



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

Thursday, January 11, 2024

2023-2024 BOARD MEETING MINUTES

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

MEETING LOCATION:

Metolius Elementary School (Library), 420 SW Butte Ave, Metolius, OR 97741

[ACCESS ZOOM MEETING HERE](#)

Phone 253 215 8782 US (Tacoma) Meeting ID: 849 4206 7430 Passcode: 915833

2023-2024 Board of Directors:

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

REGULAR SESSION

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 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.

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

INFORMATION / PRESENTATIONS / REPORTS / COMMUNICATION / DISCUSSION ITEMS

School Board Recognition Month

Superintendent Jay Mathisen expressed gratitude for the 509J Board, on behalf of the school community and broader community served, saying that they are exceptional, and he presented board members with a thank you card and OSBA certificate. Superintendent Jay Mathisen also informed the board members of the art work on the wall behind them; it was created by Metolius elementary students in honor of school board appreciation.

Board Chair Kevin Richards shared that board member Laurie Danzuka left early due to the weather, but our district is very fortunate to have someone like her serving on our board.

Metolius School Spotlight

Superintendent Jay Mathisen introduced Metolius Principal Adam Dietrich for the Metolius elementary school spotlight.

Metolius Principal Adam Dietrich welcomed and thanked the board of directors, the district staff and the parents to Metolius Elementary. He explained the work and conversation about the art work on the wall created by Metolius elementary students in honor of school board appreciation. He expressed gratitude for the dedicated service of board members serving as volunteers in support of our school district.

Student Representative Report

Superintendent Jay Mathisen explained that the MHS student representative is not present, but she did prepare a presentation and directed board members to pages 24-28 of the board meeting packet and he briefly summarized the report.

Audit Report, Fiscal Year Ending 2023 - Steve Tuchscherer, Umpqua Valley Financial

Superintendent Jay Mathisen confirmed with the IT Director hosting the hybrid meeting that Mr. Tuchscherer was online (Steve Tuchscherer presented remotely via Zoom).

Superintendent Jay Mathisen introduced Steve Tuchscherer of Umpqua Valley Financial to present the audit report for fiscal year ending 2023. He explained that the report is included in the board packet (pages 29-115) and noted that there were no significant findings and it is his understanding that Steve will highlight three areas in the report.

Steve Tuchscherer thanked JCSD 509J board members for their work. He said the audit went very well, and explained that it is always a lot of work getting everything completed in a timely manner and he has a great team he works with that made that possible. The audit was a “clean audit”, explaining that the initial job is to issue a report that the financial statements are without material misstatements, that is the case with this audit report. He explained the internal controls are in good order, noting staffing issues are a challenge, not only in this district but across the state.

Steve Tuchscherer directed the board members to the Table of Contents in the financial document and summarized the following:

- ✓ Independent Auditor's Report,
- ✓ Management's Discussion and Analysis,
- ✓ Basic Financial Statements,
- ✓ Fund Financial statements,
- ✓ Notes to the Basic Financial Statements,
- ✓ Required Supplementary Information,

- ✓ Additional Supporting Schedules, and
- ✓ Reports on Other

After presenting the audit report Steve Tuchscherer asked if there are any questions.

Courtney Snead said she is not sure if her question is for the auditor or the district, but in previous years it was identified that there were student body funds that did not have proper controls and is curious if that is continuing, has it been resolved, or where we are with that situation.

Superintendent Jay Mathisen explained that last year we were clean in that area – that was a result of two things (1) changes to our processes, systems and controls, and (2) we have had a change of personnel. It was clean last year, and from what he has seen, we are clean this year. He thinks we have resolved the issue she is referring to, but will ask the auditor to confirm; he then looked to the auditor Steve Tuchscherer to respond.

Steve Tuchscherer said they do not standardly test for internal controls in areas like the student body fund. However, if they are asked specifically, they can. He said, in every district, almost all the time there are challenges with the student body funds, there are usually many people working with small transactions, the internal controls around that are almost inherently somewhat weak. What is important is that the staff assigned to that work, always keep their eyes open to the processes that district employ. He shared the five elements of internal controls:

- 1) Does anybody care
- 2) Risk assessment
- 3) Policies and procedures
- 4) Monitoring
- 5) Communication

Steve Tuchscherer said they did not detect anything that would cause them to think there could be a problem and encouraged them to always be alert to the potential risks that are involved in student body activities.

Courtney Snead said our district should be celebrating the fact that we have a few years with clean findings on student body funds, but should be testing and auditing internally those activities ourselves, to be sure we are following our policies and procedures the best we can. Those funds, even if they are a small amount, are coming from our community and are important to the sports, organizations and the people making the contribution.

Steve Tuchscherer said he would 100% support that comment.

Jacob Struck asked about the long-term debt to actuals and if that is concerning.

Steve Tuchscherer said as part of their services they do not do an analytical analysis, but briefly explained the \$84 million debt, and roughly \$56 million in revenue each year, and said that is not unusual. He shared that debt is not a bad thing when you are in the business of education – it is an indication of the community’s willingness to support the schools. He also briefly explained about the PERS obligation bond liability.

Board Chair Kevin Richards asked if there are any more questions. None were presented. With no other questions Board Chair Kevin Richards thanked the auditor for presenting and proceeded to the next agenda item.

Mariposa Location Update

Board Chair Kevin Richards acknowledged the audience and said he recognizes many members in attendance this evening, are here for this update and reminded everyone there is a public comment period later on in the meeting. He looked to Superintendent Jay Mathisen to present on the Mariposa location update.

Superintendent Jay Mathisen explained the “why” behind 509J stepping into the Dual Language (Spanish/English) Program.

- Dual language program students emerge and help close the achievement gap.
- Have a higher rate of success in immersion education vs. immersion mainstream.
- Both native English speakers and English learners in dual language classrooms score higher on state tests and norm reference tests than their counterparts.
- Students with disabilities in dual language programs score higher on state tests than their counterparts in English only classrooms.
- Placing value on the target language, people and culture raises the status of the target language in the community.
- Valuing the target language, as well as English, validates and enhances the self-esteem of the speakers of that language while also expanding multi-cultural awareness for all students.
- Dual language students show better attendance, greater interest in school, stronger cultural identity, more favorable attitudes toward students who are different from themselves, more favorable attitudes towards being bilingual, higher engagement in learning and fewer behavior referrals than their counterparts in English only classrooms.

Superintendent Jay Mathisen explained, those are some of the reasons 509J stepped into the Dual Language (Spanish/English) learning – it matters; it matters for their flourishing, and he is grateful that we took that step.

Superintendent Jay Mathisen shared some of the history of the existing Mariposa Dual Language Program:

- Two and a half years ago when he interviewed for this superintendent position, this district was moving forward on hiring a planning principal, to help the district determine

whether to begin a dual language program. The district hired Laura Contreras-Weiss, before Superintendent Mathisen was hired.

- Laura Contreras-Weiss adeptly ran a process to answer, if we should start this process – the answer was yes.
- The second-year process question for Laura and the design committee was - how do we design the program?
- One of the design elements that was discussed was where to start the program. There was great advice from others, who said start the program in one location; incubate it well, get the systems in place [hiring, curriculum, how instructional staff will meet, etc.] and that was the choice the committee recommended and our district made – we located the program at Jefferson County Middle School (JCMS).
- When we did that, we knew that it may not be there forever; we shared that with this Board, and explained this is an incubation space; knowing when we start something we go “all in” and we did. In that wing at JCMS, it is an amazing place – we have done well. We are faced with a challenge.
- Approximately nine months ago, we realized (sooner than we originally thought) that we are going to be at a crossroads for space. We decided to get into the decision-making process this year.
- This is where we are now – we now know, with more certainty that we need a different space. We are faced with a choice of where Mariposa will be going forward. Looking at the options:
 - 1) Both strands, in one of our neighborhood schools, or
 - 2) A strand in each of two different neighborhood schools

Superintendent Mathisen explained, they did some looking in other districts and it is interesting to note, that Bend LaPine has a dual language program in four different schools - two different elementary schools, one has two strands and one has one strand. It has been incredibly successful. They have been able to expand that program into the middle school and now the high school is coming into the picture. That is what most districts find when they start a dual language program, they want to make it available in as many neighborhood schools because that helps with transportation, helps more people otherwise who wouldn't be able to access it.

In Salem-Keizer the program is in seven different schools, two middle schools and two high schools; Hillsboro has it in eight elementary schools; in Woodburn the program is in four elementary schools, two middle schools and two high schools – that is every school they have. They look at the “why” and they say, there is a moral imperative to make this available to families who have different transportation resources; who otherwise wouldn't choose to have some of their children in other places, so they put it in as many schools as they can – he thinks that is meaningful.

Superintendent Mathisen continued, saying there are a lot of questions to be answered as we go through this process. Laura Contreras-Weiss did a fantastic job facilitating a special team that lives and breathes Mariposa more than just the general community member, it is made up

of parents and staff members, and that team has considered options and there is no easy option. The draft recommendation, which hasn't been finalized yet, points to a mixed opinion by that team, about where the program should go. It requires change for families and staff who have been in a very successful place for a year and a half – it is magic, what is happening there, and this brings change, and that is uncomfortable. We have an opportunity to think about the five-year old's, ten years from now and think about where we place this program now, to help those families. He wishes this was an easy one that will make everyone happy, but it is not. He believes this program will be successful wherever we locate it and however we do that, in however many strands. It has the support from the top of this organization, it has the leadership, it has staff and principals and it has remarkable family support, those are the ingredients that will help this be successful.

He concluded saying, we still have some decisions to make related to where we place the program. We are going to do our best to make those decisions in the next week and bring a final decision to the February board meeting. Where we stand right now, the process is very strongly leaning towards a strand of the program in Buff Elementary and Madras Elementary with lots of details to be worked out. He then opened it up for questions from the board.

Chair Kevin Richards said he doesn't have any questions, but he appreciates the extra background and the passion expressed for the Dual Language program at 509J and it is certainly shared by himself and the other board members.

Vice Chair Courtney Snead asked for clarification about the process - at the next board meeting, you will bring the final decision – this is not a board decision, this is an operational decision of the superintendent – correct? Superintendent Jay Mathisen confirmed, that is correct, and he will own this decision and all the criticism that comes with it.

When no further questions Chair Kevin Richards thanked Superintendent Mathisen and proceeded to the next agenda item.

Enrollment Update

Superintendent Mathisen directed the board to page 116 of the board packet and explained the enrollment update – we are down eighty-seven students from where we were last year.

Jacob Struck noted that article after article is showing this is not just Jefferson County, but this is state wide.

Policy DDB, Native American Impact Aid Funds (*re-adoption proposed for immediate approval*)

Superintendent Jay Mathisen directed the board to pages 117-125 in the board document and explained

- Community Feedback Data – from events at WSK8 (pages 117-121).
- Action Plan – revised to reflect a three(3) year plan (page 121).

- Updated Policy, DDB – updated policy with no significant content change, just minimal changes made in reference to the school year; this will make it easier to update every year (pages 122-125).

These items are coming to the board for approval this evening under the Policy DDB, Native Impact Aid Funds.

Jacob Struck asked for clarification - is this, the application/ items and process that we are handing over to the tribe. Superintendent Jay Mathisen clarified, no, this is still the district's process – we follow the process and receive those funds. However, he believes Jacob may be referring to the Title VI funds, and the district is saying that the district will not be the receiver of those funds from the federal government, but the tribes will now be able to access those funds once approved directly, to put towards their education funds for student purposes. Jacob Struck thanked Superintendent Mathisen for the clarification.

Courtney Snead asked if we know, or have a trend to participation numbers, if we are seeing more or less participation. Superintendent Mathisen said he does not know, but can find that out and report the information. It was clarified that Courtney Snead is referring to community feedback participation/people providing input on this process, not student survey participation – although information on both would be great. Superintendent Mathisen said we probably can't provide an apples-to-apples because some of the way we gathered the input in new settings - we tried different ways to better the authentic. The request was noted (asterisk) for future reference to track in future.

State of MACRD and Partnership, presented by Jean McCloskey and Courtney Snead

Courtney Snead recused herself to present on the State of the Madras Aquatic Center & Recreation District (MACRD), and she requested two of the MACRD board members join her for the presentation. The MACRD presentation included the following:

- ✓ History of the MACRD
- ✓ 2023 Good News
- ✓ 2023 MACRD Challenges
- ✓ MACRD Master Plan Project
- ✓ Community Engagement Findings
- ✓ MACRD 2023-2033 Master Plan
- ✓ Funding and Operations
- ✓ District Boundaries
- ✓ Implications for the MACRD/Next Steps

2024-2205 Teacher of the Year Nominations – OPENED early!

Superintendent Jay Mathisen explained that the nomination period for Teacher of the Year is open and we would love to see as many of our fantastic teachers around the district nominated.

Chair Kevin Richards explained the two options for public comment and said he will read the online comment(s). He said he has five members signed up for public comment and he realizes those in attendance are attending for the Mariposa location topic and requested that speakers please adhere to the time limit.

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 **1:00pm** *[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.

Chair Kevin Richards read the comments that were submitted via the online process:

Comment submitted online by Vida Andrews:

Members of the Board,

My son is in his first year as a student at Mariposa, in a Kindergarten classroom. This year has been met with a lot of ups and downs which, I have been made aware of, sometimes happens for Kindergarten students. One thing I know for sure, is that my son loves his school, loves his teachers and staff, and all of the students he is surrounded by each day. As a student on an IEP with some specific disabilities, he has been met with some challenges but through the support of the staff and specialists we have made strides in the right direction.

My son generally does well with change but, as is often the case with students with disabilities, large scale changes can be difficult. He has grown an attachment to the staff at Mariposa and the school itself. For example, on Wednesday when we had our two-hour delay because of snow, he was so upset that he had to miss any amount of class time and was so worried that there would be no school that day. He loves every day he goes to his school and when I tell him that it might change next year, that it might not be at the same school, or that the classes might be split up, he becomes incredibly upset by this.

Comment submitted online by Vida Andrews [continued] –

One thing that worries me is that he has become acclimated with this program, and very used to the school and layout of it. A large-scale change to another school, in addition to a stranded model could have repercussions to him, other students with disabilities, and/or students that struggle with change. I am worried that after a rough start to the year, we may have to repeat this struggle next year because we are making such a large change in his life. He is a sweet boy that loves every day and everyone, and he loves his current. A change in location is a hard enough change for students with a disability, but adding an additional change in the structure and systems of the school could prove to be very difficult on our students with disabilities. As would be the case for any group of students, all of the students at Mariposa have already figured out the system in place for one or more years, and a change to that could lead to setbacks and reverse the strides that they have already made the last two years.

When we were awarded a spot at Mariposa, we were told that we were signing up for a school; not a program. Myself, my husband, and our son, ask that you reconsider stranding the Mariposa students to two different schools and do everything in your power to keep it in one place not only for my son, but for all students and staff who have a close bond and have become like a family. The students in our community go through so much change, and giving them this stability will make a huge difference in their lives.

Thank you for your time,
Vida

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 submitted to the board secretary therefore, the following is a typed summary/dictation to the best of her ability on the topics shared as a public comment during the meeting.]

Chair Kevin Richards called for Larissa Stahn to speak.

Larissa Stahn introduced herself and said she was asked to speak on behalf of the English-speaking parents, the group consists of approximately fifteen sets of parents. She read the following: We are significantly concerned about the change that might occur – we understand that Mariposa school is currently housed in a wing at Jefferson County Middle School, and that a new site is potentially needed. We also are sincerely concerned with the current consideration to dismantle the school and turn it into a stranded program. There were a lot of questions that were not able to be answered to the group and there is a lot of concern because of that. We as English-speaking parents and community members want to build upon a positive image that such a wonderful school option has for our students and community.

There is considerable concern about the ramifications that the plans that the district has discussed can have on the school's future success while it is still in its developmental stages. While the strand option might be more financially rewarding for the district, the parents are concerned the damage that this could cause the staff who are currently able to collaborate and have the support of other dual language teachers within the same site, as well the strain on the students that are showing such great success inside of a school as it is currently being developed from a kindergarten and first grade school to a six-year program. The risks that the success and impact that moving a school can have, or disbanding the school into two different programs at two different elementary schools can have on these children and the teachers is a great concern. There is also an equity concern, the differentiation between developmental levels of children being served at Mariposa as it is required by the educational standards of any public education institution will likely suffer if the school is disbanded and the small group education becomes more of a challenge. Without the support of a single-site school with multiple strands, what might happen to the students needing individualized support within a smaller less-funded program instead of a magnet school site providing support to all students? The English-speaking parents that I was asked to represent tonight are in agreement that building Mariposa support staff is a potential area for growth, however, placing children at two different schools where there is already overcrowding and displacement issues between the schools will strain Mariposa's staff resources for this schools specialized teachers and support staff. The concern is that such a great school is being dismantled and chopped up, which will lead to the school not being as successful as it has already become. We don't want Mariposa school to lose all the positive traction that it is currently developing, because of site issues, or because it was more important to save money in the short term. We don't understand exactly what is leading the decisions and we would like to know more about it. While other counties whose dual language schools are developed and have been in place for such a long time that they were able to branch out to multiple sites, such as Bend or Beaverton. Our school here in Jefferson County is still being developed and needs the support of a single site situation until the school is able to formally be a K-5. In addition, Jefferson County is a unique district with unique needs and thus, it would be inappropriate to compare the school with other districts who have already developed schools in flourishing dual language schools, not just programs. As English-speaking parents, we first request that any chance that we can stay at JCMS and continue to use that site; and if not, that the schools be housed at one location instead of both elementary schools, so that the school has the ability to grow and strengthen between the classrooms at each grade level instead of being chopped up and bounced around, being treated like an unwanted program or an after-thought. We really appreciate your time. We know that it is not an easy decision and we want to be involved parents and we have a lot of concerns. Thank you for the time and consideration.

Chair Kevin Richards called for RJ Rodriguez to speak.

RJ Rodriguez – *[this information was provided to the board secretary]*

Hola mi nombre es RJ Rodriguez. I am a first grader at Mariposa Dual Language School. I love going to school and feeling the warm welcome from Mrs. Laura saying buenos dias every morning when I get my breakfast. Español es el idioma de mis abuelos. I love seeing the smiles on their faces when they hear me speaking Spanish. The friends I've made at school are my brothers and sisters away from home. My teachers are my parents away from home. Mariposa School is my home away from home. Gracias.

Chair Kevin Richards called for Esteffany Galan to speak.

Esteffany Galan - Hola, my name is Esteffany Galan, I am a 2016 graduate from Madras High School. I've had the pleasure to work for 509J school district since 2017, I am currently the secretary for Mariposa Dual Language. As a young person I never expected to have the beautiful opportunity to work for a school like Mariposa. I wish myself would have had this opportunity growing up. I wish I could have had a bi-lingual principal my mom could have spoke to without a problem. A lot of these parents feel so relieved and comfortable talking to our principal with no language barrier. There is always a smile on their face, knowing they can communicate with Laura; something I never witnessed before. It has been an absolute privilege to work with the staff, parents and students. I've seen this school start from nothing and into

successful Mariposa dual language. In case you did not know, I came up with the logo idea, and having the support of my teammates has been lovely, we bonded through many meetings and decisions as a team. I believe that is part of why our school has been so successful. Being there since the beginning has been amazing, we have created so many memories and traditions with these students. Change is hard, and I can't imagine these students being apart from each other, knowing they have created an amazing bond. I can't wrap my head around these students going to different schools knowing that these past few years they have been so successful together. Our culture at Mariposa is a wonderful thing the whole staff gets along very well. I really hope there are many more options to keep us together. Thank you for your time.

Chair Kevin Richards called for Kacie Figueroa to speak.

Kacie Figueroa – Hola, my name is Kacie, I am representing the Spanish-speaking parents whose children attend Mariposa Dual Language, we feel it is important to us and the children that Mariposa dual language school stays a school and not become a program or strand. The reason being it is an amazing opportunity for the entire Latino community in the Jefferson County. Hispanic parents who do struggle with English want to be involved with their child's school, their education and volunteer. Now they have somewhere they feel comfortable to speak, be involved, feel heard and be able to communicate with their child(ren)'s teachers, principal and staff. There has been an influx of participation from Hispanic parents who do struggle. In the Hispanic culture there are many traditions, it is important for the children to learn and honor those traditions as they grow older, Mariposa Dual Language helps focus on those main traditions and bring culture to the students. It brings diversity to the entire community, children will not only get to share their culture, but others will get to experience a different culture and we have seen that – Mariposa has made it truly a beautiful thing. I have had grandparents tell me how happy they are to be able to communicate with their children, so now, not only are they able to communicate with their grandparents, they are able to translate for them. Thanks to the consistency of Mariposa Dual Language, not only are they hearing Spanish at home, they are also hearing it at school. Our students are learning fast and are adapting fast – for example, my own child was in kindergarten and has struggled to adapt and this class has been amazing with her and with us. She loves to be at Mariposa. She can now count to thirty. Making a drastic change while children are adapting is not in their best interest. I believe our community is capable of coming up with a solution that will eventually benefit everyone. I have personally seen how bouncing around schools, even in the same school district can negatively affect them. Children have difficulty with change, studies have shown that for children, doctors compare change on the same level of the experience that one feels on the death of a loved one. Stories of ours provide something that is working, thriving and also providing success as a unit. We are capable of providing what our community committed to, which is Mariposa Dual Language school. Thank you.

Chair Kevin Richards called for Jinnel Lewis to speak.

Jinnel Lewis – explained that she was on the planning and development group with Laura Contreras-Weiss for the formation of this program, and a parent of a kindergartener next year who would like to apply into this program. She said a lot of her points have already been covered, but thinks that while still in its developmental stages and consideration of the program, they have looked at a lot of other programs in smaller communities and keeping this program that has become so unified in a small setting in one place is very important to everyone. If it can't be at JCMS, which is what they were told initially, and things have changed; but at the time when everyone looked at it, that was the best location. We originally as parents argued to not have it at the middle school and wanted it embedded in an elementary school. When we were looking at it back then, there was a higher population of Spanish speaking students at Madras Elementary and a higher number of Spanish speaking staff already there – that was something we already talked about in the developmental stages that should be taken into consideration. Looking at the programs mentioned – Woodburn, Salem and Bend, all being at much larger schools with higher budgets and larger number of students that were able to develop further into the program, as someone else stated already; into multiple schools rather than doing that at such early stages of a program, may be possible, but at this stage in the program does not seem feasible to maintain stability with such a strong program. The other thing that should be taken into consideration is the divide in elementary schools that took place about eight or nine years ago in our district; dividing the K-2 and 3-5 into two complete schools two blocks apart, that should be looked at if we are talking about moving one program; looking at that historic change, why that happened and what it actually added to the community, where there is people busing their kids to Buff even though they live north of town and different divides like that – maybe that should be looked at, at the same time. The other positive that this adds to the community, is recruitment; in different fields in this town when they are recruiting people here, particularly physicians, the dual language program is a very strong program that people are looking for in a community, it adds value to the community with such a diverse group of folks here – this is a big draw for people we are trying to get here in our community. Thank you.

Chair Kevin Richards said that was all the sign-ups to speak, and he will open it up to other board members if they have comments. He thanked everyone for speaking.

Chair Kevin Richards said the presence at the meeting this evening speaks to the success of the program; explaining that this will be an operational decision that will be made by staff leaders in the district, but it is one that will be made and supported by the priorities that our district faces. He also expressed that Mariposa might look different now, and one-two-three years from now might look different yet, but he will say with sincerity, one thing that won't change is the leadership's (in this district) unwavering support for dual language education - our district and our unique demographics really call for it. You have our commitment to see that the dual language will continue to thrive. What we have seen of the last eighteen months is just a testament to the need, and the fact that we have some of the right people leading it, thanks to Laura Contreras-Weiss for all her support and work to launch and build what we have, and also, the families and other parents who took a risk and continue to support the program to what it is and continue to do so.

With no additional comments from the board members, Chair Kevin Richards proceed to the action items.

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 **December 11, 2023**
- 1.2.** Resolution #24-11, Misc. Grants & Donations (\$3,575)
- 1.3.** ALO Report (Alternative Learning Options) – Heart of Oregon, YouthBuild
- 1.4.** Personnel Action
- 1.5.** Financial Report

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

2. POLICY DDB, NATIVE AMERICAN IMPACT AID FUNDS

[Courtney Snead left the meeting at approximately 8:35pm.]

Chair Kevin Richards called for a motion.

Jacob Struck asked for clarification, that they are adopting the update to the DDB policy with the changes to the dates that are highlighted. Superintendent Mathisen clarified, that is correct, the updates to the policy as noted and also the action plan that was presented earlier in the meeting along with the policy.

Jacob Struck made a motion to approve policy DDB , Native American Impact Aid Funds as presented; motion passed with a unanimous vote - **Approved 3/0** *[Laurie Danzuka absent, Courtney Snead not present during this vote only]*.

3. ODE ADDED SUPPORT & COACHING

Chair Kevin Richards explained that last month the ODE Added Support & Coaching was on the agenda and the board decided to table the action to give it more thought and consider the consequences and potential strain on resources with staff. He explained, in part that has been done but it is his understanding that there is an opportunity for the board to execute the agreement while retaining a sixty-plus days due diligence period which will allow the board to see who is on the support committee – allowing the board to vet it a little more without being fully committed, and looked to Superintendent Jay Mathisen to confirm.

Superintendent Jay Mathisen confirmed, that Chair Richards explanation was very well stated and correct; they would get to know who they will be working with from ODE, relevant to the

capacity and also discuss meeting structure that will answer the questions about the potential strain on resources. Superintendent Jay Mathisen explained that there will be months of time to see how it goes and we have let them know that we will back out, if we do not have the capacity. With those assurances (around a sixty-day timeline), we feel more confident in going forward and making this decision for our district.

[Courtney re-entered the meeting at approximately 8:39pm.]

Regina Mitchell and Jacob Struck both expressed that they would be supportive of this agreement, if they provide that time period to assess the team and consider the commitment on our existing resources, and if Superintendent Jay Mathisen and Assistant Superintendent Shay Mikalson feel more comfortable with the level of support, and are more reassured than what was presented at the last meeting (in January).

Assistant Superintendent Shay Mikalson explained that they have had very open conversations with ODE after the last meeting, in terms of what they would be looking for coaching support and what roles they will have. Shay Mikalson explained that ODE is very committed to the notion that they can select those individuals and allow for conversations, not just superficial but talk about priorities, in-line with their expertise, to do this work. They also had an honest conversation about how this can be streamlined with real equity work in our district – they were very much open to that conversation and the partnership.

Discussion took place about the process and the commitment.

Jacob Struck requested clarification, after the sixty days would there be penalties, or what would it look like if they are not satisfied. Assistant Superintendent Shay Mikalson explained that we are committed after that and would have to go through the process no matter what – the resources will flow directly to the district and that process will start.

Chair Kevin Richards shared that in his opinion and understanding, based on what has been shared, this opportunity is not purely a financial one, if approached in a cooperative way. There are some non-financial benefits during the course of this grant, and also strengthening the relationships with ODE and support groups.

Assistant Superintendent Shay Mikalson assured the board that he and Superintendent Mathisen commit to continue to keep the board informed as they meet, explaining that there will be ongoing updates.

Jacob Struck made a motioned to approve the ODE Added Support & Coaching. *[Chair Richards clarified to Superintendent Mathisen; with this motion the board would be authorizing the district to proceed with the grant? Superintendent Mathisen confirmed, that is correct.]* A board vote was taken and passed unanimously – **Approved 4/0.**

4. EARLY LITERACY GRANT

Superintendent Mathisen explained the early literacy grant and the need for board approval. He directed the board to pages 151-159 in the board packet, showing the grant application; he thanked Melinda Boyle and her team for the work on the application process.

Jacob Struck asked about the term length of this grant. Assistant Superintendent Mikalson shared that this is an on-going grant – explaining, although this is a stand-alone grant coming now, the integrated guidance, student investment and high school success – it will be woven into that, and every two years a plan will be presented with these dollars and others, but it is ongoing until there is legislative change.

Superintendent Jay Mathisen explained, the ask is for the board this evening is to approve the application in order to move that forward.

Vice Chair Courtney Snead made a motion to approve the application for the Early Literacy Grant; motion passed unanimously - **Approved 4/0.**

BOARD & SUPERINTENDENT HIGHLIGHTS

- We have great educators in our district and there are some really great things we are doing in our district.
- The book '*Unreasonable Hospitality*' our district leadership has been reading – I couldn't put it down; I appreciate the recommendation. The people, the actions and how we see them is so important. Grateful for the leadership, staff and community support of our district.
- Volunteering at middle school wrestling. I have so much respect for those that do the work with middle schoolers and teenagers.
- There has not been more than a handful of issues that has risen and gotten as much attention as Mariposa, and that is a reflection of the work that they are doing and how it really does impact peoples lives. When there are tough decisions, that means there is a lot at stake, and that is a good thing.
- Reading the book and recommending it to others. This district works as a team and gets people to "buy in" to what is best for the kids. Principals encourage, support and stands behind the teachers in this district – their impact, impacts the students. This district really works hard – as a team, and I like being a part of that.
- A recent meeting with regional law enforcement partners and it reminded me of the beauty of a community where people know each other by name, and get to know each other and can make good decisions. Grateful to be in this community and with a district that has good partnerships and people – and I get to know them.
- Awesome things going on in our district. Because of the great reputation of our district, we were recently awarded some grant money to continue great work at WSK8 and JCMS. We will bring some of that work to the next board meeting [Instructional Practices and Teaching and Student Engagement]. We have great leadership and teams; it is rewarding when we can bring resources to match that.

REMINDERS MARK YOUR CALENDAR

- Next Board Leadership (9am) – **Tuesday, February 6, 2024** (Kevin & Regina)
- Work Session (5:30pm) & Regular Session (7:00pm) @SSB – **Monday, February 12, 2024**
Work Session topic: Best Practices in Teaching & Student Engagement

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 9:02pm.

**Draft to Board for approval at next meeting,
Monday, February 12, 2024**

Tessa Bailey, Executive Assistant

Board Chair Kevin Richards

Superintendent Jay Mathisen

Date

Date