Approve Guidelines for Provision of School Items for Staff**
- 3. Approve Replacement Devices for Students Technology**
- 4. Approve Camas Ridge CM/GC Award**
- 5. Approve SIA Classroom Libraries Purchase**
- 6. Approve Replacement of Intercom Technology at 4J Sites**
- 7. Approve Plan to Increase Compensation for Staff in Summer School Programs**
- 8. Bond Project – Edison Elementary School Replacement Building – Controls**

Mr. Torrey moved the board accept the Items for Action, Ms. Shabram seconded.

VOTE: The motion passed – 6:0.

X. Items for Information

1. Receive Update on All Students Belong Assessment

Ms. Bhatt, of SeeChange, stated they were moving forward on their assessment of school safety trying to determine what is currently working and what is not. Five hundred surveys have been returned and that data collection is now in analysis and will be presented to the board in August.

2. Receive Update on Building Issues at Kelly Middle School/YG Elementary School

Ryan Spain, Director of Facilities and Kyle Tucker, Chief Operations Officer, reported that the second phase of shoring was completed. Mr. Spain added that they would start building on the walls within two weeks as they are looking at options. He added that two modulars would be ready for fall and the ground, etc. will be ready when the units arrive. Mr. Spain also indicated that it would be less likely that the gym would be ready, but rather available for the fall of 2022; plans have been made for the programs that would usually use the gym.

3. Receive Update on Bond & Facilities Summer Projects

Mr. Tucker reported that the North Eugene worksite is in process; courtyard construction is underway for the G-pod at Gilham; Churchill, Sheldon, and South Eugene athletic improvements are complete but turf replacement will have to wait till fall. Mr. Tucker noted the other summer work projects listed in the board packet.

Mr. Lafer asked for an update on the Camas project; Mr. Spain responded that survey results are being compiled and would be posted next week. Mr. Lafer then queried the addition of more turf and Mr. Tucker replied that while more green is needed, the addition at this time could be expensive enough to jeopardize the original building project.

4. Update on COVID-19 School Operations and Planning

Holly Langer reported that 36 grant requests had been received in the amount of \$2,256,000 of which almost all could be approved. Food for Lane County will partner with the school district to provide meal boxes on Wednesdays and a second chance, on Thursdays, for those who cannot

attend the Wednesday events. Ms. Langer added that 1500 survey replies had been received for ESSER, most with similar responses. Top issues were: academic, social, connectivity, mental health; while the Spanish speaking population rated economics as their number one issue, English speaking responses rated learning loss as their first priority. She stated there would be no changes to online classes now, per ODE, but sometime in the future. Superintendent Vandercar interjected that no ODE guidelines had been received for mask wearing.

5. Receive a Report on School Climate Survey for School Year 2020-21

Oscar Louriero, Director of Research and Planning, provided a slide presentation, indicating that the same questions were asked on the Climate Survey as were used in the past and participation was considerably lower. Ms. Newman asked what the numbers were and Mr. Louriero responded five thousand rather than eight to nine thousand.

6. Receive Notification of Change in Grant Fund Appropriations

Ms. Betz asked if there were any questions regarding this topic and there were none.

7. Receive Report Listing Credit Cards Issues

Ms. Belz asked if there were any questions regarding this topic and there were none.

XI. Items for Action

1. Approve a Resolution Adopting the 2021-2022 Budget, Making Appropriations, Imposing and Categorizing Taxes

Ms. Belz presented the proposed 2021-2022 budget indicating a total of \$637,943,535.00, 4.7485% taxes, \$1.50 per thousand and \$26,397,673 debt service.

Mr. Torrey moved the budget be accepted as read; Ms. Levis seconded.

Mr. Lafer asked if there would be money available if the decision was made to hire additional high school teachers to which Ms. Belz stated there would be contingency funds available at the discretion of the board

Mr. Torrey moved the budget be accepted as read; Ms. Levis seconded.

VOTE: The motion passed – 6:0.

2. Consider Board Calendar for the 2021-22 School Year

Ms. Hays commented that she felt the new board members should be included in the process of scheduling calendar events. Ms. Shabram stated that it would need to be a joint decision but could be changed in the future.

3. Organize the Board of Directors for the 2021-22 School Year

a. Elect Board Officers

Mr. Levis nominated Ms. Newman for the position of Chair; (to be affirmed with new board members), Mr. Lafer seconded.

VOTE: The motion passed – 6:0.

Mr. Lafer nominated Ms. Shabram for the position of Vice Chair; (to be affirmed with new board members) Ms. Hays seconded.

VOTE: The motion passed – 6:0.

b. Authorize the Chair and Vice Chair to Sign for the District During the 2021-22 Fiscal Year

Ms. Hays moved the chair and vice chair be authorized to sign during the 2021-22 fiscal year; Mr. Torrey seconded.

VOTE: The motions passed – 6:0.

4. Authorize Letter to Support Full Funding

Due to Ms. Newman's report that she had already drafted a letter to support full funding this item was dropped as completed.

XII. Items for Action at a Future Meeting

1. Receive Information on the Future Build Program and Approve Land Initiation Process

Superintendent Vandercar announced that due to feedback from families, industry partners and students, the board would be rolling out a new program, the Future Build Project and introduced John Stapleton, PIVOT Architecture and Tia Holliday-Odegard, Curriculum Administrator. Superintendent Vandercar went on to state that the first big step would be to initiate the board's land use decision process for one or more future property purchases and technical education construction (CTE) program. The core purpose of the Future Build Project would be to provide high school students CTE experience in home construction under the supervision of a licensed teacher. Following the completion of the project the district would initiate a decision to sell the property.

Ms. Holliday-Odegard affirmed that the project would align with Lane Community College (LCC) and incorporate math and language arts credits.

Mr. Stapleton added that all partnerships are in place and have been worked with previously.

Ms. Delf noted that the timeline to get the project would be tight and the board would need to approve the purchase of land, immediately, suggesting the following agenda:

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| *June 16, 2021 | Board: Consider Approval of Initiation of Land Use Decision Process) |
| *June 23, 2021 | Board: Executive Session – Real Property Negotiations and Open Session – Approve initiation of Land Use Decision Process |
| *June 25, 2021 | Staff: Identify property and prepare offer, contingent on board approval. |
| *June 30, 2021 | Staff: Target date for notification of neighbors, adjacent property owners and other stakeholders |
| *July 1, 2021 | Board: Target date to receive proposed Findings of Fact) |
| * August 4, 2021 | Board: Target date to conduct a Public Hearing. Approve Findings of Fact and decide whether to acquire the property. |

Mr. Lafer moved the board initiate the process of approval of land use; Mr. Torrey seconded. Meeting would be scheduled for June 23rd at 5:30 p.m.

VOTE: The motion passed – 6:0.

XIII. Items for Action at a Future Meeting

- 1. Board Executive Session – Real Property Negotiations and Open Session**
- 2. Target date to receive proposed Findings of Fact**
- 3. Target date to conduct a Public Hearing. Approve Findings of Fact and decide whether to acquire the property.**

IX. Adjourn

Ms. Newman adjourned the meeting at 10:18 p.m.
(Minutes recorded by Marlene Hockema)

Cydney Vandercar
District Clerk

Judy Newman
Board Chair