

EUGENE PUBLIC SCHOOLS
Lane County School District No. 4J
December 9, 2009

MEMORANDUM

To: Budget Committee Members

From: George Russell
Superintendent

Re: December 14, 2009 Budget Committee Meeting

This memo is intended to give you an overview of the meeting and describe the materials in your packet.

I. Roll Call

II. Items Raised by the Audience

Public testimony is welcomed at budget committee meetings, and time is set aside to hear comments from the audience.

III. Items for Information and Discussion

A. Board Guiding Beliefs and Values; Board Goals and Annual Agenda

Each year the school board reviews their guiding beliefs and values and sets their goals and annual agenda. The guiding beliefs and values and the board goals and annual agenda are included in your packet. The documents will be reviewed with the committee.

B. Superintendent's Goals

After the board goals and annual agenda are set, the board and superintendent agree on annual superintendent goals that are aligned with the board goals. The superintendent's goals are included in your packet. I will review the 2009-10 goals with the committee.

C. Shaping 4J's Future

In 2006 the district embarked on a two-year strategic planning process called *Shaping 4J's Future*. The key strategic question was "What services and facilities will be needed to support the district's future instructional programs in order to increase the achievement for all students and close the achievement gap?" In answering this question the board considered declining enrollment, regional enrollment patterns, placement of special education programs, the location of alternative schools, and potential strategies such as boundary changes, grade and school configurations and school closures and/or expansions.

The process included identifying trends and issues, developing possibilities for the future, and assessing community preferences for future possibilities. Focus groups comprised of district staff identified trends and issues. A "Think Tank" facilitated by the University of Oregon reviewed the information provided by staff and made a final report on their recommendations to the board in July 2007. The recommendations identified issues that should be included in a public and staff input process, and in August 2007 the superintendent's recommendation of bringing forward nineteen policy actions in three broad categories for public review and deliberation was approved by the board. In addition to the conventional avenues of public and

staff involvement, a survey newsletter was provided to community members via hard copy and on-line.

Included in your packet is the board approved recommendations and a summary of the Think Tank and superintendent recommendations regarding school size and various operational options. I will review the *Shaping 4J's Future* information with the committee.

D. Focusing on Teaching and Learning

For the last few years, district staff has worked with the Wallace Foundation and the Harvard Executive Leadership Program for Educators and collaborated with colleagues from across the nation in an effort to improve instruction and close the achievement gap. The work has been centered on instructional improvement; systems thinking and alignment; leadership and team building strategies; and assessment and organizational improvement. This effort is leading toward a more systemic approach for instruction that is aligned with district values and goals. Information on the process and outcomes to date will be shared at the meeting.

E. 2009-10 Instructional Leadership Team (ILT) Goals and Instructional Priorities

Using the board and superintendent goals and the work with the Harvard ExEL program as the foundation, instructional services department leadership developed priorities for this fiscal year. Carl Hermanns, Chief Academic Officer, will share the 2009-10 priorities.

F. Community Outreach Regarding Budget Issues

At your last meeting, you requested that district staff provide information and options for garnering community feedback regarding district budget issues. Barb Bellamy, Chief of Staff/Director of Communications will review options for consideration.

IV. Items for Action at This Meeting

A. Set Date for Next Budget Committee Meetings

I recommend that the next meeting date be set for January 11, 2010 to review enrollment projections and the financial forecast. I also request that Budget Committee members reserve February 8, February 22, and March 15, 2010 to discuss budget reduction priorities and provide feedback on budget reduction strategies.

V. Items Raised by Members of the Budget Committee

Budget Committee members will have an opportunity to raise issues that are not included on the agenda.

VI. Adjournment