



Jefferson County
School District 509J
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Jefferson County School District 509-J
Monday, February 12, 2024
2023-2024 BOARD MEETING MINUTES
Regular Session (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: 896 6785 4509 Passcode: 075302

2023-2024 Board of Directors:

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

REGULAR SESSION

Immediately following the Work Session or 7:00pm

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

ABSENT: Vice Chair Courtney Snead

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

Board Chair Kevin Richards called the meeting to order at 7:07PM followed by the Pledge of Allegiance and board member roll call. Board Secretary noted board member attendance.

AGENDA ADOPTION

Board Chair Kevin Richards asked if there are any updates to the agenda; with none presented, he called for a motion.

Laurie Danzuka moved to adopt the agenda as presented; motion passed unanimously – **Approved 4/0.**

INFORMATION / PRESENTATIONS / REPORTS / COMMUNICATION / DISCUSSION ITEMS

Student Representative Oath of Office (BHS) and Reports (BHS & MHS)

Superintendent Jay Mathisen said the new student representatives from Bridges High School are ready to introduce themselves, present on what is happening at Bridges High School and also take the oath of office.

Amber VanPelt and Alosha Wainawit Sohappy introduced themselves and gave a verbal report about the events and activities taking place at Bridges High School as well as their thoughts and personal likes about some of the classes offered.

Board Chair Kevin Richards thanked the student representatives and said the board really appreciates their willingness to step up and be a voice for the Bridges High School students at the board meetings and they look forward to hearing their reports each month.

The student representatives thanked Principal Swagger for selecting them as representatives, they consider it an honor.

Board Chair Kevin Richards explained the importance of the student representative position and presented both student representatives with the oath of office.

"I [name inserted here] will support the Constitution and the laws of the United States and the State of Oregon and will discharge the duties of Student Representative to the Jefferson County School District 509J Board to the best of my ability."

Student Representative Yashira Chavero, from Madras High School presented on MHS sports, winter formal and that MHS leadership is planning a fun surprise for students for Valentine's Day.

Board Chair Kevin Richards asked Superintendent Mathisen to speak on the dual language decision.

Dual Language Update

Superintendent Jay Mathisen shared that a decision was made for the upcoming 2024-2025 school year, to place the current Spanish/English dual language classes in two neighborhood schools, and he recognizes that decision was a challenging one and there are some that are disappointed in that decision. He commended Laura Contreras-Weiss for her fantastic job on the program. He shared that we have learned as a district, that the program is strong and we are pleased with what is happening; there is a strong sense of togetherness and with this move the togetherness is challenged, but is confident that placing classes in two neighborhood schools will remove barriers for families who want their children to be able to access dual language. He explained some of the fears that were heard during the recent meetings and shared that he is dedicated to this program and its successful perpetuity in this district.

Superintendent Jay Mathisen introduced Buff Elementary Principal Billie White and Madras Elementary Principal Jean Bandele to share about their work since the decision was made and the plans as they proceed with the dual language program at their schools. Letters have been sent out to the families, introducing themselves and welcoming them to their schools on February 21, 2024 for a dinner and tour; both events will have interpreters available.

Laura Contreras-Weiss said she is excited for the opportunity to work with Billie and Jean. She is thankful for this opportunity and echoes what the superintendent says about this change being equitable and will remove barriers for families who want their children to be able to access the dual language program. She recognizes there are still hills to climb, but is confident we can do this together. She said a parent informed her that she was contacted by both Principals, Buff and Madras elementary and she was pleasantly surprised – they can already see positive things happening with the dual language program.

Jacob Struck asked Laura Contreras-Weiss what this change will look like for her on a day-to-day basis? Laura Contreras-Weiss said they are still discussing this, and she wants to make sure that both principals establish those relationships and communication with the families, and on her end, she is available as needed, and what makes sense at each of the buildings – they (all three) will be working together.

Jacob Struck asked if they have considered how they will continue their work in PLCs. Principal Billie White explained that she and Principal Jean Bandele have started those conversations and will continue; because their schools are close in proximity and their start and end times are within five minutes of each other, it will be feasible - explaining the value of being able to work separately as a group, but also working as a larger group together to take advantage of the experience and levels.

Board Chair Kevin Richards said he has a lot of thoughts about the collaboration that went into this decision and recognizes the effort. Sharing what has been educational for him is that some of the apprehension about a change was rooted in a concern that maybe the district was pulling back from a commitment to dual language – it's important to underscore that is not the case at all; part of the reason he didn't anticipate that is because he knew it was not the case, he knew this is an ownership of the district and has determined the value of the dual language program in the district and wants to see it continue to thrive in a very sustainable way. One of the really exciting things about the dual language program is not only the prospect of an education in dual language, but the fact that it demonstrated that it is celebrating a culture that we serve and giving opportunity to English speaking, and bi-lingual opportunities as well. He thinks this will open up more opportunities, will create more access, and is excited for his younger children to have this opportunity, and to walk into the district buildings and see the transformation in years to come. He thanked the district leadership for their effort in bringing this change.

Jacob Struck said he appreciates the thought that went into this hard decision; it will greatly affect all our schools, and he truly believes this decision and being able to use three incredible leaders together will be more powerful than anything in helping to develop this program.

Inclement Weather / School Closures Update

Superintendent Jay Mathisen explained the inclement weather has caused them to cancel school for five full-consecutive days and we have also had a few delays. He wants to clarify we have a path to still meet our current instructional hour requirements from the State at all of our schools (with the exception of Big Muddy). He explained, if there is an additional full day

closure we will move to have a student day back at the end of the school year, and he explained the second week in June on the calendar. If we need to extend the school year, communication will be sent out to families – we are keeping our fingers crossed for good weather.

Jacob Struck asked if there has been any discussion with City and County to possibly improve circumstances on road conditions and possible communication with County Commissioners to improve their response. Superintendent Jay Mathisen said he has not, but he knows Operations Director Simon White has, and he and Simon both have had communication with operations and leadership in Warm Springs.

Chair Richards said he realizes there have been some tough call days because of the different climate patterns – it is not the same out of everyone’s back door. He appreciates their efforts.

ODE Coaching Support Update

Superintendent Mathisen explained that the start of the ODE Coaching Support has started; Shay will be the point role for us as far as communication, and he asked him to speak on the topic.

Assistant Superintendent Shay Mikalson shared that he, Melinda and Jay had the opportunity to connect with ODE two weeks ago, to see their first look at the three coaches who could possibly be a part of this; all three had strengths, but we challenged them on the notion of broadening and backing some of our needs. As an example, he shared that Heidi Sipe was described as a person they could see as a coach. To their credit ODE reached out to her, she is taking the opportunity to say yes. ODE is working through process with the state.

Assistant Superintendent Shay Mikalson shared that any of the timeframes shared are looking to be pushed back, it looks like possibly late-spring to get the contract signed. They are working through that process right now; they are making progress and he will keep the board informed.

Enrollment Update

Superintendent Mathisen directed to board members to page 16 of the board packet and explained the enrollment summary. He explained that we are at the flip of a semester and sometimes the numbers are not formalized until they get that information entered, but it looks like good news.

Discussion took place about the enrollment report and the comparison to the previous year.

2024-2025 JCESD Local Service Plan (LSP) – JCESD Superintendent Shay Mikalson

Jefferson County ESD Superintendent Shay Mikalson directed board members to page 17-29 of the board packet and explained the Jefferson County ESD Local Service Plan. He had board members turn to page 19 to show updates to the JCESD Board of Directors since last year.

In the Local Service Plan presentation, JCESD Superintendent Shay Mikalson explained the following in detail:

- The JCESD vision, mission, core values and goals.
- Introduction of the Core services (page 21, page 2 of LSP).
- The LSP approval process (bottom of page 21, page 2 of LSP).
- Revenues – State School Fund, Grants & Contracts and Entrepreneurial Services.
- Annual Performance Measures – Strategic Goals and Benchmarks.
- Children with Special Needs, core services (page 23 in board packet, page 7 of LSP).
- Technology Support (page 25-26 in board packet, pages 8-9 of LSP).
- Administrative and Support Services (page 29 in board packet, page 12 of LSP).
- Explained the blue boxes throughout the LSP - explaining the programs or funding in addition to the LSP dollars (Government Grants and Contracts and Entrepreneurial).

Superintendent Shay Mikalson explained that the request for this evening’s JCSD 509J board action (referring to the bottom of page 21 of board packet, page 4 of LSP) is to approve the services listed in the LSP; dollars are not in the document as they are in the independent districts budget process. He also reminded the board that the blue boxes are only included for transparency, showing the programs or funding in addition to the LSP dollars.

Superintendent Shay Mikalson opened up for board discussion and questions.

Discussion took place about services to WSK8, early intervention, transportation, and areas of progress as well of areas of needed improvement and prioritization evaluation.

With no other questions or discussion on the JCESD Local Service Plan (LSP), Board Chair Richards proceeded to the next agenda item.

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 questions submitted online and no sign-ups for the evening.

Board Chair Kevin Richards opened the action items for discussion and called for a motion.

ACTION ITEMS

1. CONSENT AGENDA

- 1.1. Approval of Regular Session Board Meeting Minutes of *January 11, 2024*
- 1.2. Resolution #24-12, Misc. Grants & Donations (\$5,300)
- 1.3. Personnel Action
- 1.4. Quarterly A/P Vouchers
- 1.5. Financial Report

Jacob Struck made a motion to approve the consent agenda as presented; motion passed unanimously – **Approved 4/0.**

2. ADOPT THE JCESD 2024-2025 LOCAL SERVICE PLAN

Laurie Danzuka made a motion to adopt the JCESD 2024-2025 Local Service Plan as presented; motion passed unanimously – **Approved 4/0.**

3. PROMISE SCHOLARSHIPS – SELECTION OF TWO JCSD 509J BOARD MEMBERS FOR SELECTION COMMITTEE

Board Chair Kevin Richards explained the JCSD 509J Promise Scholarship program and said this action item is provided to appoint a couple board members to review the applications that come in and select candidates for board approval.

Discussion took place. Jacob Struck suggested Courtney Snead. Kevin Richards asked if Regina would be interested.

Jacob Struck made a motion to appoint Courtney Snead and Regina Mitchell as the two board members to select the promise scholarship recipients for board approval; motion passed unanimously – **Approved 4/0.**

BOARD & SUPERINTENDENT HIGHLIGHTS

- Appreciates the communication, in order to hear the community voices on the dual language program. The transparency goes a long way, it is important to our parents and it is appreciated.
- Appreciates the partnerships for sports throughout the school district; our facilities are incredible.
- Fond memories of going to almost every building in the district. Our small community integrates so well, accredited to the culture the JCSD staff fosters.
- Appreciates the extra effort exhibited by Principal Brent Walsh and various staff, in helping coach.

- Nice to visit Bridges High School – appreciates the facility and staff.
- After the inclement weather closure – it’s nice to see teachers being excited to get back to work. Not only are kids excited to be back, so are the teachers – it’s special.
- The Work Shop this evening, the student opportunities highlighted; thanks for the leadership and the dedication to student achievement.
- Reminded board members of the Teacher of the Year process. We have an opportunity to recognize outstanding educators, deadline is coming up this month.

REMINDERS MARK YOUR CALENDAR

Next Board Leadership (9am) – **Tuesday, March 5, 2024** (Kevin & Laurie)

Work Session (5:30pm) & Regular Session (7:00pm) @SSB – **Monday, March 12, 2024,**

Location: Warm Springs K-8 Academy

***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 8:00pm.

**Draft to Board for approval at next meeting,
Monday, March 11, 2024**

Tessa Bailey, Executive Assistant

Board Chair Kevin Richards

Superintendent Jay Mathisen

Date

Date