



Jefferson County
School District 509J
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Jefferson County School District 509-J

Monday, March 11, 2024

2023-2024 BOARD MEETING

Regular Session

Immediately following the Work Session or 7:00pm

Hybrid: In-person and Electronic via Zoom available for both meetings

MEETING LOCATION:

JCSD 509J – Warm Spring K-8 Academy (Library)

50 Chukar Road, Warm Springs, OR 97761

[ACCESS ZOOM MEETING HERE](#)

Phone +1 253 215 8782 US (Tacoma)

Meeting ID: 828 8993 2340 Passcode: 552972

2023-2024 Board of Directors:

Chair Kevin Richards, Vice-Chair Courtney Snead, Laurie Danzuka, Jacob Struck and Regina Mitchell

REGULAR SESSION MEETING MINUTES

ATTENDANCE: Chair Kevin Richards, Vice Chair Courtney Snead, Jacob Struck, Laurie Danzuka and Regina Mitchell

ABSENT: None

CALL TO ORDER / PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE / BOARD MEMBER ROLL CALL

Board Chair Kevin Richards called the meeting to order at 7:00pm followed by the Pledge of Allegiance, and roll call; Board Secretary noted board member attendance.

OPENING PRAYER / SONG

Laurie Danzuka introduced Dasan and Gavin Begay – they provided the opening prayer/song for the meeting at WSK8.

AGENDA ADOPTION

Laurie Danzuka moved to approve the agenda as presented; motion passed unanimously - **Approved 5/0.**

INFORMATION / PRESENTATIONS / REPORTS / COMMUNICATION / DISCUSSION ITEMS

Student Representative Reports

Amber VanPelt and Alosha Wainawit Sohappy, student representatives from Bridges High School introduced themselves and shared information on the third quarter at Bridges High School. They shared about the end of second quarter celebration, and the new classes - Art, Yearbook and Cooking.

Superintendent Jay Mathisen shared that Yashira Chavero, student representative from Madras High School is not able to attend this evening's meeting but has provided a presentation that was placed in the board members binders.

Warm Springs K-8 Spotlight - AVID

WSK8 Principal Lonnie Henderson introduced Assistant Principal Gena Bennett to present on the AVID program. Assistant Principal Gena Bennett explained that AVID stands for Advancement Via Individual Determination and she introduced Ryan Young, social studies and AVID elective teacher who was present via a video. He shared about what AVID is for him and how it has impacted his teaching.

Gena Bennett explained the AVID program and the 8th grade AVID elective class; she shared that the students currently are writing an argumentative essay where they develop their thesis, find evidence to support their point and also, have been collaborating with the JCMS AVID elective class; they have shared via Google doc and collaborate which brings a unique experience for them. Principal Lonnie shared binders of student work with the board of directors, and introduced four students:

1. April Covarrubias
2. Joshua White
3. Miayalah Suppah
4. Jicelle Gill

Each student answered the following questions: How has AVID helped you? What's your favorite part of AVID? What's your most challenging part of AVID in middle school? And, what are your plans after you graduate?

Chair Kevin Richards thanked Lonnie, Gena and the students for the presentation, for taking the time and for their organizational skills.

Classified School Employees Week (March 4-8th)

Chair Kevin Richards noted that although the week to recognize classified staff was last week, they are worthy of the recognition and he requested that Superintendent Mathisen read the proclamation for Classified School Employees Week (March 4-8th).

Superintendent Jay Mathisen shared the importance of our classified staff, what they bring to the district and how grateful we are for them. He read the proclamation that was provided to the board on page 11 of the board packet.

Board members shared that some of their family members were also classified employees and recognize how critical they are to the operations of the school district.

ODE Support Update

Chair Kevin Richards asked for the update on ODE Support.

Assistant Superintendent Shay Mikalson explained that for the past few months the district has continued to work with ODE on the initial phase of the agreement; Vilay Green is now the point-person in partnership with our district. He shared that he and Vilay meet every other week. The \$2.6 million is sitting in the account as they continue to work on the process - they have made progress on the contract, but it will come back to the Board to finalize. They have had the opportunity to work on the assignment of three coaches - Heidi Sipe (Umatilla superintendent) is one of them, she has accepted the position and her contract with ODE is in the cycle. He shared that Vilay will be here in the region on April 2nd and they will have the opportunity to give her a tour to show her the district. We are still in process with the state for the grant and as we move forward with the contracts we should be seeing movement with the grant. Concluding, we are making progress and we appreciate the partnership.

Chair Kevin Richards asked if the board has any questions or comments. No comments or further discussion were provided.

Facilities Update

Director of Operation/Safety Simon White and contractor Mike Tiller provided a facilities update.

Simon took a moment to recognize the classified team (facilities, bus drivers, cooks, etc.). He explained that it has been an interesting and challenging week as they have dealt with snow removal, fertilizing athletic fields and bus drivers navigating roads – they have done a fantastic job and he appreciates the team and their hard work.

Simon explained that we are going out for a HVAC Service RFP this week; they hope to receive some quality proposals, have interviews and come back in May with a contract for board approval.

They are working on capacity building within the team to ensure our new and old equipment is maintained well.

Simon also shared that they continue to work towards the secure vestibules that is non-bond related – he explained the timeline and procurement issues, the start date projected is June 14, 2024 with substantial completion projected for August 1, 2024.

Simon asked the board if they have any questions.

Jacob Struck asked if there is a training in place for operation of the equipment, like the HVAC system. Simon explained that is a goal to make sure there is training, documentation for reference, and part of the RFP will include continual service or maintenance routine with a solid company.

Mike Tiller provided a quick update on Bond work. Madras High School is 99% complete they are dealing with procurement issues; a scoreboard at the soccer field is coming along; WSK8 project is getting very close, it should be wrapping up in April and there will be landscaping work outside and in the parking lot area taking place in May. There is an additional list of work that will be taking place as soon as school is out - Metolius, Madras, Buff work will take place during the summer months, they expect to be very busy. A monument sign will be going up at Bridges High School; and the JCMS roof will require two summers of work – he explained the two phases of work for that project.

Jacob Struck asked if the JCMS roof was sent as two jobs, for separate work on the phases. Mike Tiller confirmed, yes.

Simon White said he can provide board members with a tour of the WSK8 new addition if desired, please let him know and he can arrange for a tour.

Regina Mitchell asked how many classrooms will be included in the new wing. Simon explained six full classrooms, a set of bathrooms and an IT closet, HVAC and janitorial closet.

ODE / State Board of Education 14-Hour Waiver Option [Extreme Weather]

Superintendent Jay Mathisen explained the ODE/State Board of Education 14-Hour Waiver Option for Extreme Weather; this request is coming to the board for approval, but the plan is to apply, but hold on to it because, with the exception of Big Muddy, all our schools are currently within the guidelines for instructional hours within the year and Melinda is working with teachers at Big Muddy to come up with a plan that will make sure their instructional hours are met as well. They should be fine unless there are additional weather-related closures in March or April. He explained that he let staff know and board members know in a previous meeting that after five-consecutive snow days (closures) that we are okay, but if there are additional closures, we will need to make up for those days. We had one more closure day, and we considered adding an additional day but we are recommending that we do not add the additional day, that we stick with our instructional hours reflected on the board approved calendar that we have in place.

Superintendent Jay Mathisen asked if there are any questions about this action item.

Courtney Snead said she is curious of why we are seeing this from the state, wondering if it because the closures impacted the valley this year.

Superintendent Jay Mathisen said he believes she is correct - that the school closures have been wide-spread due to the ice storm in the valley this year.

Laurie asked for clarification regarding Big Muddy and the plan for their instructional hours. Jay explained Big Muddy's schedule and their plan to likely look at Mondays in spring to replace days that are needed.

Chair Kevin Richards said he thinks another district in the region has already added a few days, and wonders if the option not available earlier. Superintendent Jay Mathisen said he really does not know if the districts that have already added days were in the need for the waiver or if they will be applying or choosing not to.

Superintendent Jay Mathisen explained that there is no action needed from the board around the decision to not add another day in June, that is status quo – the action is that the board approve the request to request the waiver if needed.

Proposed 2024-2025 JCSD 509J School Calendar (re: policy IC/ICA) – Action Item

Melinda Boyle explained the proposed 2024-2025 JCSD 509J school calendar provided as page 12 of the board packet; she said that it duplicates the calendar from last year with the exception of one day - she explained, August 26-29, is only four days of non-student contact days and there is a holiday on Monday (September 2), rather than students coming back for one day (Friday), the committee thought it would be better to give a long weekend and start the staff on Tuesday after the holiday, and plan to start students after the holiday and non-student contact day, which would be on September 4, 2024.

Courtney Snead asked if there is a reason that the graduation dates are not on the calendar and if there is a possibility to have the graduation dates added to the calendar. Melinda explained that they have not been added to the calendar at the district level because the graduations are planned and determined at the school level. Superintendent Mathisen said he thinks that is information that we could find out from the schools and have it added to the district calendar.

Chair Kevin Richards proceeded to the next agenda item.

Promise Scholarship Update

Superintendent Mathisen directed board members to page 14 of the board packet, sharing the 2024 Promise Scholarship Program summary, explaining that Courtney Snead and Regina Mitchell are the two board members appointed to review the submitted applications and make a decision on the awards to come back to the board. The application process will take place soon, with a deadline of May 10, 2024. The board secretary will gather all the applications, provide them to the board representatives, and the award recipient notifications will be made at the scholarship award ceremony in June.

Substitute RFP

Superintendent Mathisen explained the district's plan for a Substitute RFP, the benefits and relief it will bring to our district. He said, we will see what kind of proposals we get and will bring them to the board for approval prior to executing.

Board discussion and informative leadership feedback took place with explanations about the current system; the benefits for our district; the ability to employ human power to make the requests; the possibility of a broader pool; the cost and applicable fees; the absorption of unemployment, workers comp, paid leave Oregon, FMLA, OFLA, etc.; what is the competition in our area, and what is the proposed duration of the contract.

Regina Mitchell asked about the full-time subs and whether this will take them away. HR Director Debi Brazelton explained the recognition clause and that we want to keep our long-term subs, this will not take them; it also does not cover the bus drivers, we will hold on to them.

A discussion took place about the impact on FTE. Courtney Snead made a request to see a cost comparison, side-by-side when we come back to make the final decision.

Enrollment Update

Superintendent Jay Mathisen directed board members to page 15 of the board packet and explained the enrollment update. He explained that we are down 72 students from a year ago, but the rate of decline is slower this year than it was last year. He explained the importance of honing in on the enrollment projections in time for the budget.

Discussion took place about the enrollment update, the research on the reason for decline. Our budget of 9.3 vs. the state budget of 10.2; the biennium (per student is going up) and a study of the birth rate in Oregon.

HEARING OF CITIZENS / DELEGATIONS / PUBLIC COMMENT [2-OPTIONS]

OPTION 1: Each person wishing to speak will have signed in at the beginning of the meeting to be recognized. The 509-J Board of Directors reserves this time for citizens to share comments or concerns. Because time is limited, as a standard practice, as a courtesy to others, and to maintain our meeting schedule, guests will be allotted three minutes to speak. If you have a group attending regarding the same topic, you will need to appoint one speaker. The Chair has authority to keep order and impose any reasonable restrictions necessary to conduct an efficient meeting. The Board reserves the right to delay discussion on any item presented until later in the meeting or at a subsequent meeting. Objective criticism of operations and programs may be heard, but no complaints concerning specific personnel, the visitor will be directed to the appropriate means for filing complaints as necessary.

OPTION 2: Jefferson County School District 509-J will accept public comment in writing prior to the meeting. Written comments must be received online (via the comment link on the agenda)

by **1:00 pm** [the date of the board meeting] and may be read during the public comment section of the meeting. Comments or complaints regarding specific people or personnel WILL NOT be accepted, please refer to the district complaint policy.

There were no online comments submitted.

Angel Wilson signed up to speak in person –

[Please note: No notes or formal written comment submitted to the board secretary therefore, the following is a typed summary/dictation on the topic(s) shared as a public comment during the meeting.]

Angel said in justifying the move of Mariposa, they were informed that dual language needed to be easily accessible to everyone. She wants to bring to the board's attention what she sees as inequalities that the current trailblazers of Mariposa have faced. They were told with the kids being at the middle school they can share resources, eat in the cafeteria, play on the playground, go to the library, etc. (1) This year the Mariposa students have not been able to have P.E.; they are told that the options are P.E. in the classroom or going outside - with two gyms at the middle school it is hard to believe that they can't find a time for them to have P.E. (2) The Mariposa kids cannot eat in the cafeteria, they have had lunch in the classroom. (3) The Mariposa kids cannot check out books at the library. Angel explained that the parents of Mariposa are concerned about the dual language program falling apart – they already see a change in the staff leaving. Now, the Mariposa kids will be going to new schools, with new principals, with new everything. Her final request to the board of directors is that they commit to the Mariposa kids/families that our kids be granted seasonal events, get togethers, etc. – if the splitting of the school is about creating equity, she asks that they consider what we can do to make up for the inequalities that the kids have been facing this year. She concluded by saying she will continue to fight for the children and staff of Mariposa.

Chair Kevin Richards thanked Angel for being here this evening, thanked her for her engagement throughout the dual language program process, saying he can only speak for himself, but her engagement has helped him to understand the value created at Mariposa and how we need to use our resources wisely, that we don't lose that value in this change. He also said it is important that we make sure that they continue to engage her and the many others as they continue the dual language program location change. He thanked Angel again for her time and commitment.

ACTION ITEMS

Chair Kevin Richards asked if there are any comments or questions and called for a motion on the consent agenda.

1. CONSENT AGENDA

- 1.1. Approval of Regular Session Board Meeting Minutes of **February 12, 2024**
- 1.2. Resolution #24-13, Misc. Grants & Donations (\$242,269)
- 1.3. Personnel Action
- 1.4. Financial Report

Courtney Snead made a motion to approve the consent agenda as presented; motion passed unanimously – **Approved 5/0**.

2. JCSD 509J RENEWALS, NON-RENEWALS, EXTENSION & NON-EXTENSIONS OF CONTRACTS

Chair Kevin Richards asked Superintendent Mathisen to speak on this topic.

Superintendent Mathisen explained it is that time of year that we bring the JCSD 509J Renewals, Non-Renewals, Extension & Non-Extensions of Contracts for board approval as we plan for the upcoming year.

Jacob Struck made a motion to approve the JCSD 509J Renewals, Non-Renewals, Extension & Non-Extensions of Contracts as presented; motion passed unanimously - **Approved 5/0**.

3. MADRAS BOYS GOLF TEAM CO-OP

Chair Kevin Richards said it is his understanding that we have the opportunity to collaborate with other districts in Jefferson County. Superintendent Jay Mathisen confirmed, that is true and he introduced the first year MHS Assistant Principal and Athletic Director Walter Stahl to share about the Madras Boys Golf Team Co-Op request.

Walter Stahl said he was contacted back in November about a young man that would like to have the opportunity to play golf with the JCSD team and was asked about the possibility of starting up a Golf Co-Op program with Culver. He spent time in research, networking, communicating with OSAA and learning about the process. He wanted to be sure that this request would not change the school's classification – the end goal will be that Culver will eventually have their own team – but, the Madras team has grown and we would like to extend this opportunity to this young man; therefore, we and are requesting the board approve a one-year co-op agreement.

Board discussion took place about the growth of the program . The board members expressed they are pleased to see positive collaboration to bring opportunities to students throughout Jefferson County and they appreciate Walt's work behind this effort.

Courtney Snead made a motion to approve the request for a one-year Madras Boys Golf Team Co-Op as presented; motion passed unanimously – **Approved 5/0.**

4. PROPOSED 2024-2025 JCSD 509J SCHOOL CALENDAR

Jacob Struck made a motion to approve the Proposed 2024-2025 JCSD 509J School Calendar; motion passed unanimously – **Approved 5/0.**

5. APPLY FOR ODE / STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION 14-HOUR WAIVER OPTION

Laurie Danzuka made a motion to approve the request to Apply for ODE / State Board of Education 14-Hour Waiver Option (extreme weather) if needed; motion passed unanimously – **Approved 5/0.**

BOARD & SUPERINTENDENT HIGHLIGHTS

- Shout out to facilities team (custodians, maintenance, everyone) and community groups for how they care for and use our facilities.
- Middle school wrestling team was short on coaches for wrestling, Principal Walsh volunteered to help where there was a need – nice to see the interaction with the student athletes and nice to see the willingness of our leaders to step up where there is need.
- Nice to see the extra effort that JCSD 509J staff and volunteers go to, that people don't realize when there are events and special activities, from directing traffic, to judging events. It is really nice to see the activities in our district that our students can participate in.
- WSK8 Principal Lonnie Henderson and Assistant Principal Gena Bennett are examples of leaders that go above and beyond and we thank them for the extra effort in hosting the board meeting this evening, bringing the students in to share and their positive attitudes.
- Iron Chef competition and Read Across America are examples of two great opportunities for our students.
- Thank you to Dasan and Gavin Begay for what they bring to our district – we are unique to have their special talent. Also, Val Switzler with Culture & Heritage, her experience, expertise and partnership are invaluable to our district and we are grateful.
- The AVID team - Gena Bennett, District AVID Coordinator, teachers and the secondary level team are "all in" and it is an honor to work beside them as they collaborate. We are excited for the work that is taking place in our district.

REMINDERS MARK YOUR CALENDAR

Spring Break, March 25-29, 2024

Next Board Leadership (9am) – **Tuesday, April 2, 2024** (Kevin & Courtney)

Work Session (5:30pm) **BUDGET 101** & Regular Session (7:00pm) @SSB – **Monday, April 8, 2024**

Important Note: Dates, times and locations of the events listed are subject to change with little or no notice, please check the JCSD 509J website for school board, individual school and performing arts center information on the various events scheduled throughout our district: <https://www.jcsd.k12.or.us/>

MEETING CLOSURE/ADJOURNED

With no further business, Board Chair Richards adjourned the meeting at **8:38pm**.

**Draft to Board for approval at next meeting,
Monday, April 8, 2024**

Tessa Bailey, Executive Assistant

Board Chair Kevin Richards

Superintendent Jay Mathisen

Date

Date