

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

Date: June 4, 2025

The Board of Directors (BOD) of School District No. 4J, Lane County, Oregon, held a regular meeting at 6:00 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 May 30, 2025.

ROLL CALL

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:

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

STAFF:

Carmen Xiomara Urbina, Chief of Staff
Matt Brown, Finance Director
Lisa Fjordbeck, Operations Coordinator for the Superintendent's Office
Brooke Wagner, Assistant Superintendent for Administrative Services
Larry Williams, Assistant Superintendent of Instruction and Access
Seth Pfaefflin, Director of Student Services
Erin Gaston, Curriculum Administrator
Della Thomas, SSD Administrator
Cynthia Calletano, Executive Assistant to the Chief of Staff
Debbie McKim, Executive Assistant to the Interim Superintendent and Board

STUDENT REPRESENTATIVES:

Autumn Thessen, Early College and Career Options (ECCO)
Lane Lowd, Eugene Online Academy (EOA)
Carmen Gonzalez Valle, Sheldon High School
Katheryn Hehman, International High School (IHS)
Cora Ludwig, South Eugene High School
Deeya Patel, South Eugene High School

EMPLOYEE GROUPS:

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

OTHER GUESTS:

Mary Vuksich-Shafer, Lane County Tax Assessor

MEDIA:

KRVM

Register Guard

I. CALL TO ORDER, ROLL CALL, AND LAND ACKNOWLEDGMENT

Chair Jonak called the regular meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. She said the names of the members present and read a land acknowledgement statement.

II. AGENDA APPROVAL

The agenda was approved as presented.

III. INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS AND SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

There was none.

IV. RECEIVE REPORTS FROM HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT REPRESENTATIVES

Lane Lowd, EOA, shared concerns about EOA student representation, specifically that a future representative will receive adequate support in their role. He urged the Board of Directors (BOD) to be more proactive with EOA student body and staff. He said online schools can thrive if given the proper resources.

Deeya Patel and Cora Ludwig highlighted their Homecoming dance, winter formal, and prom. They reported problems with food restrictions during other events, clubs, and affinity groups. They cited restrictive food policies and said students want to know why. Ms. Ludwig provided an example of a recent ice cream social during which they were not allowed to serve ice cream. They urged the district to reconsider the current policies.

Autumn Thessen, ECCO, said that student morale is still low but steadily increasing. ECCO has started an Individual School Improvement Plan based on student feedback. She reported students feeling unsupported by staff, the district, and the government. She thanked the BOD for their time.

Olivia Dodge and Sheridan Schilling, on behalf of Vice Chair Di Liberto provided a report. They reported low morale for Seniors and excitement among other students regarding the end of the school year. End of the year events include Senior Recognition Assembly, Cap and Gown Walk-through, Senior Sunset, and Senior Breakfast. There is a community-sponsored Graduation Party happening on Sunday, June 8 at 10:00 p.m.

Carmen Gonzalez Valle, Sheldon High School, reported that club participation has dropped given the end of the school year, but they are still holding festivities and planning for next year. She said the annual PRIDE Festival was held at North Eugene High School – it was a huge success. She reported on the accomplishments of choir and band, highlighting that varsity choir placed 17 out of 24 at Oregon districts. Ms. Gonzalez Valle added that Sheldon students visited the Oregon State Capitol.

Kathryn Hehman, IHS, reported that their closing assembly went well. They honored graduating IB candidates – a class of over 100 this year. IHS student government positions were elected, and the Tri Campus President is Ms. Hehman. She announced other Tri Campus positions. She thanked the BOD for their service and said she looks forward to serving as the HIS student representative next year.

V. ITEMS RAISED BY THE AUDIENCE

David Igl commented that he is providing information to members of the community with a demonstrated interest in education about what he claims to be an extensive amount of dystopian fiction being misrepresented as documented history. He cited an event at the University of Oregon (UO) in November 2017 and referenced the author Eckard V. Toy.

Janet Ayres brought attention to sex education curriculum. She requested an open house for parents to preview the scope and sequence of sex education curriculum. Regarding the parking lot at the Education Center, she said the district should consider charging fees for non-district users (specifically Willamette Family Inc.). She suggested the district install gates in the parking lot and more carefully monitor it on the weekends.

Erica Walla, 4J parent, raised concerns about communication and community engagement. She suggested that parent involvement is worthwhile and could be improved upon. She reported positive feedback regarding the new Board Highlights Feature included in the bi-monthly 4J E-news and suggested a newsletter, blog, and/or social media engagement. Ms. Walla added that she hopes the Community Engagement Committee will address the issue alongside the new Superintendent.

Roscoe Caron (online), former 4J teacher and Community Alliance for Public Education (CAPE) Representative, cited the book *The Feminine Mystique* by Betty Friedan. He suggested that the female experience illustrated in Friedan's book also applies to educators today. He said the current system tells teachers what to teach, when to teach, how to teach, when to assess, and how to assess. He stated that as with Friedan's description of patriarchy, the current system is backed by overwhelming consensus. He cited the governor's new education bill, which includes a regimen of state mandated testing, specifically standardized interim tests.

VI. COMMENTS BY EMPLOYEE GROUPS

Lisa Jenkins-Easton, Oregon School Employees Association (OSEA) President, addressed labor relations and the formal complaint system. While she does not feel that the labor relations as a whole have improved, she outlined some positives: attempts to address issues in Special Education (SPED), classified staff reporting being more aware of their rights, and a proposed safety article addressing bullying and harassment in the workplace. She highlighted an uptick in classified staff filing complaints, asserted that the formal complaint process is flawed, and urged accountability.

VII. CONSENT GROUP – ITEMS FOR ACTION

- 1. APPROVE DRAFT MEETING MINUTES FOR:
MAY 7, 2025 REGULAR BOARD MEETING
MAY 21, 2025 BOARD WORK SESSION**

There was no discussion.

2. APPROVE ADDING ADDITIONAL, SIXTH, YEAR TO NUTRITION DEPARTMENT'S BAKERY PRODUCTS RFP 20-0202-1

There was no discussion.

3. ADD ADDITIONAL, SIXTH, YEAR TO NUTRITION DEPARTMENT'S PRODUCE PRODUCTS RFP 2021-0604-01

There was no discussion.

4. RFP 25-354: APPROVE A CONTRACT FOR NUTRITION SERVICES WITH US FOODS

There was no discussion.

5. AUTHORIZE AGREEMENT TO EXCHANGE SURPLUS PROPERTY (TINY HOME) FOR CTE PARTNERSHIP

There was no discussion.

6. APPROVE THE 2026-2027 SCHOOL YEAR CALENDAR AND ADJUSTMENTS TO THE 2025-2026 CALENDAR

Ms. Rabasa recommended acknowledging Indigenous Peoples' Day on Mondays, as opposed to Fridays, on school calendars.

7. APPROVAL FOR BOARD DIRECTORS WHO CHOOSE TO ATTEND, TO PARTICIPATE IN ONE OR BOTH OF THE OREGON SCHOOL BOARD ASSOCIATION (OSBA) CONFERENCES THAT TAKE PLACE IN THE 2025-2026 SCHOOL YEAR: AUGUST 08-10, 2025 OSBA SUMMER BOARD CONFERENCE, SALEM AND NOVEMBER 06-08, 2025, OSBA ANNUAL CONVENTION, PORTLAND

There was no discussion.

MOTION: Vice Chair Di Liberto moved to approve the consent group. Ms. Thessen seconded. **The motion passed unanimously, 7:0:0; Chair Jonak, Vice Chair Di Liberto, Ms. Thessen, Ms. Newman, Ms. Rabasa, Ms. Munro, and Mr. Hamilton all voting in favor.**

VIII. ITEMS FOR INFORMATION

1. RECEIVE INFORMATION AND HOLD DISCUSSION REGARDING HOUSE BILL 3518, PROVIDE DIRECTION TO THE BOARD LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE ABOUT NEXT STEPS

Ms. Newman provided background information regarding House Bill 3518, including relevant historical data related to the bill. She explained that the bill stabilizes and diversifies the County Assessment Function Funding Assistance Account (CAFFA), including a general fund investment of \$10 million – \$5 million a year for each year of the biennium. She said the purpose is to help counties get through a backlog of appraisals and keep up with the volume going

forward. Lane County has the largest backlog of all counties. In addition, it adds charges to the recipients of the taxes at 0.3% of the total tax revenue they will receive. She referenced informational materials provided in the Board Book. Ms. Newman said the BOD's Legislative Committee and the Superintendent met with the Lane County Tax Assessor's Office multiple times to discuss HB 3518. They believe it fits their legislative priority of increasing funds. She introduced Lane County Tax Assessor Mary Vuksich-Shafer, who answered questions from the BOD.

Ms. Munro asked how the Tax Assessor's Office is funded other than proposed HB 3518.

Ms. Vuksich-Shafer responded that statewide assessment and taxation administrative tasks are funded by the County General Fund, CAFFA, and (to a much lesser extent) application fees.

Vice Chair Di Liberto asked Ms. Vuksich-Shafer about major criticisms regarding HB 3518.

Ms. Vuksich-Shafer responded that some feedback has indicated fear of overtaxing low-income residents. She said that once educated on the Oregon property tax system and history, people learn the system is not administered uniformly or fairly. She said their office takes financial considerations seriously and is judicious with how they administer services. She provided further context about how property taxes and new construction is calculated and added to the tax roll.

Chair Jonak shared concerns about high property taxes affecting housing affordability, and the potential impact on the willingness of taxpayers to support levies and bonds. She also recommended an educational component ensuring that HB 3518 does not disincentivize people from taking out building permits.

Ms. Vuksich-Shafer assured Chair Jonak that their office provides outreach and education. She said they provide programs for special groups including veterans, seniors, low-income, and disabled residents.

In closing, Ms. Vuksich-Shafer mentioned that all five County Commissioners, City of Eugene, City of Springfield, and Springfield School District 19 are in support of HB 3518.

Ms. Munro asked for clarification about the form of support they are seeking.

Ms. Newman responded that the BOD would write a letter of support for HB 3518 to be provided at the next legislative hearing.

Chair Jonak asked if the Oregon School Board Association (OSBA) and the Coalition of School Administrators (COSA) support HB 3518.

Ms. Vuksich-Shafer responded that they are optimistic they will gain their support, and Ms. Newman added more information for context.

Ms. Vuksich-Shafer claimed that school district budgets will be unaffected in 2025-2026 and most districts will see a positive revenue return in 2026-2027.

Chair Jonak said she would be more inclined to support HB 3518 if OSBA and COSA supported the bill.

Ms. Munro expressed her general support for HB 3518.

Ms. Rabasa said that she is committed to not opposing House Bill 3518.

Ms. Newman briefly summarized BOD feedback:

1. OSBA/COSA neutral or supportive
2. Programs and options for low-income residents
3. Commitment to education and outreach

IX. ITEMS FOR ACTION

1. CONSIDER SELECTION OF A NAME FOR THE CHINESE IMMERSION SCHOOL

Ms. Thessen recommended selecting Hé Lín (Harmony Grove) as the permanent name for the Chinese Immersion School. She provided background information related to the school name selection process and received comments from individual Board members.

MOTION: Ms. Thessen moved to approve the name Hé Lín (Harmony Grove) for the Chinese Immersion School. Seconded by Vice Chair Di Liberto. **The motion passed unanimously, 7:0:0; Chair Jonak, Vice Chair Di Liberto, Ms. Rabasa, Ms. Thessen, Ms. Newman, Ms. Munro, and Mr. Hamilton all voting in favor.**

2. MERGER OF LOOKING GLASS LONGTERM CARE AND TREATMENT PROGRAMS

Student Services Administrator Della Thomas and Director of Student Services Seth Pfaefflin recommended the merger of Looking Glass Longterm Care and Treatment Programs. They provided relevant information, namely that according to Oregon statute, 4J is responsible for educating students temporarily attending Looking Glass day or residential treatment programs located within district boundaries.

MOTION: Ms. Munro moved to approve the merger of Looking Glass Longterm Care and Treatment Program. Seconded by Mr. Hamilton. **The motion passed unanimously, 7:0:0; Chair Jonak, Vice Chair Di Liberto, Ms. Rabasa, Ms. Thessen, Ms. Newman, Ms. Munro, and Mr. Hamilton all voting in favor.**

3. APPROVE RESOLUTION 2025-26 MAKING APPROPRIATIONS FROM THE ACCEPTANCE OF GRANT FUNDS

Director of Finance Matt Brown recommended Approving Resolution 2025-26 Making Appropriations from the Acceptance of Grant Funds. He provided relevant background information related to the action item.

MOTION: Ms. Munro moved to approve Resolution 2025-26 Making Appropriations from the Acceptance of Grant Funds. Seconded by Ms. Newman. **The motion passed unanimously, 7:0:0; Chair Jonak, Vice Chair Di Liberto, Ms. Rabasa, Ms. Thessen, Ms. Newman, Ms. Munro, and Mr. Hamilton all voting in favor.**

4. PROPOSED BOARD MEETING CALENDAR FOR THE 2025-26 SCHOOL YEAR

Chair Jonak recommended approving the Proposed Board Meeting Calendar for the 2025-26 School Year.

MOTION: Vice Chair Di Liberto moved to approve the Proposed Board Meeting Calendar for the 2025-26 School Year. Seconded by Ms. Rabasa. **The motion passed unanimously, 7:0:0; Chair Jonak, Vice Chair Di Liberto, Ms. Rabasa, Ms. Thessen, Ms. Newman, Ms. Munro, and Mr. Hamilton all voting in favor.**

5. APPROVE THE PROCESS MODEL THAT WILL BE USED TO ELECT THE CHAIR AND VICE CHAIR AND ORGANIZE THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS FOR THE 2025-26 SCHOOL YEAR

Chair Jonak recommended approving the process model that will be used to elect the Chair and Vice Chair and organize the BOD for the 2025-26 school year. She invited Board members to express their interest in serving in a leadership position. She added that they will also have an opportunity to do so at their July meeting.

Ms. Thessen expressed her interest in either (Chair or Vice Chair) leadership position.

Ms. Munro expressed her interest in either (Chair or Vice Chair) leadership position and emphasized her deep hope of continuing the practice of Vice Chair being open to serving as Chair.

The BOD discussed the process model for the selection of leadership positions. There was the most support for a ballot vote model.

MOTION: Ms. Thessen moved to approve the ballot vote model for Board of Directors leadership elections. Seconded by Ms. Rabasa. **The motion passed, 6:1:0; Chair Jonak, Vice Chair Di Liberto, Ms. Rabasa, Ms. Thessen, Ms. Munro, and Mr. Hamilton all voting in favor; Ms. Newman voting against.**

6. EXPLORE THE CONCEPT OF A SUPERINTENDENT TRANSITION COMMITTEE OR GROUP

Ms. Rabasa reported on the concept of a Superintendent Transition Committee. She said incoming superintendent Miriam Miralles Mickelson is in favor of forming the committee and is currently working with staff. No action is needed at this time.

7. APPROVE REVISIONS TO BOARD POLICY IIA – INSTRUCTIONAL MATERIALS SELECTION (SECOND READ)

Assistant Superintendent of Instruction and Access Larry Williams and MTSS Specialist Erin Gaston recommended approving revisions to Board Policy IIA – Instructional Materials Selection. They provided relevant background information related to the action item.

MOTION: Vice Chair Di Liberto moved to approve revisions to Board Policy IIA – Instructional Materials Selection. Seconded by Ms. Munro. **The motion passed unanimously, 7:0:0; Chair Jonak, Vice Chair Di Liberto, Ms.**

Rabasa, Ms. Thessen, Ms. Newman, Ms. Munro, and Mr. Hamilton all voting in favor.

8. SET STUDENT TRANSFER LIMITS AS PER POLICY JECB (SECOND READ)

Chief of Staff Carmen Xiomara Urbina recommended approval of setting student transfer limits as per policy JECB. She provided relevant background information related to the action item.

MOTION: Vice Chair Di Liberto moved to set student transfer limits as per policy JECB. Seconded by Ms. Newman. **The motion passed unanimously, 7:0:0; Chair Jonak, Vice Chair Di Liberto, Ms. Rabasa, Ms. Thessen, Ms. Newman, Ms. Munro, and Mr. Hamilton all voting in favor.**

X. ITEMS FOR ACTION AT A FUTURE MEETING

There were none.

XI. COMMENTS BY INDIVIDUAL BOARD MEMBERS

Ms. Newman thanked 4J students and organizers of the annual PRIDE Festival.

Ms. Thessen congratulated all graduating students, including those who obtained GEDs.

Vice Chair Di Liberto congratulated all graduating students.

Ms. Munro recognized the service of Student Representatives.

Ms. Rabasa echoed the sentiments and apologized to students who are not graduating this year. She reaffirmed her commitment to supporting all students.

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

There were none.

XIII. ADJOURNMENT

Chair Jonak adjourned the regular meeting at 8:34 p.m.

(Recorded by Terah Van Dusen, LCOG)

Dr. Miriam Mickelson
District Clerk

Tom Di Liberto
Board Chair