

**MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING
SCHOOL DISTRICT 4J, LANE COUNTY, OREGON**

Date: January 24, 2024

The Board of Directors (BOD) of School District No. 4J, Lane County, Eugene, Oregon, held a regular board 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 January 19, 2024.

ROLL CALL

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:

Chair Rabasa
Vice Chair Jenny Jonak
Morgan Munro
Tom Di Liberto
Rick Hamilton
Judy Newman
Ericka Thessen

STAFF:

Andy Dey, Superintendent
Debbie McKim, Executive Assistant to the Superintendent and Board
Sherry Moore, Executive Assistant to the Chief of Staff
Jenna McCulley, Chief of Staff
Matt Brown, Finance Director
Missy Cole, Churchill High School Principal
Lancelot Falcon, Churchill High School Assistant Principal
Matt Brown, Finance Director

OTHER GUESTS:

Sheridan Schilling, Churchill High School
Carmen Gonzalez Valle, Sheldon High School
Parker Anderson, North Eugene High School (online)
Tony Scurto, Superintendent, Lane Education Service District (ESD)
Linda Hamilton, Board Member, Lane Education Service District (ESD)

EMPLOYEE ASSOCIATIONS:

Sabrina Gordon, President, Eugene Education Association

MEDIA:

KRVM

I. REGULAR BOARD MEETING

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

Chair Maya Rabasa called the meeting to order at 7:10 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 statement.

III. AGENDA APPROVAL

There was one amendment to the agenda. The item 8.1 titled, Receive Information from Lane Education Service District (ESD) Superintendent Tony Scurto about the Services Provided by Lane ESD and the Local Service Plan 2023-25 was moved to follow the Introduction of Guests and Superintendent's Report.

IV. INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS AND SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Superintendent Dey provided a brief report. He announced that the National Association of School Psychologists honored Eugene School District 4J school psychologists with the designation of "Excellence in School Psychological Services." Citing a national shortage of school psychologists, Superintendent Dey said this designation leverages recruiting of highly skilled individuals. He recognized the 4J school psychologists present at the meeting, stating "we are very proud of the support and well-deserved recognition for your work."

Superintendent Dey said that January is school board appreciation month. He highlighted the signs posted around the auditorium, which were created for the Board of Directors (BOD) by 4J teachers and students.

Lane Education Service District (ESD) Superintendent Tony Scurto and Board Member Linda Hamilton addressed the BOD with information regarding the upcoming request for approval of a local service plan.

Mr. Scurto said that Lane ESD presents to the BOD annually. He reported that all superintendents in Lane County cooperatively formulated the local service plan. He clarified that they are currently in the second year of a local service plan, and the upcoming request for approval is for a local service plan for the 2024-25 school year. He referenced the plan, which was provided to the BOD in advance of the meeting. He said the local service plan does not include many changes, but rather it is a "continuation" of the services currently being offered.

Mr. Scurto highlighted the services that 4J utilizes, such as technology, special education, school improvement, and administration services. He noted that 4J overwhelmingly utilizes the special education services provided by Lane ESD. He mentioned other activities Lane ESD provides, such as community events, and partnering with local groups.

Mr. Scurto offered to answer questions from the BOD. There were no questions. He said the deadline for approval of the local service plan is March 1, 2024; no action is needed tonight.

V. RECEIVE REPORTS FROM HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT REPRESENTATIVES

Representative Sheridan Schilling provided a report from Churchill High School. She said students are back on campus after being off for one week due to the ice storm. The first three days back to school were hectic and stressful as they experienced a series of threats against the school. The threats were investigated by the Eugene Police

Department and there was a police presence on campus three days that week. She said doors are now locked during the day, which is a step in the right direction. Ms. Schilling reported that students hope leaders continue to take steps to ensure the safety of everyone on campus. The Friday before Martin Luther King Jr. Day, the Black student union collaborated with other affinity groups on campus to host a MLK Jr. assembly, an incredible celebration of diversity and history of the civil rights movement.

Representative Carmen Gonzales Valle provided a report from Sheldon High School. They are hosting their food drive, and all proceeds go to the food pantry. An assembly was held and classes competed against one another in the “class color Olympics.” Students participating in winter sports were recognized at the assembly. An information night was held for eighth graders exploring what path they might want to take in high school. Ms. Gonzales Valle said she learned that not every middle school has a student council and urged the BOD to take action on the issue.

Representative Parker Anderson provided a report from North Eugene High School. He said students are returning from the break after the ice storm. He thanked the board for not putting students at risk [by driving to school] and reported that the prioritization of student safety was “hugely appreciated.” The dance team won state competitions. Three dancers made all-state finalists and one made the all-state dance team. The theater’s upcoming production was cancelled due to the performing arts wing of North Eugene High School sustaining water damage during the ice storm. He expressed that students and the community are worried that a building this new is already getting damaged. He said it would be helpful if there was more communication from BOD as to what happened during the construction that led to the damage and what is being done to prevent it from happening again.

VII. ITEMS RAISED BY AUDIENCE

Nancy Buffum, Director of the Eugene Education Foundation (EEF), shared that in 2024 the nonprofit awarded 55 grants to 4J classrooms, schools, and district projects, totaling almost \$150,000. She said they wished they could have funded all the requests in the full amount. She noted the funds are currently being distributed. She mentioned that their annual EEF Gala was moved to Thursday, March 21, 2024, at the Ford Alumni Center at the University of Oregon. The theme is “Moving Forward Together.” Ms. Buffum invited each board member to attend the gala.

Doyle Canning, 4J parent, expressed her support of the 4J levy measure. She shared a story about her 8-year-old son who recently described an “ordinary” day at school: he’d learned about the Hebrew creation story, made a Chinese dragon out of clay, read at the library, did math, played soccer, and connected with his teachers. Ms. Canning said her son’s ordinary day was actually “extraordinary.” She urged support of the 4J levy measure for the upcoming May ballot, stating that strong public schools need strong public support.

VIII. COMMENTS BY EMPLOYEE GROUPS

Eugene Education Association (EEA) President Sabrina Gordon thanked the BOD in recognition of school board appreciation month. She said educators have noticed a genuine interest and willingness to engage by attending listening sessions, visiting

schools, going to special events, engaging in conversations, and asking questions to get a deeper understanding of issues. She said the BOD sets Eugene 4J apart and has contributed to feelings of support for educators.

IX. COMMENTS AND COMMITTEE REPORTS BY INDIVIDUAL BOARD MEMBERS

Chair Rabasa provided a message on behalf of the board. She said we find ourselves in the wake of a tremendously damaging ice storm. Countless 4J community members lost power and some are still waiting for power to be restored. School, events, and meetings were missed. Some school buildings lost power. Food was compromised. Trees were toppled and branches scattered all over the district. She said 4J teams, spanning a range of departments, worked tirelessly to support students, care for school sites, and make difficult decisions all in the name of prioritizing staff and student safety.

She said staff members immediately stepped into action, securing hotel vouchers, and preparing, packing, and distributing nearly 1,000 food boxes for 4J students. The technology department stood ready to fix any issue the ice caused to technology. The communications team got notices out about school closures with as much advance notice as possible. The transportation team's diligent attention meant safety for students returning to school after the storm. And the custodial and maintenance teams were heroic. She noted that some schools needed more attention than others. Chair Rabasa finished by saying it was an extremely difficult week, but they were all bursting with pride given how everything was handled. She thanked the students and families for their patience and for caring for each other. She thanked Superintendent Dey for making a plethora of decisions to ensure the safety of the 4J community.

Mr. Di Liberto reported that he attended the North Eugene High School Martin Luther King Jr. celebration.

Ms. Newman thanked the Eugene Education Foundation (EEF) for all they do for 4J students and the community. She recognized Lane ESD's School Psychology Program as being the first point of contact for 4J kids with developmental delays and/or disabilities.

Vice Chair Jonak attended a presentation titled "Supporting Our Disabled Students." The presentation was part two of a disability justice series hosted by a 4J Budget Committee member. Vice Chair Jonak suggested it would be valuable for anyone in education and families of students with disabilities. There is a recording available. The next event is scheduled for March 5, 2024, and the topic is Intersectional Disability.

Mr. Hamilton attended the North Eugene High School Martin Luther King Jr. celebration reporting that it was entertaining, and he even had the joy of participating. He also attended the Oregon Alliance of Black School Educators (ORABSE) Black and Fabulous Annual Gala in Portland.

X. CONSENT GROUP – ITEMS FOR ACTION

1. APPROVE BOARD MEETING MINUTES FOR DECEMBER 6, 2023; DECEMBER 11, 2023; DECEMBER 13, 2023.

No discussion was held.

2. APPROVE STUDENT TRAVEL 03-23-2024 – 03-29-2024: CHURCHILL HS VARSITY BASEBALL TRIP TO COACH BOB INVITATIONAL IN PHOENIX, ARIZONA

No discussion was held.

3. APPROVE BOND PROJECT – GILHAM ELEMENTARY SCHOOL ROOFING PROJECT

No discussion was held.

4. APPROVE BUSINESSPLUS/POWERSCHOOL APPLICATION MANAGEMENT SERVICE (AMC) CONTRACT EXPANSION

No discussion was held.

5. APPROVE CITY OF EUGENE UPDATED RIVERFRONT URBAN RENEWAL REQUEST

No discussion was held.

MOTION: Vice Chair Jonak moved to approve the consent agenda as presented. Seconded by Ms. Thessen. **Motion carried unanimously with Chair Rabasa, Vice Chair Jonak, Ms. Newman, Ms. Thessen, Mr. Di Liberto, Ms. Munro, and Mr. Hamilton all voting in favor (7,0,0).**

XI. ITEMS FOR INFORMATION

1. CHURCHILL HIGH SCHOOL PRESENTATION OF SCHOOL CONTINUOUS IMPROVEMENT PLAN (SCIP)

Churchill High School Principal Missy Cole and Assistant Principal Lancelot Falcon presented the Churchill School Continuous Improvement Plan (SCIP) via PowerPoint presentation.

Principal Cole explained that they conducted a review of year end school data, including, but not limited to, graduation rates, attendance rates, and behavioral referrals. With that information, they collaborated with teachers and staff to hear their ideas about how to improve. The SCIP is a reflection of those collaborative efforts.

Principal Cole highlighted areas they identified for improvement, such as ninth grade reading, particularly the need to support students of color and students with disabilities. She emphasized the need to support students who qualify for McKinney-Vento (the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act ensures the educational rights and protections of children and youth experiencing homelessness), Spanish speaking families, and ensuring safety, communication, and supports for all students and families.

Mr. Falcon introduced SCIP Goal #1: By the end of the 2023-24 academic year, staff will connect identified students who qualify for McKinney-Vento to resources that will help support their attendance, connections, and success rates in school.

He introduced Goal #2: Over the 2023-24 academic year, use Gates-MacGinitie Reading Assessment Program to identify struggling ninth grade readers and apply strategies to improve reading.

Principal Cole introduced Goal #3: Increase education and process around safety protocols.

Principal Cole and Mr. Falcon responded to questions from the BOD.

Ms. Newman asked if the work around supporting McKinney-Vento students is coordinated with The 15th Night.

Mr. Falcon responded yes; The 15th Night is a resource that Churchill High School utilizes quite often.

Ms. Newman asked, regarding the topic of ninth grade reading deficits, if there are instructors and to address that.

Mr. Falcon responded that there are two primary ninth grade Language Arts instructors who identify reading levels and implement reading strategies.

Principal Cole added that one of their special education teachers has a background in reading strategies; she has been identified to support staff.

Chair Rabasa asked if they have noticed a shift in the number of students who qualify for Individualized Education Plans (IEPs).

Mr. Falcon responded that they have seen profound changes academically, socially, and emotionally. He noted a dramatic 504 increase, not necessarily an increase in IEPs.

XII. ITEMS FOR ACTION

1. CONSIDER APPROVAL OF REVISED GOALS AS FOLLOWS: 2023-24 BOARD GOALS, 2023-24 DISTRICT GOALS, 2023-24 SUPERINTENDENT GOALS

Ms. Munro suggested a copy edit change to the 2023-24 board goals. Regarding external goals, listed under schools, the second bullet reads, "The board will strive to have a presence at/attend district and school events." Her recommendation was to remove the word "attend."

Mr. Di Liberto suggested a copy edit change. Regarding Goal 1, sub-bullet four: change the language from "unions" to "employee groups."

MOTION: Vice Chair Jonak moved to approve the 2023-24 board goals with two proposed copy edit changes: replacing the word "attend" with "at" and replacing the word "unions" with "employee groups." Seconded by Ms. Thessen. **Motion carried unanimously with Chair Rabasa, Vice Chair Jonak, Ms. Newman, Ms. Thessen, Mr. Di Liberto, Ms. Munro, and Mr. Hamilton all voting in favor (7,0,0).**

MOTION: Vice Chair Jonak made a motion to approve the 2023-24 district goals as proposed. Seconded by Mr. Di Liberto. **Motion carried unanimously with Chair Rabasa, Vice Chair Jonak, Ms. Newman, Ms. Thessen, Mr. Di Liberto, Ms. Munro, and Mr. Hamilton all voting in favor (7,0,0).**

Ms. Newman suggested adding Coalition of Oregon School Administrators (COSA) standard 8: Policy, Governance, and Advocacy.

Ms. Munro suggested removing the second sentence.

MOTION: Vice Chair Jonak made a motion to approve the 2023-24 Superintendent goals with two proposed changes: adding standard 8: Policy, Governance, and Advocacy and removing the second sentence. Seconded by Ms. Thessen. **Motion carried unanimously with Chair Rabasa, Vice Chair Jonak, Ms. Newman, Ms. Thessen, Mr. Di Liberto, Ms. Munro, and Mr. Hamilton all voting in favor (7,0,0).**

2. SELECTION OF SUPERINTENDENT EVALUATION TOOL (2ND READ)

Chair Rabasa introduced the selection of Superintendent evaluation tool (2nd read). She explained that the original proposal was to use the framework that had been designed by COSA and Oregon School Boards Association (OSBA). She noted that Ms. Newman helped prepare the final Superintendent evaluation framework before the BOD for adoption. Chair Rabasa added that they incorporated a comment option to receive feedback from participants.

Board members have been offered a training around Superintendent evaluation framework. It will be offered on Zoom, but if a member cannot attend, it will remain available to view.

MOTION: Vice Chair Jonak moved to approve the framework for the 2023-24 Superintendent evaluation framework with the additions of a comments column, page numbers, and a training. Seconded by Mr. Hamilton. **Motion carried unanimously with Chair Rabasa, Vice Chair Jonak, Ms. Newman, Ms. Thessen, Mr. Di Liberto, Ms. Munro, and Mr. Hamilton all voting in favor (7,0,0).**

XIII. ITEMS FOR ACTION AT A FUTURE MEETING

1. LANE EDUCATION SERVICE DISTRICT (ESD) 2023-25 LOCAL SERVICE PLAN – YEAR TWO RESOLUTION (1ST READ)

Superintendent Dey presented the Lane ESD 2023-25 local service plan – year two Resolution (1st read). He responded to questions from the BOD.

Ms. Munro asked Superintendent Dey to elaborate on the difference the partnership with Lane ESD makes at Eugene School District 4J.

Superintendent Dey said that, among other things, Lane ESD helps coordinate 4J district with other districts, support tremendously with special education programs, help manage student information systems, and coordinate with state-level reporting and initiatives.

3. OPERATING LEVY – EXPLORE DETAILS AND TIMING RELATED TO ADDING AN OPERATING LEVY TO BALLOT

Chair Rabasa presented the topic of potentially adding an operating levy to the ballot. The current operating levy is set to expire in 2025 and the potential upcoming levy would be a renewal. She said the levy brings in approximately 22 million dollars per year, and it is a 5-year plan. A public hearing will be held at the February 7, 2024, regular board meeting.

4. BUDGET OFFICER DESIGNATION AND RESOLUTION

Finance Director Matt Brown introduced the topic of budget officer designation and resolution. He said every year the school board elects a budget officer. Typically, it is the finance director who serves in that role.

The BOD will entertain a motion at the regular board meeting on February 7, 2024.

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

Ms. Thessen brought up the raising rates of sexually transmitted illnesses (STIs) in Lane County. She recommended a Friday memo about the topic and suggested revisiting 4J policy as it relates to promoting public health and the prevention of STIs.

Ms. Munro requested information about how to make up the missed school days due to the recent ice storm.

Mr. Di Liberto requested information about the timeline for inventory on local assessments for all districts in Oregon.

XV. ADJOURN

Chair Rabasa adjourned the regular meeting at 8:46 p.m.



Andy Dey
District Clerk



Maya Rabasa
Board Chair

*(Recorded by LCOG)
Approved on 02/21/2024*