



Board of Directors Meeting April 17, 2024

Board Members Present: Jennifer Monies, Ellen Buettner, Teresa Truong, Megan Oftedal, Cristina McQuiston, and Mick Cornett

Staff Present: Patrick Duffy, Lana Ingram, Charmaine Johnson, and Shelly Hickman

By Invitation: Bill Hickman, general counsel, and Pam Campbell, PTA President

Minutes

1. The meeting was called to order at 12:07 p.m. by Chair Jennifer Monies.

A quorum of voting members was present and it was comprised of Jennifer Monies, Ellen Buettner, Teresa Truong, Megan Oftedal, Cristina McQuiston, and Mick Cornett.

2. The Board voted to approve the Consent Agenda.

Teresa Truong moved to approve the Consent Agenda and Ellen Buettner seconded. All members of the Board in attendance at the meeting voted to approve.

3. The Board voted to approve Bledsoe, Hewett & Gullekson as the district's independent auditor for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2024.

Superintendent Duffy reminded the Board that Bledsoe had conducted the audit for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2023, and he recommended they be retained to conduct the next annual audit. Mick Cornett moved to approve and Cristina McQuiston seconded. All members of the Board in attendance of the meeting voted to approve.

4. The Board voted to accept the district's not-for-profit 2022-2023 Form 990 tax return as prepared by Jenkins & Kemper Certified Public Accountants, P.C.

Treasurer Jay Jenkins attended the meeting via Zoom to be available for any questions regarding the annual Form 990. There were none. Ellen Buettner made the motion to approve and Mick Cornett seconded. All members of the Board in attendance of the meeting voted to approve.

5. The Board approved the district's 2024-2025 Application for Temporary Appropriations.

Treasurer Jay Jenkins reminded the Board that this was an annual legal obligation and that the Application for Temporary Appropriations filed with the county would allow the district to meet its financial obligations until its formal appropriation for Fiscal Year 2025 was determined by the state. Mick Cornett made the motion to approve and Ellen Buettner seconded. All members of the Board in attendance of the meeting voted to approve.

6. The Board voted to approve The Hartford insurance company to carry its property insurance for the elementary and middle schools for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2024.

District insurance agent Bill Beckman indicated his firm has been engaged with school staff during the past several weeks to get quotes on property insurance. He reminded the Board that they currently were paying for insurance for the middle school through OSIG and that he had been informed there was a desire to get insurance for the elementary school for the coming year



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different than in years past. He was pleased, he said, that Hartford had submitted a very competitive quote, that it was a reputable, stable company, and that it was just beginning to take school clients in Oklahoma. Board President Jennifer Monies reminded the Board that historically Oklahoma City Public Schools required the district to pay for insurance by it making direct payments to OKCPS. The pain point, she said, was how much it was costing the district to operate in that manner, and for a \$1 million deductible that was a risk for the district. She asked Beckman if she was correct that by her calculations accepting the Hartford quote was going to save the district roughly \$40,000 from what it was paying in the current year. Beckman indicated that was correct and that many believed insurance through OSIG would be rising again this year, so savings to John Rex might be even greater. Monies asked attorney Bill Hickman what the next steps would be with OKCPS if the district accepted the Hartford quote. Hickman indicated that since OKCPS Charter Liaison Jason Mack was at the meeting, perhaps he could tell the Board. Mack indicated that the lease with John Rex would be slightly modified to not include insurance and that the district would simply need to show a certificate of coverage that included OKCPS as additional coverage. Beckman indicated that Hartford had accepted those terms and it was inclusive of their quote of \$147,808. Teresa Truong moved to approve and Mick Cornett seconded. All members of the Board in attendance of the meeting voted to approve.

7. Superintendent Duffy presented the district's 2022-2023 dropout report.

Superintendent Duffy explained the numbers as presented in the publicly available Board packet. He indicated that when a student leaves John Rex and records aren't sent to another public or private school, the district reaches out to the student's family to learn what school the student is now attending, if they are being homeschooled or if they have, in fact, dropped out. The students included in the dropout report, he indicated, were not accounted for because their families could not be reached. That is why four students who withdrew last year are counted as dropouts. He shared the district was currently trying to identify where 15 students are now attending to avoid them being counted as dropouts. With the item not requiring a vote of the Board, the Board moved on to Item 8 on the agenda.

8. The Board voted to approve Resolution for Schools and Libraries Universal Services e-rate for 2024-2025.

Superintendent Duffy indicated approval was required annually and that all Internet in both buildings of the district was covered by e-rate, for which the allocations for the upcoming fiscal year were about the same as the current year. Teresa Truong voted to approve and Megan Oftedal seconded. All members of the Board in attendance of the meeting voted to approve.

9. The Board voted to expend \$39,665 to the Connelly Paving Company for two additional handicap parking spaces on California and Dewey streets.

Superintendent Duffy pointed out that the district currently only had one handicap space near the front door of the elementary school. He indicated that while there was a marked space on the southside of the building, it did not have a ramp from the sidewalk and, therefore, was not a space that could be utilized for a wheelchair. Jennifer Monies asked if he believed that was a problem. He responded it was, especially since competitive athletic events were now occurring in the gym and there were no handicap accessible spaces near the gym. Mick Cornett then asked



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what the money would pay for. Superintendent Duffy indicated it would pay for a cut-out for the marked handicap parking on the southside that did not have a ramp and it would create a space on the west side of the building near the gym. Ellen Buetter indicated that the Board packet showed the expense would be \$39,665 but the agenda indicated \$29,000. Superintendent Duffy indicated the quote in the Board documents of \$39,665 was the true cost. Teresa Truong asked if he had to prioritize one spot which would it be. He responded it would be the westside location. Jennifer Monies then asked if there was value to doing one spot now and another at a later date. He answered the bid was for both locations and he believed there was economy of scale and that the Board should approve both. General Counsel Bill Hickman advised the Board that if they were to approve the construction of the new handicap parking spaces, they needed to be specific in the wording of their motion since the amount listed on the agenda differed from the Board packet. Mick Cornett then made the motion to approve \$39,665 to the Connelly Paving Company for two handicap parking spaces and Cristina McQuiston seconded. All members of the Board in attendance of the meeting voted to approve.

10. The Board voted to approve an athletics medical emergency plan compliant with Riley's Rule, a national standard.

Superintendent Duffy indicated that a plan was required by the state for districts with athletics programs. He further indicated that while the district was currently following the procedures in the plan before the Board, that he would like the Board to approve the plan. Ellen Buetter made the motion to accept and Cristina McQuiston seconded. All members of the Board in attendance of the meeting voted to approve.

11. Strategic Planning Chair Teresa Truong gave a brief update.

Teresa Truong indicated that the work of the committee developing key performance indicators for each goal in the Strategic Plan was nearly complete and that the Board would be presented them for a vote of approval at its next meeting in May.

12. Superintendent Duffy led a Leadership Update that included comments from principals Lana Ingram and Charmaine Johnson.

Superintendent Duffy announced that Ruby Salinas from Santa Fe South would be assuming Shelly Hickman's role as Director of Operations as of July 1. Hickman would continue to serve as child nutrition director part-time and train Ruby. He reminded the Board that they had training obligations that they had not begun to complete and that a few members still had not performed their criminal background checks. He emphasized the importance of these requirements being met. He then pivoted to bringing the Board's attention to the transfer capacity numbers in the publicly available Board packet. He indicated kindergarten and second grade were a bit over capacity for next year but that there could be attrition during the summer. He further shared that 150 students had applied for prekindergarten and that there were another 64 on the wait list. He pointed out the middle school enrollment numbers were very affirming. Cristina McQuiston asked what he believed was the reason and he responded by adding an athletics program for the middle school and the potential for adding a high school in the near future. He then turned the update over to Lana Ingram who shared that enrichment clusters would be finishing that week and that state testing was starting the following day. She also indicated that 89 students were



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registered for summer school and that 11 teachers would be serving those students. Charmaine Johnson then gave a middle school update. She indicated the following week for the middle school would include state testing, a color run and a dance. She shared the 7th grade would be visiting the Holocaust Museum in Tulsa, that May 9 was the date for the first-ever John Rex Athletics Banquet and that May 15 was the 8th grade graduation date.

13. PTA President Pam Campbell gave a PTA Update.

Pam Campbell indicated that the goal for the 2024 Fuel Up was to raise \$65,000 and with current collections that goal had been met. She indicated she would be serving as president again in the next school year and that Cassandra Howard has been voted as the incoming vice president. She said the PTA was gearing up for Teacher Appreciation Week May 6-10 and was planning a middle school movie night before the end of the school year.

14. There was no new business.

15. Parent Amanda Smith signed up and gave public comments on the topic of school uniforms.

Ms. Smith encouraged the Board to re explore the “why” behind school uniforms at John Rex. She supported the school’s uniform policy but was concerned that there was a lack of fidelity to the policy and it perhaps was not meeting the expectations of the Board’s historical “why” behind the policy. For example, she said, if the “why” was for safety reasons and for the public to easily distinguish a John Rex student in the downtown area, she feared that expectation was not being met by how the policy was currently being enforced.

16. The meeting adjourned at 1:12 pm

Ellen Buettner made the motion to approve and Cristina McQuiston seconded. All members of the Board in attendance at the meeting voted to approve.