MINUTES OF WORK SESSION

SCHOOL DISTRICT 4J, LANE COUNTY, OREGON

Date: May 15, 2024

The Board of Directors (BOD) of School District No. 4J, Lane County, Eugene, Oregon, held a work session at 5:30 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 May 10, 2024.

ROLL CALL

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:
Chair Rabasa
Vice Chair Jenny Jonak
Judy Newman
Erika Thessen
Tom Di Liberto
Morgan Munro
Rick Hamilton

STAFF:
Colt Gill, Interim Superintendent
Dr. Kerry Frazee, Prevention Services Administrator
Dr. Ritu Roy, Special Projects Manager, Prevention Services
Seth Pfaefflin, Student Services Director
Jaime Hock, Mental Health Specialist
Sherry Moore, Executive Assistant to the Chief of Staff
Debbie McKim, Executive Assistant to the Superintendent/Board Secretary

OTHER GUESTS:
None.

EMPLOYEE ASSOCIATIONS:
None.

MEDIA:
KRVM

I. CALL TO ORDER, ROLL CALL

Chair Maya Rabasa called the work session to order at 5:32 p.m. She said the names of the board members and guests in attendance.

II. RECEIVE REPORT FROM THE OFFICE OF STUDENT WELLBEING

A continuation of the PowerPoint presentation originally started on April 17, 2024, Dr.

Kerry Frazee and her team further provided a report from the Office of Student Wellbeing. The department works in collaboration with community partners to enhance and strengthen mental health resources available to students and families in Eugene School District 4J.

Dr. Frazee explained that the district is currently in their second year of implementation of a strategic plan for suicide prevention known as JED's Comprehensive Approach. The program is designed specifically for high schools but will be adapted districtwide.

Staff introduced the Oregon Department of Education's (ODE) Integrated Model of Mental Health, developed in 2020.

Dr. Frazee invited members of the Care and Advocacy Team to share some of their experiences working in the district.

Mental Health Specialist Jaime Hock described providing support to more than four district schools and meeting with students one-on-one. She supports approximately eight students daily. Her job requires a lot of flexibility. Her role also includes providing professional development and coordinating Parent Nights. Ms. Hock emphasized the importance of self-regulation for adults working with youth. She explained that conscious discipline is not a set of lessons, but a practice.

Mr. Di Liberto asked if Parent Night is in every school.

Ms. Hock explained that Parent Nights are still being piloted and expanding. More grant funding and a strategic rollout plan are in the works.

Staff shared that consistency is needed throughout all the schools; when students move schools they should experience the same culture and expectations.

Dr. Roy added that when thinking about district culture the key is not leaving anyone, staff or students, behind. She reflected on a recent opportunity she had to train alongside a range of district staff.

Dr. Frazee said the Care and Advocacy Team has a model of providing mental health support in schools, but they do not yet have a provider in every school.

Ms. Newman asked how all the district teams work together.

Ms. Hock responded that every school operates a little bit differently. Personally, she tries to maintain relationships with counselors and data teams by using good communication. She added that job descriptions do not always match the role staff were hired to do.

Ms. Newman asked how that is managed in a big system like 4J.

Dr. Frazee responded that job classifications occur in the Human Resources department.

Interim Superintendent Gill agreed that the HR Department can help classify and make sure that everyone knows their role and the role of their partners. He explained that many of the resources are new to the district and [the district] is going through growing pains. He added that he has not seen a district that is as well-resourced to address behavioral needs as 4J. As impressive as the investment is, he said the district is still far from meeting student needs according to the national standard. The ratio for students to counselors in Oregon is roughly 600 to 1; and yet the national recommendation is 200 to 1.

Mr. Pfaefflin said data reveals that Oregon has some of the lowest access to mental health care for youth, putting more emphasis on providing adequate support in schools, while strengthening community partnerships.

Chair Rabasa suggested that the district create a directory of care.

Dr. Frazee responded that a directory of care is something the department has worked on and it is still in development. There are challenges, such as shifting positions and descriptions. She said it would be an exciting project to have a directory of care aligned with the districts' data management system for employees.

Chair Rabasa asked how the district is ensuring that approaches are culturally relevant and identity affirming.

Dr. Roy explained that students are going to go to staff who have a shared identity. Whenever there is trauma, personal or systemic, it takes time to rebuild trust and community. She emphasized the need for internal/institutional trauma informed practices.

Vice Chair Jonak asked how special education (SPED) is integrated into district services, for example, beyond an Individual Education Program (IEP).

Mr. Pfaefflin responded that integration is achieved through ongoing district trainings, including autism and masking trainings, and interdepartmental collaboration.

Dr. Frazee thanked the BOD for their time.

III. ADJORN

Chair Rabasa adjourned the work session at 6:37 p.m.

Colt Gill
District Clerk

Maya Rabasa
Board Chair

(Recorded by LCOG)
Approved on 06/05/2024