

**MINUTES OF THE WORK SESSION
OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS
SCHOOL DISTRICT 4J, LANE COUNTY, OREGON**

Date: February 18, 2026

The Board of Directors (BOD) of School District No. 4J, Lane County, Eugene, Oregon, held a work session 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 February 13, 2026.

ROLL CALL

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:

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

ABSENT:

None

STAFF:

Miriam Mickelson, Superintendent
Carmen Xiomara Urbina, Chief of Staff
Christine Nesbit, General Counsel
Matt Brown, Director of Finance
Brooke Wagner, Human Resources Director
Kelly McIver, Communications Director
Oscar Loureiro, Director of Research and Planning
Jen Bills, Director of Safety and Emergency Management
Cynthia Calletano, Executive Assistant to the Chief of Staff/Board
Lisa Fjordbeck, Operations Manager for the Superintendent's Office

OTHER GUESTS:

B. Grace Bullock, Administrator for Prevention and Mental Health Services
Trista Neuman, Community Care Specialist – 15th Night Program
Eve Cornelius, Community Care Specialist – McKinney-Vento
Kristine Craft, Community Care Specialist – McKinney-Vento

EMPLOYEE ASSOCIATIONS:

Jamie Meyers, Eugene Education Association (EEA) President

Scott Mayers, Managers, Administrators, Professionals, and Supervisors (MAPS) Co-President

Lisa Jenkins-Easton, Oregon School Employees Association (OSEA) Chapter 1 President – (via Zoom Webinar)

MEDIA:

KRVM

I. CALL WORK SESSION TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL

Chair Di Liberto called the work session to order at 6:41 p.m. He said the names of the Board members who were present.

II. BOARD CHAIR WELCOME

Chair Di Liberto welcomed attendees. He reported that one or more Board of Directors (BOD) attended the following events:

- Unified basketball game between Churchill and Sheldon high schools
- Transportation Safety Forum at Roosevelt Middle School
- Asian American Council of Oregon Lunar New Year Artwalk
- IB Accreditation Review and Inaugural Hall of Fame Dinner at North Eugene High School
- Black History Month celebrations at City Club of Eugene
- Martin Luther King Jr. assembly at North Eugene High School

Ms. Newman announced that Eugene Education Foundation (EEF) is holding their annual gala on Thursday, April 2, 2026 at 5:30 p.m. at the Ford Alumni Center. This year's theme is "Bright Minds."

III. AGENDA APPROVAL

The agenda was approved as presented.

IV. PUBLIC COMMENT

Patrick Newsom, Oregon Farm to School Procurement Hub Coordinator, provided comments. He said Eugene School District 4J has become a leader in the farm to school movement. He raised concern about potential impacts to the program. He explained that several years ago, 4J elected to self-manage their nutrition department, divesting from a corporatized food system, and instead investing in one that nourished the local food economy. He described the efforts that went into implementing the model, and the positive impact of the efforts on the student body. He suggested that reducing access to nutritious school meals disenfranchises students, particularly those who are most vulnerable. Mr. Newsom cautioned against impacting the Farm to School program and urged a continuity of investment.

V. COMMENTS BY EMPLOYEE GROUPS

Scott Mayers, Managers, Administrators, Professionals, and Specialists (MAPS) Co-President, provided comments related to Senate Bill 141 – the Education Accountability Act. He emphasized the importance of accountability in education, to stay on track, while also acknowledging that accountability narrows the focus. He mentioned that the Oregon School Board Association (OSBA), the Coalition of Oregon School Administrators (COSA), and the Oregon Association of Educational Service Districts (OAESD) have all expressed concern about the measure, namely that it does not include funding for the new interim assessments required to support the expanded accountability system – thus it is an unfunded mandate during a time of severe budget restriction. He cited other flaws inherent in the measure and expressed concern about potential impacts to educational systems and students.

VI. CONSENT GROUP – ITEMS FOR ACTION

1. APPROVE THE DRAFT BOARD MEETING MINUTES FOR: JANUARY 21, 2026 REGULAR BOARD MEETING AND FEBRUARY 4, 2026 REGULAR BOARD MEETING

There was no discussion.

2. RECEIVE FINANCIAL REPORT FOR KRVM 91.9 – 1280 KRVM AM FOR THE 2024-25 FISCAL YEAR

There was no discussion.

3. APPROVE BOND PROJECT – MULTI-SITE PAVEMENT SLURRY SEALING

There was no discussion.

4. APPROVE BOND PROJECT – MULTI-SITE PAVING IMPROVEMENTS

There was no discussion.

5. APPROVE BOND PROJECT – SOUTH EUGENE WINDOW REPLACEMENT

There was no discussion.

6. APPROVE BOND PROJECT – MULTI-SITE HVAC IMPROVEMENTS

There was no discussion.

MOTION: Vice Chair Thessen moved to approve the consent agenda.

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

VII. ITEMS FOR INFORMATION

1. RECEIVE AN UPDATE ON EUGENE SCHOOL DISTRICT 4J'S COMMUNITY OF CARE SYSTEM

Administrator for Prevention and Mental Health Services B. Grace Bullock and

Community Care Specialist – 15th Night Trista Neuman, along with two other Community Care Specialists, provided an update via PowerPoint presentation.

They outlined community care:

- Based on “building bridges” to serve youth and families
- Build upon existing investments, workforce, strengths, collaborations, and partnerships
- Embed dedicated Community Care Specialists in regions to provide emotional support and system navigation
- Strengthen collaborations between school mental health/counseling, student services, instruction, and community partners

They presented embedded levels of care:

- Administrators, family support specialists, health/sexual education, mental health practitioners, nurses, physical education educators, professional learning circles, school counselors, SEL specialists, staff wellness coordinators, substance use educators, community care specialists, graduation coaches and career counselors, health navigators, mental health support teams, nutrition services, pregnant and parenting teen programs, school-based health center providers, school social workers, special educators, STD prevention, and teachers on special assignments (TOSA).

They outlined partners:

- Administrators, community care coordinators, equity administrators, mental health contractors and administrators, occupational and physical therapists, language and speech therapists, school-based health centers, school psychologists, school safety and prevention specialists, and suicide prevention teams.

They presented local systems of care:

**A full list was outlined in the PowerPoint presentation, the following is abbreviated.*

- Affinity groups, charitable foundations, early childhood education, public health, behavioral health, crisis response, faith groups, Oregon Department of Human Services (ODHS) parks and recreation, respite, and primary care.

They outlined the mental health and wellbeing system:

- Prevention and Mental Health Services Administrator
 - Community Care Specialists
 - McKinney Vento Liaison
 - Family Resource Specialists
 - 15th Night Specialist
 - mental health therapists

- external mental health therapists
- school counselors

Ms. Bullock said their primary function is to provide access and stability within schools via providing linguistically and culturally attuned emotional support, basic needs system navigation, and referrals for students and families. She outlined Community Care Specialist focus areas, including but not limited to, case coordination, warm handoffs, and liaising with qualifying assistance programs.

They provided information about the Rapid Access Network (RAN), an online platform used to connect students to resources in real time. The network will soon be available in all district high schools and middle schools. If student/family needs cannot be met within the district, the network engages with the community for additional support. They said to date, a need has not gone unmet.

They spoke about resources available for McKinney Vento students, including transportation, basic needs, food, hygiene, school supplies/clothing, and other needs. They shared positive quotes from community members.

Ms. Bullock outlined current challenges and barriers:

- Need outweigh staff capacity
- Budget cuts to essential services
- Increase acuity of mental health crises in community
- Increased prevalence of poverty, houselessness, and food insecurity
- Stress on community services who offer support

Ms. Bullock presented future directions:

- Referral ticketing system expansion
- Implementation of RAN to all middle schools (end of 25-26 school year)
- Creating of regional RANs for elementary schools
- Incorporation of mental health referrals into RAN system
- Build out of RAN to collect service utilization data for decision-making
- Expanding communication and professional learning regarding CC Team and its functions
- Increased integration with district mental health team values and practices

The presenters invited questions from the BOD.

Ms. Newman asked if there are Spanish speaking volunteers.

Ms. Bullock responded that two of their care team members speak Spanish.

Ms. Newman said she is pleased they will be increasing integration and communication of mental health services within the district.

Ms. Bullock agreed. She said they are focusing on implementing smaller (i.e. building-level), rather than larger, professional development sessions.

In response to a question posed by Mr. Hamilton, they reported that roughly 750 district students experience homelessness annually.

In response to a question posed by Ms. Newman, Ms. Bullock confirmed that Medicaid covers some of services provided, as staff are trained as community health workers.

In response to further inquiry from Ms. Munro about funding sources, they cited title funding, community partnerships (including donations of material goods), grants, and local financial contributions.

Ms. Bullock acknowledged the immediate and ongoing need for external funding, pointing to limitations for grant funding opportunities.

2. RECEIVE INFORMATION ON SENATE BILL 141 – OREGON’S STATEWIDE ACCOUNTABILITY FRAMEWORK

Director of Research and Planning Oscar Loureiro and Chief of Staff Carmen Xiomara Urbina presented Senate Bill 141 Phase 1—aligning required common metrics and recommended local metrics with school year 2026-27 strategic planning via PowerPoint presentation.

Ms. Urbina provided relevant background information about SB 141. She emphasized that the district’s focus is not just on compliance but on system alignment. She said Phase 1 is about defining success clearly and responsibly before making major resource or programmatic shifts.

She outlined SB 141:

- Establishes a statewide accountability framework for how districts define, align, and monitor improvement over time
- Under SB 141 districts must:
 - Set growth targets for 7 required common metrics
 - Select 1 local metric from a state-approved menu
 - Monitor progress consistently and transparently
- Key Emphases:
 - Growth over time for one-time performance
 - Alignment across grade bands and systems
 - Equity-centered improvement
 - Clear outcomes without prescribing strategies

Ms. Urbina outlined implementing SB 141 through district values:

- Students First
- Equity Centered

- Racial Equity Commitment
- Data Justice

She presented 7 required common metrics:

- On-time graduation rates
- Five-year completion rates
- Ninth-grade on track
- Eighth-grade math proficiency (new)
- Third-grade literacy
- Regular attendance
- Early-grade attendance (new)

Ms. Urbina noted that in addition to the common metrics, SB 141 requires districts to select one local metric from the following menu:

- Academic growth (ELA and math) (*recommended*)
- Multilingual proficiency
- Fifth-grade science
- Postsecondary readiness
- Career and workforce readiness

Mr. Loureiro explained that under SB 141, 4J was placed by the Oregon Department of Education (ODE) within groups. 4J will be compared for growth and progress alongside districts with similar characteristics (district size, student demographics, etc.).

Comparisons will focus on growth over time, not raw performance. He added that 4J will need to pick one of four interim assessments approved by ODE using the process to be determined by ODE.

He provided the following information:

- SB 141 is a phased accountability framework focused on growth, coherence, and transparency – not a one-year compliance exercise.
- The State Board has approved a list of interim assessments for SB 141
- Districts will need to align to one of these options
- Estimated assessment cost is approximately \$250,000 annually, not including:
 - Professional learning
 - Implementation support
 - Data integration and reporting
- ODE is actively exploring state funding support for assessment costs

Mr. Loureiro said that beginning in FY 2027-28, the district must be ready to implement SB 141-aligned assessments. He provided further context, including comparisons between SB 141 and the No Child Left Behind Act. He mentioned that if the district does not meet growth targets after two years, ODE will offer coaching and support.

Ms. Urbina described alignment for Phase 1 in school year 2026-27, including setting districtwide growth goals. She mentioned a values document which will be shared with the BOD. She closed by recapping key takeaways and project leadership details.

Ms. Urbina and Mr. Loureiro responded to questions from the Board related to the implementation of SB 141.

Chair Di Liberto remarked that he appreciates the student and values centered approach their department is taking.

In response to a question posed by Superintendent Mickelson, Mr. Loureiro said that interim assessments must be administered and presented to the Board three times.

3. RECEIVE MONTHLY FINANCE REPORT

Finance Director Matt Brown presented the Monthly Finance Report (as of January 2025) via PowerPoint presentation, including enrollment, general fund revenue, general fund expenses, general fund over/under spending, and a financial summary.

Superintendent Mickelson added that the district research team developed a survey for students and families leaving the district to collect data to indicate why those individuals are leaving the district.

Mr. Brown noted that general fund expenses were higher than ideal, citing the finalization of the OSEA contract and slight general expense increases. He said their department will continue monitoring general fund expenses.

Mr. Brown outlined a 2026-27 forecast, including revenue and expense assumptions.

Revenues

- Property Taxes: 3.5% increase and 95% collection
- Local Option Levy: 4.5% increase
- SSF: 51% part of biennium and extended ADMw

Expenses

- 5% COLA increase
- Assumption of “up to reductions” from all 3 phases
- Increased unemployment expenditures
- PERS full rates for 3 months
- Reduction of 2% for other expenditures

Mr. Brown highlighted an anticipated 2026-27 ending fund balance of roughly \$23 million. He closed by providing assumptions further out on the horizon.

VIII. ITEMS FOR ACTION

1. APPROVE YEAR TWO OF THE 2025-27 LANE EDUCATION SERVICE DISTRICT LOCAL SERVICE PLAN

Superintendent Mickelson recommended approval of year two of the 2025-27 Lane Education Service District Local Service Plan.

MOTION: Vice Chair Thessen moved to approve year two of the 2025-27 Lane Education Service District Local Service plan. Ms. Newman seconded. **The motion passed unanimously, 7:0:0; Chair Di Liberto, Vice Chair Thessen, Ms. Rabasa, Ms. Newman, Ms. Jonak, Ms. Munro, and Mr. Hamilton all voting in favor.**

IX. ITEMS FOR ACTION AT A FUTURE MEETING

There were none.

X. COMMITTEE REPORTS BY INDIVIDUAL BOARD MEMBERS

There were none.

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

Ms. Munro requested a memorandum on the topic of the KRVM budget in light of impacts to Corporation for Public Broadcasting (CPB) funding.

XII. ADJOURN WORK SESSION

Chair Di Liberto adjourned the work session at 8:31 p.m.



Miriam Mickelson, Superintendent



Tom Di Liberto, Chair

Recorded by Terah Van Dusen, Lane Council of Governments (LCOG)

