

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

Date: September 20, 2023

The Board of Directors (BOD) of School District No. 4J, Lane County, Eugene, Oregon, held a work session at 5:00 p.m. and a regular Board of Directors (BOD) meeting at 7:00 p.m. in-person at the Education Center, 200 North Monroe Street in Eugene, Oregon, via live-stream and broadcast on KRVM. Notice of the meeting was emailed to the media and posted on the 4J website on September 14, 2023.

ROLL CALL

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:

Maya Rabasa, Chair
Jenny Jonak, Vice Chair
Tom Di Liberto
Rick Hamilton
Judy Newman
Morgan Munro

STAFF:

Andy Dey, Superintendent

EMPLOYEE ASSOCIATIONS:

MEDIA:

I. WORK SESSION

1. CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL

Chair Rabasa called the meeting to order at 5:07 p.m.

2. BOARD APPOINTMENT SELECTION (ROUND 1)

Chair Rabasa described the voting process.

District staff collected ballots and tallied results.

Chair Rabasa read the names of those who received three votes or more and would be invited back to interview on September 27, which included Alaire Fajardo, Scott Fellman, Alana Folsom, Jensina Hawkins, Laura McGinnis, Thomas Oommen, and Ericka Thessen.

3. ADJOURN

Chair Rabasa adjourned the work session at 5:19 p.m.

II. REGULAR BOARD MEETING

III. CALL TO ORDER, ROLL CALL, FLAG SALUTE, LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

Chair Rabasa called the regular meeting to order at 7:04 p.m. She said the names of the board members who were present. Superintendent Dey led the flag salute, and Chair Rabasa read the Land Acknowledgement.

IV. AGENDA APPROVAL

Ms. Newman asked for item two to be moved to a future meeting until more information was received from the ethics inquiry.

MOTION: Ms. Newman moved to postpone Item for Action number two.
Seconded by Vice Chair Jonak. **Motion passed unanimously 6:0:0.**

V. INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS AND SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Superintendent Dey shared he and members of the board attended the Chavez Elementary assembly to celebrate Mariah Engle who was honored as the regional teacher of the year. He congratulated Ms. Engle and thanked her for her dedication and exceptional contributions to education in the district. He said the following day the state would release the results of last year's statewide assessment. He said challenges associated with the current testing system in Oregon did not serve as an indicator of student progress and accountability for the district. He said early indicators signal incremental improvements in students' overall results. He urged the state to consider continued investment in community-based after school and summer programs as they are essential to student success. He said upcoming meetings would evaluate the impact of supplemental state and federal investments over the past three years and identify ways the system can adapt to maintain key supports in the absence of ongoing supplemental funding. Superintendent Dey noted throughout the last year districts across the state experienced decreased enrollment. He said despite the decrease of student enrollment, they placed more adults in schools than any time over the last 20 years, as evidenced by increased staffing of more than 300 full-time equivalent positions. He said as the period of supplemental relief funding closed, they would collaborate with the community and ensure the most impactful supports in place were sustained wherever possible.

VI. ITEMS RAISED BY THE AUDIENCE

Guadalupe Quinn said she is concerned about a rumor the district dismantled the Equity and Inclusion office and reassigned staff to other positions. She asked who made the decision, how the decision was made, why the decision was made, and where information could be found. She said 4J had talked about the importance of equity and inclusion (E&I) and an equity lens. She said if the district was committed it did not make sense to close the office. Ms. Quinn noted she was a 4J parent, staffer, and worked on the 4J racial justice task force and first equity committee. She said someone needed to oversee and coordinate equity work.

Kelly Stroh spoke about the Yujin Gakuen (YG) Elementary School relocation and the long-term plan and impact on families who would be cut from the program with relocation. She said it was a hardship for families to drive to South Eugene and would impact Latino demographics and single parents. She noted these demographics were highlighted in the district's equity and inclusion effort. Ms. Stroh said it would be difficult to recruit new families and families who were unsure if the school would return to the north district. She said long-term commitment to the program was needed.

VII. COMMENTS BY EMPLOYEE GROUPS

There were none.

VIII. COMMENTS AND COMMITTEE REPORTS BY INDIVIDUAL BOARD MEMBERS

Mr. Di Liberto said time was spent in a work session to review applications for the vacant board positions and that it went well. He said several board members attended the regional teacher of the year assembly that morning and he was proud that district educators were honored. He said this was the first assembly of the school year and the principal, kids, and staff did a wonderful job. He said a few board members were sitting in with the student voice committee the following morning and it would be his first time attending. Mr. Di Liberto said he was eager for high school students to be part of the process.

Ms. Newman thanked the twenty-five people who applied to fill the board vacancy and said it was heartening to live in a community that cared about education. She said it was difficult to make the decision with excellent applicants. She announced the Eugene Education Foundation (EEF) second annual Fun Run 5K for 4J on Saturday, October 14 from 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. at Alton Baker Park. She said registration was open online. Ms. Newman shared the EEF grant application was released and was open to classroom or district-wide applications. She spoke about policy to have engines turned off at school pick up for individual health. She congratulated the regional teacher of the year.

Vice Chair Jonak congratulated the regional teacher of the year and board applicants. She said she appreciated the time and thought that was put into applications. She said she appreciated comments and concerns from speakers and thanked them for attending the meeting.

Mr. Hamilton congratulated the regional teacher of the year and thanked Ms. Stroh for her public comment about YG.

Chair Rabasa said she was grateful to be part of a community with interest to serve on the school board. She thanks applicants and said she hoped they found ways to stay involved and connected to the district if they were not selected and mentioned the upcoming budget committee. She congratulated the regional teacher of the year and said the assembly was impressive and fun. She said she was proud and filled with gratitude and thanked the parent who submitted the nomination.

IX. CONSENT GROUP

MOTION: Ms. Munro moved to approve the consent agenda with exception of item three and item five. Seconded by Vice Chair Jonak. **Motion passed unanimously 6:0:0.**

1. **APPROVE WORK SESSION AND REGULAR BOARD MEETINGS FOR AUGUST 16, 2023**
No discussion was held.
2. **APPROVE BOARD POLICY ECG – VEHICLE IDLING POLICY (2ND READ)**
No discussion was held.
3. **APPROVE BOARD POLICY IICA – DISTRICT REPRESENTED GROUP TRAVEL (2ND READ)**

Ms. Munro said she had questions about the policy itself and the way it was written. She said she would like the opportunity to check in with staff. She said she had a question about travel requirement as presented as any trip overnight.

Superintendent Dey said this was common because of the associated risk and the board was ultimately a fiduciary. He said trips not associated with the list had historical fundraising efforts and the costs associated might exclude others from going. He said the board had to ask questions about what was done to ensure their use was eliminated for students that might find financial hardship.

Ms. Munro said she needed time to think and reflect.

MOTION: Ms. Munro moved to revisit district represented group travel on October 4. Vice Chair Jonak seconded. **Motion passed unanimously 6:0:0.**

4. PERSONNEL ACTION, HR

No discussion was held.

5. SECONDARY MATH CURRICULUM – INITIATE ADOPTION PROCESS

Vice Chair Jonak said she needed a better sense of how the proposal was going to be used by the district, which included a sense of how the math program would work for students with disabilities and a sense of what would be involved and how the curriculum would aim to improve math teaching for those students. She asked for a better sense of community engagement.

Superintendent Dey said without official launch they would not be able to keep the policy. He said authorization was needed to adopt curriculum.

Vice Chair Jonak asked for a better sense of how this proposal would help some of the students who seemed to be struggling the most with math and if there was any input designed in the proposal.

Superintendent Dey said the process was more than just a selection of materials and that materials would be vetted. He said it would look at the manner in which classes were formulated for students. He said it would be worked on with a broad range of teachers who were willing to dedicate time and who knew the needs of kids struggling in math. He said they were not just considering the needs of students who were historically underserved. He said the current K12 curriculum was fairly dated and the intent was to replace materials across the entire district and work with teachers to determine the best curriculum going forward.

Ms. Munro asked if budget resources were only for the remainder of the 23-24 school year and if this would come up again next year.

Superintendent Dey said bond dollars were dedicated to curriculum materials. He said some decisions needed to be made to determine optimal curriculum material.

Ms. Munro asked what the process would be if the board decided not to do the adoption process.

Superintendent Dey said some costs were associated with that because teachers would be pulled out of classrooms.

Vice Chair Jonak asked if there was a budget for community engagement.

Superintendent Dey said there were resources that could be dedicated to a reasonable request.

MOTION: Ms. Newman moved to initiate the adoption process for secondary math curriculum. Mr. Di Liberto seconded. **Motion passed unanimously 6:0:0.**

X. ITEMS FOR INFORMATION

1. SCHOOLS' CONTINUOUS IMPROVEMENT PLAN (SCIP) PROCESS UPDATE

Presented by Larry Williams, Executive Director Academic Success

Mr. Williams provided a PowerPoint presentation that described the Continuous Improvement Plan's guiding foundation, background, process, focal student groups, and reporting timeline.

Vice Chair Jonak asked if students with 504 plans were included or if disabilities were only defined with an IEP. She asked if plans included making the IEP process more accessible.

Mr. Williams answered not at this time.

Vice Chair Jonak said use of student focus groups was fantastic and she appreciated use of data to see progress and areas of focus.

Mr. Williams said he hoped buildings would be as transparent as possible in order to have collective problem solving.

Superintendent Dey said the process was not meant to disparage work that had been done over the past few years. He said they would start in a place where they can make positive impact and see how it worked. He said just because a student does not have a 504 or IEP it did not mean they would not qualify for one. He said this process would include regular check in and would help identify students who may need services and support. Superintendent Dey said another part would be to establish data and if teachers would have access to data. He said work needed to be done behind the scenes so teachers were not spending time collecting data and looked at tools to help make their jobs easier. He said a report would be provided at the end of the year.

Ms. Newman asked if there was data on how many students are on IEP and how many are on 504.

Mr. Williams said he had the data but it was not readily available.

Ms. Newman said she would like to see this data.

Mr. Di Liberto said it was important to share information and create an atmosphere of transparency.

Vice Chair Jonak suggested to track data on students who had requested IEP evaluation, and students who were denied. She asked how these students were doing compared to general population.

Mr. Williams said he had the data but it was not readily available.

Chair Rabasa said she appreciated that 4J included 504 students in the plan. She shared she was uncomfortable listing students with limited or interrupted formal education as a subgroup emerging by multilingual students as this overlapped with all other categories.

Mr. Williams said before intersectionality, the goal was to acknowledge students with a variety of needs. He clarified this was an Oregon Department of Education (ODE) subgroup.

Chair Rabasa suggested opportunity to collaborate with teachers and hold discussion on how it felt to shift to focused continual improvement.

Ms. Newman asked how student focal groups are built.

Mr. Williams said focal groups were driven by school data. He said buildings were encouraged not to look at success for this purpose and to identify populations who could be better served. He said this was different across buildings.

Superintendent Dey shared the equity department was not eliminated and that they took over instruction.

Vice Chair Jonak asked if the final plan would be public for each building and if the board would see the final results.

Mr. Williams said it would be included on the website.

Ms. Munro recognized the commitment the district was making to administrators, employees, and students. She noted that Continuous Improvement projects can be effective but only when they are done well. She acknowledged that this work is important and will take significant time. She asked that staff be given the necessary time and resources to engage in this effort in a meaningful manner. She said that the district was setting a high bar for itself with this effort and she looked forward to updates along the way.

XI. ITEMS FOR ACTION

1. RESOLUTION AFFIRMING COMMITMENT TO COLLABORATION AND ESTABLISHED POLICY

Ms. Munro noted a typo in the fourth paragraph. She encouraged the board to review policies and expectations in a way that was meaningful and taken seriously.

Chair Rabasa agreed with Ms. Munro and questioned if the resolution should be postponed until the board vacancy was filled.

Vice Chair Jonak suggested review after the board retreat.

Chair Rabasa noted this came from a specific moment and it was worth specifying which policies.

Ms. Newman asked to identify policies specifically in the resolution and suggested to reaffirm each time there were new board members.

MOTION: Vice Chair Jonak moved to postpone the resolution until there was a full board. Mr. Di Liberto seconded. **Motion passed unanimously 6:0:0.**

2. BOARD OF DIRECTORS STIPEND DECISION

Removed from agenda during agenda approval.

XII. ITEMS FOR ACTION AT A FUTURE MEETING

- 1. BOARD POLICY BBBA – MEMBERSHIP OF THE BOARD POLICY (1ST READ)**
- 2. BOARD POLICY IFE – CURRICULUM GUIDES AND COURSE OUTLINES (1ST READ)**
- 3. BOARD POLICY IKF – GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS POLICY (1ST READ)**
- 4. BOARD POLICY JGE – EXPULSION POLICY (1ST READ)**

There was no discussion by the board.

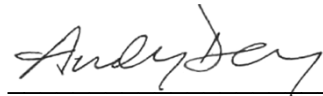
XIII. SUGGESTIONS BY THE BOARD FOR CONSIDERATION OF ITEMS AT A FUTURE MEETING

Ms. Newman said the transition of equity department as an item for information would be beneficial for the public.

Chair Rabasa noted a special board meeting was scheduled September 27 at 5:30 p.m. to interview the finalists for position number two.

XIV. ADJOURN

Chair Rabasa adjourned the meeting at 8:31 p.m.



Andy Dey
District Clerk



Maya Rabasa
Board Chair

*(Recorded by LCOG)
Approved on 11/01/2023*