

Board of Directors Meeting
School District 4J, Lane County
CHURCHILL HIGH SCHOOL CAFETERIA
1850 Bailey Hill Road
Wednesday, January 19, 2011 – 6 p.m.

REGULAR BOARD MEETING & PUBLIC HEARING

TO: Board of Directors
FROM: George Russell
Superintendent of Schools
RE: Reports and Recommendations

VII. ITEMS FOR INFORMATION

1. Receive an Update on a Potential City Tax for School Operations

The Eugene City Council held a work session on January 12 to discuss the possibility of a city tax to help support Eugene and Bethel school district operations. The City Council asked that a work group consisting of representatives from the City, the two school districts, Stand for Children and the business community be convened to develop a more specific proposal for Council discussion on January 24. The Council's work session discussion focused on two taxes suggested by community advocates: a restaurant tax and a city income tax. A majority of Councilors were not interested in further considering a restaurant tax, so the work group will focus on income tax options. In order for the Council to refer a tax measure to city voters for the May 2011 election, the Council would need to take action by February 15, 2011.

Staff will provide an update regarding the status of the work group and the board will have an opportunity to ask questions or identify issues for further discussion by the work group, City Council or board.

2. Public Charter Schools and Eugene School District 4J (Staff: Caroline Passerotti, Brad New)

District staff, accompanied by consultant Randy Harnisch, will provide a brief overview of Public Charter School Law, with a focus on the charter application process and evaluation criteria. In your packet is a handout which includes additional information on responsibilities for oversight and administration of district-sponsored charter schools and a history of charter schools and District 4J.

VIII. Public Hearing on the Superintendent's Sustainable Budget Final Recommendations and Alternate Options, Including School Closure/Consolidation Proposals

1. Summary of Final Recommendations from January 12, 2011 Board Meeting

Financial Assumptions

The final proposed target for 2011-12 is \$26 million rather than the previously revised target of \$22 million. The strategy goal is to achieve a balanced approach that still includes 50% ongoing or sustainable strategies through staff reductions, ratio changes, and service/program reductions of about \$13 million; about 25% through use of one-time dollars from reserves or other short-term sources for about \$6.5 million; and another 25% through compensation-related savings from a combination of fewer days (furloughs) and less in salary/benefits for around \$6.5 million.

Strategy Options. The following recommendations represent the final recommended strategy options that I am recommending. In some cases, there are also alternate scenarios requested by the board that could be considered in lieu of my recommendations. With the changed financial assumption, the major areas in which substantial revisions occurred are staff and program reduction; staffing ratios; closure and consolidation (reconfiguration); school/workday reductions (furloughs); and, other compensation-related adjustments. The strategy options I will be recommending, and any alternate options, are presented below:

1. Reduce Staffing/Services & Programs:

Final Recommendations:

2011-12

- Reduce administrative and classified staff by 10% (62 fte)– \$3.5M
 - including restructure and consolidate Central Office departments, reduce administration
- Change staffing ratio by 4 = 84 fte @ \$7.0M
- Eliminate or reduce teachers on special assignment and staff development specialists - \$0.5M
- Cost/Savings Target: \$11.0M

2012-13

- TBD

2013-14

- TBD

2. Fewer School/Work Days

Final Recommendations:

2011-12

- 10-13 Furlough Days (6 less school days) – one/month based on work year plus one additional day
- Cost/Savings Target: \$4.5M

2012-13

- Continue 10-13 Furlough Days (6 less school days) – one/month based on work year plus one additional day
- Consider 4-day work (32 hrs) and school weeks if necessary
- Cost/Savings Target: \$4.5M

2013-14

- Continue 10-13 Furlough Days (6 less school days) – one/month based on work year plus one additional day
- Continue 4-day work (32 hrs) and school weeks if necessary
- Cost/Savings Target: \$4.5M

3. School Closures/Consolidations

Final Recommendations:

2011-12

- Close Coburg, Crest Drive and Parker in 2011
- Consolidate Meadowlark at Willagillespie
- Move Charlemagne K-5 to Parker
- Cost/Savings Target: \$1M

2012-13

- Close Twin Oaks
- If Bond Measure passes, consolidate Twin Oaks with McCornack after addition
- Cost/Savings Target: \$0.3M

2013-14

- Possible closure/merger of non-language alternative schools with neighborhood schools
- Cost/Savings Target: TBD

Alternate Option

2011-12

- Close Coburg, Adams in 2011 (leaves Parker & Crest Drive open)
- Consolidate Meadowlark at Willagillespie
- Move Charlemagne K-5 to Adams
- Cost/Savings Target: \$0.5M, requires additional \$0.5M of ongoing reductions to be identified

4. Shared Services/Contracting Out

Final Recommendations:

2011-12

- Identify additional services that can be provided by Lane ESD
- Determine what current services can be transferred to Lane ESD
- Cost/Savings Target: \$0.5M

2012-13

- Explore service sharing options with other districts that could reduce costs
- Look at contracting out some services
- Cost/Savings Target: TBD

2013-14

- Contract out or consolidate some services with other school districts or provide through private sector
- Cost/Savings Target: TBD

5. Materials & Supplies/Services

Final Recommendations:

2011-12

- 15% reduction in materials & supplies, contracted services budget
- Centralize purchasing of materials & supplies, equipment
- Cost/Savings Target: \$1.1M

2012-13

- TBD

2013-14

- TBD

6. School Instruction/Redesign

Final Recommendations:

2011-12

- Stakeholder Task Force to recommend reconfiguration to Superintendent and Board for implementation 2012-13
- Redesign instructional delivery model for secondary schools to accommodate fewer students & less resources
- Cost/Savings Target: TBD

2012-13

- Revise school calendar
- Shorter summer breaks
- Consider 4 day school weeks
- Implementation of reconfiguration recommendations, if any
- Cost/Savings Target: TBD

2013-14

- TBD

7. Non-Instructional/Student Support Programs

Final Recommendations:

2011-12

- Reduce General Fund support for athletics programs and other extracurricular offerings by 25%
- Cost/Savings Target: \$0.5M

2012-13

- TBD

2013-14

- TBD

8. Reserves/One-time Funds

Final Recommendations:

2011-12

- Use up to \$6.5 million in reserves/one-time funds to maintain and bridge to 2012-13
- Cost/Savings Target: \$6.5M

2012-13

- Use up to \$3M from sales of surplus property or lease revenue
- Cost/Savings Target: \$3M

2013-14

- GF Reserve and Contingency = 90% of Board Targets
- Cost/Savings Target: TBD

2014-15

- GF Reserve and Contingency = Board Targets

9. Compensation/Benefits

Final Recommendations:

2011-12

- Negotiate pay freeze, including no step/column increase
- Negotiate \$210,000 decrease in benefits costs
- GF Costs/Savings Target: \$2.1 M

2012-13

- Negotiate contract adjustments that minimize and contain ongoing costs to district
- GF Costs/Savings Target: TBD

2013-14

- TBD

10. Revenue Enhancements

Final Recommendations:

2011-12

- Bond Measure \$130M in May 2011 for critical needs, technology & new school (offload of GF = \$1M)
- Increase community use fees by 20% (\$20K)
- Lease closed schools to charters/others (\$200K)
- Revenue Target: \$1.2M GF

2012-13

- Sell Civic, Willard, or other vacant facilities w/50% proceeds to GF Reserve (\$3-5M)
- Local tax to support local schools in 2012-13 (\$10M for 3 yrs) – Nov 2011
- Revenue Target: TBD

2013-14

- Implementation of any new revenue sources to mitigate reductions
- Revenue Target: TBD

11. Other Options

Final Recommendations:

- Consider early retirement incentives
- Adopt single-platform technology systems for centralized purchasing & technical support
- Minimize site-based decision making and increase centralized direction for staffing; e.g., program staffing for student support services
- GF Costs/Savings Target: TBD

The superintendent will recommend approval of recommendations 1 through 10 as provided above, or as the board may determine to adopt any of the alternative options identified above or as otherwise modified upon discussion of the board.

At the January 12 meeting, the board asked that the following option from the initial scenarios be re-instated as an alternate option:

Alternate Option:
Compensation/Benefits

Option B:

- Negotiate salary reduction of 5% across the board.
- Negotiate reduction in part of PERS employer pick-up.
 - GF Costs/Savings Target: \$4 - \$6 million

IX. Public Hearing on Public Charter School Proposals for Coburg Community Charter School, College of Knowledge and International School of Modern Technology (Staff: Caroline Passerotti, Brad New)

On November 15, the district received charter school proposals for Coburg Community Charter School, College of Knowledge and International School of Modern Technology. Copies of the main sections of the proposals are included in your board packet.

Under Oregon law and district board policy, the Board is required to hold a public hearing on the provisions of a charter school proposal prior to determining whether to approve or deny the proposal. The purpose of the public hearing is to receive public comment and to use that information to help determine "the demonstrated, sustainable support for the public charter school by teachers, parents, students and other community members."

You are scheduled to conduct a public hearing at this meeting; receive the Superintendent's recommendations for approving or disapproving the charter school proposals on Tuesday, January 25; and take action on the proposals on Wednesday, February 2, 2011.

X. Consent Group – Items for Action

1. Approve a Change in Policy JECC, School Choice, for High School Students
(Staff: Laurie Moses)

Action Proposed

Change the school choice application deadline for high schools to March 18, 2011 at 5 p.m.

Background

The board approved a change of the school choice application deadline for the 2011-2012 school year from March 18, 2011 to April 22, 2011. This decision was based on the belief that any announcement of school closures or consolidations for 2011-2012 would be made by early February and that families would need time beyond March to make school choice decisions.

It has now become evident that high schools will not be impacted by school closure or consolidation in 2011-2012. Given the time needed for students to request 2011-2012 classes and for developing a 2011-2012 master class schedule at each of our high schools, we are proposing to change the deadline for school choice at the high school level to the original deadline of March 18, 2011.

Discussion

1. Rationale

The April deadline delays the high school class registration and master scheduling process. High school staffs will have difficulty processing student class requests for 2011-2012 and then developing their school's master schedule in a timely manner.

Because high schools will not be impacted by school closures or consolidations 2011-2012, families with high school students will not require additional time for making school choice decisions.

2. Options and Alternatives

An option is to leave the school choice application deadline for high schools at April 22, 2011.

3. Budget Resource Implications

Changing the school choice application deadline for high schools to March 18, 2011 will potentially save costs in overtime or extended day pay accrued when staff must process student requests for classes and develop school master schedules on a shorter timeline.

4. Board and Superintendent Goals

The proposed change supports meeting student needs as fully as possible, supports staff efforts to complete necessary work, and supports school operations, including morale and overall school climate.

Recommendations

The superintendent recommends that the school choice application deadline at the high schools be changed to March 18, 2011 at 5:00 p.m.

A copy of the proposed policy change is included in this packet.

XI. Comments and Committee Reports by Individual Board Members

XII. Adjourn

Calendar for Board Members

Wednesday, January 19	Board Meeting & Public Hearing Churchill High Cafeteria	6 pm
Monday, January 24	Budget Committee Meeting	5:30 pm

Tuesday, January 25	Board Meeting	7 pm
Wednesday, January 26	Celebration of Business And Future 1 st Citizen Award	5:30 pm
Wednesday, February 2	Regular Board Meeting	7 pm
Wednesday, February 16	Regular Board Meeting	7 pm
February 14-25	Board interviews with Superintendent finalist candidates	to be scheduled
Wednesday, March 2	Regular Board Meeting	7 pm
March 7-11	Community forums with Superintendent finalists	to be scheduled
Wednesday, March 16	Regular Board Meeting	7 pm

Hold for spring Board Retreat (date to be selected after mid-March):

Friday, April 15 afternoon and Saturday, April 16

Friday, May 20 afternoon and Saturday, May 21