
***Rogue Community College District
Board of Education Work Session- April 20, 2021 Meeting Minutes***

1. **Call to Order-** The Rogue Community College (RCC) Special Board of Education (Board) meeting was called to order by Shawn Hogan at 4:04 p.m. on April 20, 2021 via Zoom. Due notice was given.
2. **Zoom Etiquette-** Rachele Brown explained the Board’s Zoom Etiquette expectations. Participants, aside from Board members and the Senior Leadership team, were asked to mute themselves and have their video turned off. If someone were to cause a distraction or disturbance to the meeting, that person would be dismissed from the meeting. If anyone wished to speak, they were asked to raise their hand, either electronically or physically on their video screen. Participants were asked to sign in with their full name and title using the chat box.
3. **Determine Presence of a Quorum-** A quorum of the Board was present including: Pat Fahey, Roger Stokes, Shawn Hogan, and Pat Ashley.
4. **Introduction of Guests-** RCC District employees included: President Cathy Kemper-Pelle, Curtis Sommerfeld, Juliet Long, Kori Ebenhack, Lisa Stanton, Rene McKenzie, August Farnsworth, Sara Bristol, and Rachele Brown; Jim Fong, Executive Director of Rogue Workforce Partnership; and Polly Farrimond, Workforce Analyst, Economist at the Oregon Employment Department.
5. **Information Presentation-**
 - A. Future Job Market in the Rogue Valley and Critical Career Paths for Local Businesses- Polly Farrimond, Economist at the Oregon Employment Department, gave a presentation on the current economy of the Rogue Valley (see file). Ms. Farrimond shared a comparison chart showing the current recession caused by COVID-19 compared to other recessions that Oregon has had in the past. She noted that Oregon is primed to recover fairly quickly from the current recession. Experts at the Oregon Office of Economic Analysis expect about 120,000 jobs to be added in Oregon over the next 12 months. Ms. Farrimond discussed how low-wage jobs have been affected the most by the COVID-19 pandemic. Job recovery is underway and as of February of 2021, Oregon had regained 46% of jobs that were lost in the spring of 2020. As of March 2021, total payroll employment in Jackson County rose by 1,760 jobs. The gain was mostly due to an estimated increase of 1,260 jobs in leisure and hospitality. Over the past year payroll employment in the Grants Pass MSA (Josephine County) fell by 680 jobs, a drop of 2.5%. Leisure and hospitality jobs account for nearly one-half of the county’s jobs losses since March 2020. A few industries are now showing over-the-year job gains in Josephine County, including retail trade, construction, private education, and health services. Ms. Farrimond stated that all industry private sectors in the Rogue Valley are expected to add jobs between now and 2029.

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Jim Fong, Executive Director of Rogue Workforce Partnership, gave a presentation on critical career paths for local businesses in the Rogue Valley (see file). The vision of the Rogue Workforce Partnership is to have a strong regional economy and prosperous community fueled by skilled workers, quality jobs and thriving businesses. Their mission is to create a demand-driven system that aligns the skills of workers to the needs of employers while improving career pathway accessibility. Mr. Fong stated that there are two objectives for the Rogue Workforce Partnership: that sector businesses grow through a workforce aligned to meet their needs and that the Rogue Valley will be a leader in the reduction of poverty in the state and nation. He added that there are currently six targeted industry sectors in the Rogue Valley: advanced manufacturing, construction, healthcare, information technologies, natural resources, and transportation and logistics. Sector strategies are employer-driven partnerships of industry, education and training, and other stakeholders, which are focused on the needs of key industries in the regional labor market. Rogue Workforce Partnership convenes sector employers, in collaboration with RCC, other K-20 education, workforce and economic development partners. Mr. Fong noted that in the midst of COVID-19, industry partners cannot fill their open positions. He added that Rogue Workforce Partnership is partnering to innovate and meet the needs of all workers, especially low-wage/low-skill, and to fill the talent pipeline needs of industry partners. Rogue Workforce Partnership has received federal grant funds to give employers access to a crew of temporary workers with clean-up, recovery, and humanitarian efforts related to the recent fire disaster in our region or the COVID-19 pandemic. Mr. Fong noted that there is no cost to the employer for access to these crews. In January of 2021 the Rogue Careers Website (<https://roguecareers.org/>) launched. This website highlights our region's targeted industry sectors and contains links to the following information: career planning tools, RCC and other training providers, WorkSource Rogue Valley, job listings, and company hiring links.

The Board expressed interest in having a follow-up work session with Jim Fong, sometime during Fall term, to see how some of these programs and data are progressing. They added it would also be beneficial to hear from Juliet Long and Kim Freeze during that work session.

6. Adjournment- Shawn Hogan adjourned the meeting at 5:03 p.m.

Meeting minutes respectfully submitted by Rachelle Brown, Assistant to the President-Governance.