

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

Date: July 9, 2025

The Board of Directors (BOD) of School District No. 4J, Lane County, Eugene, Oregon, held a special board meeting at 6:00 p.m. via live-stream and broadcast on KRVM. Notice of the meeting was emailed to the media and posted on the 4J website on July 4, 2024.

ROLL CALL

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:

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

STAFF:

Miriam Mickelson, Superintendent
Carmen Xiomara Urbina, Chief of Staff
Matt Brown, Director of Finance
Kelly McIver, Communications Director
Kat Lange, Executive Director of Youth and Family Support
Cynthia Calletano, Executive Assistant to the Chief of Staff/Board
Debbie McKim, Executive Assistant to the Superintendent/Board Secretary
Lisa Fjordbeck, Operations Manager for the Superintendent's Office

OTHER GUESTS:

None

EMPLOYEE ASSOCIATIONS:

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

MEDIA:

KRVM

I. CALL SPECIAL BOARD MEETING TO ORDER, ROLL CALL

Chair Jonak called the special board meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

II. ADMINISTRATOR OATH OF OFFICE TO NEWLY ELECTED BOARD MEMBERS

Chair Jonak engaged the Board and Superintendent in a swearing-in of newly elected

Board members. She explained that the Eugene School District 4J Board of Directors (BOD) consists of seven members elected to serve four-year terms, with elections occurring in May of each odd numbered year. The term of office for newly elected Board members begins July 1, 2025. On May 20, 2025, three of the seven Board positions were elected from the district at-large – positions 2, 3, and 6.

Chair Jonak invited Superintendent Miriam Mickelson to administer the Oath of Office for newly elected school board members.

After providing a brief statement, Superintendent Mickelson conducted an Oath of Office appointing Ericka Thessen to Position 2, lasting from July 1, 2025 through June 30, 2029.

Superintendent Mickelson conducted an Oath of Office appointing Judy Newman to Position 3, lasting from July 1, 2025 through June 30, 2029.

Superintendent Mickelson conducted an Oath of Office appointing Maya Rabasa to Position 6, lasting from July 1, 2025 through June 30, 2029.

Chair Jonak officially welcomed Superintendent Mickelson to her first school board meeting at 4J and expressed enthusiasm on behalf of the BOD and district.

Superintendent Mickelson responded with a statement, including that 4J is an incredible community that understands and values the power and impact of public education, and she feels blessed to be a part of it. She said her hope is that when students leave 4J they are fully prepared to lead a life of significance...contributing to something greater than themselves, leaving a meaningful impact beyond personal success or material gain, and earnestly making the world a better place by seeing the humanity in others. She thanked the BOD for their warm welcome.

Superintendent Mickelson noted Executive Assistant to the Superintendent and Board Debbie McKim's retirement and welcomed back Lisa Fjordbeck to fulfill the role.

Chair Jonak expressed gratitude for Ms. McKim and acknowledged Interim Superintendent Colt Gill's leadership during the 2024-25 school year.

III. AGENDA APPROVAL

There were no changes to the agenda.

IV. CONSENT GROUP – ITEMS FOR ACTION

1. APPROVE BOARD MEETING MINUTES FOR JUNE 4, 2025 REGULAR BOARD MEETING AND JUNE 10, 2025 SPECIAL BOARD MEETING

There was no discussion.

2. APPROVE DELEGATION OF PURCHASING AND SIGNING AUTHORITY

3. APPROVE RESOLUTION 2025-26-02, DESIGNATION OF AUDITOR, DISTRICT CLERKS, CUSTODIAN OF FUNDS, BUDGET OFFICER, INVESTMENT DEPOSITORIES, LOCAL PUBLIC CONTRACT REVIEW BOARD

There was no discussion.

4. SET TUITION RATES FOR THE 2025-26 SCHOOL YEAR

There was no discussion.

5. APPROVAL OF PRIVATE ALTERNATIVE EDUCATION OPTIONS CONTRACTS

There was no discussion.

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

V. ITEMS FOR ACTION

1. ELECT THE CHAIR AND VICE CHAIR AND ORGANIZE THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS FOR THE 2025-26 SCHOOL YEAR

Chair Jonak engaged the BOD in electing a new Chair for the 2025-26 school year.

Vice Chair Di Liberto provided a statement expressing interest in serving as Chair. He recognized Chair Jonak's leadership contributions during the 2024-25 school year.

MOTION: Maya Rabasa moved to elect Tom Di Liberto to serve as Chair of the Eugene School District 4J Board of Directors for the 2025-26 school year. Mr. Hamilton seconded. **The motion passed unanimously, 7-0; Jenny Jonak, Tom Di Liberto, Ericka Thessen, Maya Rabasa, Judy Newman, Morgan Munro, and Rick Hamilton all voting in favor.**

Chair Di Liberto engaged the BOD in electing a new Vice Chair for the 2025-26 school year.

Ms. Munro and Ms. Thessen both provided statements expressing their interest in serving as Vice Chair and speaking to the experience and strengths they bring to the role.

A ballot vote was conducted, reflecting a slight preference for Ms. Thessen to serve as Vice Chair (four votes for Ms. Thessen, three votes for Ms. Munro).

MOTION: Maya Rabasa moved to elect Ericka Thessen to serve as Vice Chair of the Eugene School District 4J Board of Directors for the 2025-26 school year. Ms. Munro seconded. **The motion passed unanimously, 7:0:0; Jenny Jonak, Tom**

Di Liberto, Ericka Thessen, Maya Rabasa, Judy Newman, Morgan Munro, and Rick Hamilton all voting in favor.

2. APPROVE DESIGNATING A BOARD MEMBER AS CONTACT PERSON FOR MEDIA INQUIRIES REGARDING FEDERAL LITIGATION

Chair Di Liberto introduced Approving Designating a Board Member as Contact Person for Media Inquiries Regarding Federal Litigation.

Ms. Jonak offered to continue serving in the role of media contact for inquiries regarding federal litigation.

MOTION: Ms. Munro made a motion to approve designating Jenny Jonak as media contact for inquiries regarding federal litigation. Vice Chair Thessen seconded. **The motion passed unanimously, 7:0:0; Chair Di Liberto, Vice Chair Thessen, Ms. Jonak, Ms. Rabasa, Ms. Newman, Ms. Munro, and Mr. Hamilton all voting in favor.**

VI. ADJOURN

Following closing statements, Chair Di Liberto adjourned the special board meeting at 6:34 p.m.

(Recorded by Terah Van Dusen, LCOG)

Dr. Miriam Mickelson
District Clerk

Tom Di Liberto
Board Chair