

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

Date: April 2, 2025

The Board of Directors (BOD) of School District No. 4J, Lane County, Oregon, held a special board meeting at 5:00 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 March 28, 2025.

ROLL CALL

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:

Jenny Jonak, Chair

Tom Di Liberto, Vice Chair

Maya Rabasa

Ericka Thessen

Judy Newman

Morgan Munro

Rick Hamilton

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT:

None

STAFF:

Colt Gill, Interim Superintendent

Carmen Xiomara Urbina, Chief of Staff

Matt Brown, Director of Financial Services

Lisa Fjordbeck, Operations Coordinator for the Superintendent's Office

Brooke Wagner, Assistant Superintendent for Administrative Services

Jill Cuadros, Director of Nutrition Services

Juan Carlos Cuadros, Assistant Superintendent of Equity, Inclusion, and Belonging

Larry Williams, Assistant Superintendent of Instruction

Sebastian Bolden, Director of Middle School Education

Jeff Johnson, Director of Elementary Education

Kelly McIver, Communications Director

Christine Nesbit, General Counsel

Cynthia Calletano, Executive Assistant to the Chief of Staff

Debbie McKim, Executive Assistant to the Interim Superintendent and Board

STUDENT REPRESENTATIVES:

Sheridan Schilling, Churchill High School

EMPLOYEE GROUPS:

Lisa Jenkins-Easton, Oregon School Employees Association (OSEA)

Misty Jackson, MAPS

Nicholas Hadley, MAPS

OTHER GUESTS:

None.

MEDIA:

KVAL

KEZI

KRVM

Register Guard

I. CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL

Chair Jonak called the special board meeting to order at 5:00 p.m. She said the names of the Board members who were present.

II. AGENDA APPROVAL

The agenda was approved as presented.

III. ITEM FOR ACTION**1. APPOINTMENT OF SUPERINTENDENT**

Chair Jonak provided background information regarding the appointment of a permanent Eugene School District 4J superintendent. She explained that the Board of Directors (BOD) began the process of identifying a permanent superintendent in fall 2024. The selection process was designed to be highly inclusive and community informed. Students, families, staff, and community members provided input about desired leadership qualities. Candidates were interviewed by community panels, district leadership, and the BOD. Chair Jonak recommended the appointment of Miriam Mickelson to the position of 4J superintendent beginning on July 1, 2025.

Chair Jonak opened the floor for comments.

Vice Chair Di Liberto thanked all participants in the superintendent search process. He welcomed Dr. Miriam Mickelson to 4J.

Ms. Newman echoed Vice Chair Di Liberto's statements and commented on Dr. Mickelson's strengths and expertise.

Ms. Rabasa read a personal statement in favor of Dr. Mickelson's appointment, stating that she genuinely believes Dr. Mickelson is leader who will compassionately and with firm commitment guide 4J in refining systems to be centered on the cornerstones of building relationships, celebrating all of our humanity, inspiring excellence, and connecting through community.

Interim Superintendent Gill expanded on Dr. Mickelson's merits. He mentioned the importance of the district having a long-serving superintendent. He said that 4J has been on the forefront of equitable practices, innovation, and incredible student success under the steady and trusted leadership of long serving superintendents.

Mr. Hamilton praised Dr. Mickelson's commitment to Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI).

Chair Jonak said she is thrilled with the selection of Dr. Mickelson for permanent superintendent. She added that Dr. Mickelson's leadership qualities, life experiences, kindness, empathy, and deep caring for students and staff is exactly what 4J needs.

MOTION: Vice Chair Di Liberto moved to appoint Miriam Mickelson to the position of superintendent of Eugene School District 4J to take office on July 1, 2025 pending the completion of contract negotiations. Ms. Rabasa seconded. **The motion passed unanimously, 7:0; Chair Jonak, Vice Chair Di Liberto, Ms. Rabasa, Ms. Newman, Ms. Thessen, Ms. Munro, and Mr. Hamilton all voting in favor.**

2. DESIGNATE BOARD MEMBER TO COMPLETE SUPERINTENDENT CONTRACT

Chair Jonak initiated designating a Board member to complete the superintendent contract. She recommended that Ms. Newman be tasked with preparing a proposed contract for approval.

MOTION: Vice Chair Di Liberto moved to designate Ms. Newman to work with legal counsel to complete contract negotiations with Dr. Miriam Mickelson and present the contract to the BOD for approval at a future meeting. Mr. Hamilton seconded. **The motion passed unanimously, 7:0; Chair Jonak, Vice Chair Di Liberto, Ms. Rabasa, Ms. Newman, Ms. Thessen, Ms. Munro, and Mr. Hamilton all voting in favor.**

IV. ADJORN

Chair Jonak adjourned the special board meeting at 5:21 p.m.



Colt Gill
District Clerk



Jenny Jonak
Board Chair

(Recorded by LCOG)
Approved on 04/16/2025