



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

**Monday, April 8, 2024**

**2023-2024 BOARD MEETING**

## **Regular Session**

(Immediately following Work Session or 7:00pm)

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

### **MEETING LOCATION:**

**Jefferson County School District 509J (Board Conference Room)**

**445 SE Buff Street. Madras. OR 97741**

**[ACCESS ZOOM MEETING HERE](#)**

Phone +1 253 215 8782 US (Tacoma)

Meeting ID: 841 9157 4574 Passcode: 243647

### **2023-2024 Board of Directors:**

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

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## **REGULAR SESSION MEETING MINUTES**

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

**ABSENT:** Laurie Danzuka

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

Board Chair Kevin Richards called the meeting to order followed by the Pledge of Allegiance and roll call, the board secretary noted board member attendance for the record.

### **AGENDA ADOPTION**

Board Chair Kevin Richards called for a motion to adopt the agenda.

Courtney Snead motioned to adopt the agenda as presented; motion passed unanimously – **Approved 4/0.**

## **INFORMATION / PRESENTATIONS / REPORTS / COMMUNICATION / DISCUSSION ITEMS**

### **Student Representative Reports**

#### **Alosha Wainawit Sohappy, BHS**

Alosha Wainawit Sohappy provided a verbal student representative report about the activities and events currently taking place at Bridges High School.

#### **Yashira Chavero, MHS**

Madras High School student representative Yashira Chavero provided an update on MHS sports (softball, golf, girls tennis, track and boys tennis), the baseball tournament and the Tomi City Japan students visiting Madras for six days.

#### **Recognizing Our Communications Director**

Superintendent Jay Mathisen directed board member to page 4 of the board packet and explained that we are congratulating our Communications Director Joey Prechtl on his recent achievements. He received two awards from OSPRA (Oregon School Public Relations Association): 1) 2023-24 Oregon's Best Video Storytelling, and 2) 2023-24 Oregon's Best Social Media Campaign. One was for his work on a behind the scenes video feature of a high school play 'Bye Bye Birdie", and the other for an Athlete of the Month social media theme/series. He asked Joey Prechtl to share his trophies and a brief summary about these awards in his own words.

Joey Prechtl explained his two awards and thanked MHS Administrators (Tony Summers, Karin Crouch, Walter Stahl), the MHS theatre department, Molly Williams, Jared McFarlin our former band teacher and choir director, Shannon Ahern and Joseph Hill. He explained in more detail the Athlete of the Month series and thanked Walter Stahl. Joey also thanked Superintendent Mathisen for his support and leadership.

Board Chair Kevin Richards congratulated Joey on his accomplishment, saying that it is well deserved and it speaks volumes that he was selected by his peers, and he and the Board really appreciate what he does for the district.

#### **ODE Support Update**

Assistant Superintendent Shay Mikalson explained that the ODE support partnership is off to a strong start; communication has taken place and a team was here all day on April 2, 2024 and able to visit all schools in our district (with the exception of Big Muddy) and it was a productive day.

Assistant Superintendent Shay Mikalson explained that we are still waiting for the grant contract to go through procurement with the state, but we have refined the team that will come along side us, one of them is Heidi Sipes and the contract has been finalized. He briefly discussed the timeline that will most likely commence in the fall of this year, and let board members know that he will be bringing a calendar lining out more details as they finalize dates.

### **Approved 2024-2025 JCSD 509J School Calendar, Informational (re: policy IC/ICA)**

Superintendent Jay Mathisen directed board members to page 5 of the board packet and shared that the JCSD 509J 2024-2025 school calendar that was approved by the board on March 11, 2024 now includes the June graduation dates for Madras and Bridges High Schools; the dates were added based on a board member's request.

### **Promise Scholarship Update**

Board Chair Kevin Richards asked for the update on the Promise Scholarships, sharing that Regina Mitchell and Courtney Snead will be representing the board during the scholarship review and selection process this year.

Superintendent Jay Mathisen informed the board of directors that the available funds for the Promise Scholarships is \$3,500 this year (2023-2024) – an anonymous donation came in that increased this year's scholarship by \$500. The Promise Scholarship application information is posted on the district website and we are now accepting applications with a deadline of Friday, May 10, 2024.

Regina Mitchell asked for clarification on the limits. Superintendent Jay Mathisen clarified that it doesn't matter how many scholarships they choose to award providing they remain within the \$3,500 total limit.

### **Enrollment Update**

Superintendent Jay Mathisen directed board members to page 7 of the board packet and explained if they look at the bottom right of the report, the total enrollment as of 4/1/24 is 2700 students, that means we are still down a significant number of students, but less than half of where we were last Fall.

Jacob Struck asked about the projections, or thought for the next 2024-2025 budget because we have lost more students than we were projecting to lose.

Superintendent Jay Mathisen and Assistant Superintendent Shay Mikalson explained that we are still on target with our projections, we were trying to be conservative and will keep an eye on the total.

### **2023-204 Superintendent Evaluation Timeline**

Board Chair Kevin Richards, referring to page 8 in the board packet, said we are at the point where the Board Chair and Vice-Chair compile information provided by the board secretary to provide a written evaluation and come together in executive session for a final review and approval in June.

### **Proposed 2024-2025 JCSD 509J Board Calendar**

Board Chair Kevin Richards, referred board members to page 9 and 10 to review the proposed DRAFT 2024-2025 JCSD 509J School Board Meeting Calendar.

Superintendent Jay Mathisen explained the proposed calendar (page 9 of board packet) and the board calendar considerations (page 10 of board packet).

Board discussion took place of potentially changing the time of the work session to 5:00pm and regular session at 6:30pm, but concluded it will need to be discussed with Laurie Danzuka as she is absent. For now, they decided to proceed with the same day and time each month, add the titles of the work session and consider the board retreat at Big Muddy this year. If it is not possible to have the retreat at Big Muddy to at least have a board meeting there.

### **Math & Science Curriculum Adoption Process Update**

Superintendent Jay Mathisen introduced Sue Taylor to provide an update on the Math and Science Curriculum.

Sue Taylor said there are three teams working on curriculum adoption right now, so it is very busy. She shared that the digital document (page 11 of board packet) it is pretty much live - they can look at the website that archives the work, the agendas, and feedback from peers; this allows them to really see the process.

Sue Taylor explained the recent challenges when ODE pushed back the ELA adoption, going right into a big math adoption with a lot of standards changes and then right into science – sharing there are a lot teachers working on it and explained the work in progress, and the timeline for each in detail.

Regina Mitchell asked how long do the teachers have to work on their curriculum.

Sue Taylor informed the board that currently at WSK8 for round 2, they have a month. Sue shared they have a great team that have planning meetings, and they determine how they are bringing it back to their schools, how they informing their teachers and engaging with their families and community; some of them are teaching a lesson a week, and they have a program that also has students giving feedback.

Discussion took place about the process, deadline and approval process

### **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.

No online comments were submitted. Two people signed up at the meeting to speak for the public comment.

**Signed up to speak in person –**

*[Please note: The following speakers were assigned based on the in-person sign-in sheet at the meeting. No notes or formal written comment were submitted to the board secretary therefore, the following is a typed summary on the topics shared as a public comment during the meeting.]*

Board Chair Kevin Richards called for Sue Harrison to speak.

**Sue Harrison** shared that she was privileged to teach in this school district (509J) and two of her outstanding students serve on this board - Jacob Struck and Kevin Richards. Sue thanked the board members for serving our community in this capacity and shared she feels that she is a member of this 'team', a retired teacher, community member along with the board members – stating and confirming that - “We are all working together to better the education, for the teachers and for the children - if that is right, hear my heart tonight, that’s where it is.”

Ms. Harrison explained she is here because she would like to address an issue regarding disruptive students. She explained when she taught sixth grade and had disruptive students, they were sent to the office and there would be consequences, such as in-school detention, three days suspension, or expelled if the behavior warranted. The message was clear, this kind of behavior will not be allowed in school. Ms. Harrison said, in the past few years, she has been made aware of two 509J teachers that she believes were treated unjustly - each teacher had a disruptive student who would not leave the classroom so they escorted them in the hall and called the office for help, immediately following the event, the teacher was placed on administrative leave. After an investigation it was decided they were innocent and should have been reported back to the classroom; but in these two instances there were no real consequences for the child, which Ms. Harrison believes, will condone, or perhaps perpetuate their behavior. However, there were negative consequences for the innocent teachers. One teacher worked half a day at JCMS and half a day in Warm Springs. The other situation, the innocent teacher was removed from her classroom where the students dearly loved her and taught not only at another classroom, but a different grade level. Ms. Harrison said, she thinks this is an injustice to our teachers, they were attempting to handle a situation in a safe manner and should not be penalized for their attempt to defuse the volatile situation. She said, there are perhaps more situations in our district that she is not aware of, but this is an injustice to the students who love their teacher, and an injustice to the disruptive student who needs professional help.

Ms. Harrison shared, one student went on a rampage tore up a student's test work, tore down charts from the wall, destroyed teacher's personal property, plus toppled chairs and desks. The student came back the next day with no apparent consequences. So, what about the children? These could be your children; who have been traumatized and perhaps put in a dangerous situation. Saying, she wouldn't want that for her children.

Ms. Harrison explained she is here to make the board aware that these situations are going on, and as an advocate for the teachers, and the children including the disruptive child.

Ms. Harrison said she would like to take a minute and address the situation about the disruptive student who tore up the classroom – she explained that she learned today that this behavior is a crime, it's called criminal mischief and her question is - was that ever enforced? She said she believes this student should be removed from the classroom and placed in an alternative environment where he will get all the help he needs. She does appreciate the actions of the principal that shortened the amount of time that he came back to the classroom – but, every day there will be fear in the other students not knowing if there will be another eruption.

Ms. Harrison asked, is this really the environment we want for our children? Ms. Harrison concluded with the following proposal:

1. The teachers who were found innocent, return to their classrooms where things could return to normal.
2. Extreme volatile students be removed from the classroom and provided an alternative education where they can be successful [saying, she cares about them too] – mainstreaming is not working, it is not successful because these students have no intent on engaging in the learning process. They are not able to do that with all the things going on in their lives. There are alternative class for the high school – she thinks it would be great to have one for the elementary level as well.
3. Ms. Harrison said she is concerned about the **respect and support for our teachers** - this weekend she spoke with a teacher friend who whole-heartedly supports her coming to the board tonight, her friend mentioned teachers feel unsafe and find it hard to come to work – low morale. Her friend said she loves teaching, but is considering changing careers - even a grocery store looks good. Ms. Harrison shared a few more examples of challenges teachers face considering their professional career and student discipline challenges. Ms. Harrison reminded the Board - our teachers are professional people.

Ms. Harrison further explained, our teachers are told not to touch students and instructed to take the hit when separating student fights – she asked, “Who ultimately is in control of the classroom?” Concluding, it doesn't sound like the teacher or student, and it makes her sad about the school district - she not only wants the best teachers for our district, but the best learning environment for our children. Ms. Harrison concluded by requesting that the board consider her proposal and take action.

Board Chair Kevin Richards thanked Ms. Harrison for sharing her thoughts and bringing to the board's attention. He said he appreciates her introduction, and agrees - as a former teacher

and community member, she is a member of this ‘team’, and for the record, he doesn’t remember there being any discipline problems in sixth grade. She laughingly agreed, she had it under control.

Board Chair Kevin Richards called for Carrie Graeme to speak.

**Carrie Graeme** introduced herself and explained she will try not to cry, but she deals with this every day and it has taken a toll. Carrie Graeme shared an emotional testimony about her experiences with students hitting and kicking teachers to the point of having to request the principal’s support. She said she is “in it” - doing the work, taking the shots, doing all she can, but she doesn’t think the teachers are being heard - it is getting really bad, to the point where she doesn’t want to return next year and she loves these kids. She shared this is her fifth year and it is the worst she has ever seen. She pleaded to the Board, this cannot continue like this - the lack of consequences for these kids who seem to think that this is okay, and teachers are being told by administration that we cannot touch them – she stated “It is insane.”

Carrie explained, she tells her students this behavior would not be allowed in a store or anywhere in public, they would call the police. They cannot get through life with behavior like this - it is not okay. Then she asked the Board, why is it allowed in our school? Further stating that her personal boundaries (in public and at home) she does not allow people to hit or kick her, but she is supposed to allow it at work – requesting the board to please explain that to her. Carrie said, this behavior is starting as young as kindergarten and until we find a way, to implement some real change, some consequences and get these kids the help they need – we are losing good people (teachers leaving) because of this.

Ms. Graeme explained she is really struggling to make it through the year, and to be really honest, most of her sick days have been mental health days. She concluded with a final statement that they [the board of directors] does not know how bad it is, and it is bad. Ms. Graeme thanked the board.

Board Chair Kevin Richards thanked Carrie Graeme for her work and for the courage to come and share tonight. He said, he believes he can speak for everyone here that the frustration she is expressing breaks their heart, and it is fair to say that the four board members here tonight can follow-up and take to heart the comments she shared.

Board Chair Kevin Richards proceeded to the action items.

## **ACTION ITEMS**

### **1. CONSENT AGENDA**

- 1.1. Approval of Regular Session Board Meeting Minutes of **March 11, 2024**
- 1.2. Resolution #24-14, Misc. Grants & Donations (\$105,912)
- ~~1.3. 2024-2025 Madras Aquatic Center & Recreation District (MACRD) Agreement~~
- 1.4. Personnel Action
- 1.5. Financial Report



Courtney Snead requested to pull the 2024-2025 Madras Aquatic Center & Recreation District (MACRD) Agreement from the consent agenda.

Jacob Struck made a motion to approve the consent agenda as amended (with the exception of the pulled item 1.3. the 2024-2025 Madras Aquatic Center & Recreation District (MACRD) Agreement, motion passed unanimously – **Approve 4/0**.

Courtney Snead recused herself from the action item - the 2024-2025 Madras Aquatic Center & Recreation District (MACRD) Agreement due to a potential conflict of interest as the Director of the MACRD.

Board Chair Kevin Richards asked if there are any questions or discussion and called for a motion on the pulled item [2024-2025 Madras Aquatic Center & Recreation District (MACRD) Agreement].

Jacob Struck made a motion to approved the 2024-2025 Madras Aquatic Center & Recreation District (MACRD) Agreement, motion passed – **Approved 3/0** (1-recused, 1-absent).

#### **BOARD & SUPERINTENDENT HIGHLIGHTS**

- A board member participated in Career Day at WSK8 in hopes to inspire and encourage students to go into the construction industry.
- A board member attended a Health Fair for first responders and recognized a former student representative to the 509J school board and was very proud to see him serving in our fire district.
- A board member also encountered another former student who is going to be running an equity non-profit in Bend – so proud to see that our students being productive and active in the communities.
- A board member was visiting Madras Elementary to discuss behavior of her own child and appreciates the public comment speakers this evening. She also witnessed the magic of staff and the logistics of an end-of-school day with radios, buses, kids, parents, etc. If you haven't experienced it – it is amazing.
- This past Saturday was the FFA Alumni fundraiser it is impressive for a community of our size.
- One of our graduating seniors was elected at State, which is a very prestigious role.
- Appreciate the people who spoke tonight – thank you for sharing on this sensitive topic.
- Watching Alosha Wainawit Sohappy present this evening, with confidence and growth, even when she didn't have a PowerPoint or written presentation, she was proud to share what is taking place at Bridges.
- Appreciate the comments this evening, we deeply care about our educators and will continue the work it takes to support them in this tough work.
- Congratulations Joey on his work, it was nice to celebrate with him those achievements.



**REMINDERS MARK YOUR CALENDAR**

- Next Board Leadership (9am) – **Tuesday, May 7, 2024** (Kevin & Laurie)
- **1<sup>st</sup> BUDGET COMMITTEE MEETING** (5:30PM) @SSB – **Monday, May 13, 2024**
- Regular Session Board Meeting (immediately following budget committee meeting or 7:00PM) @SSB – **Monday, May 13, 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 Kevin Richards adjourned the meeting at 7:57PM.

**Draft to Board for approval at next meeting,  
Monday, May 13, 2024**

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Tessa Bailey, Executive Assistant

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Board Chair Kevin Richards

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Superintendent Jay Mathisen

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Date

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Date