



Accept responsibility as chair for Feb. 1 meeting issues?

Maya Rabasa <rabasa_m@4j.lane.edu>

Tue, Feb 14, 2023 at 8:05 PM

To: John Quetzalcoatl Murray <johnq@publicnewspapers.org>

Hi, John -

Thank you for reaching out with your concerns and questions.

To clarify, the responsibility for building the agenda lies on a team of folks - the three board members who attend the leadership meeting prior to each board meeting (this consists of the chair, vice chair, and a rotating third board member) and the superintendent. This is done as a team so no one person has the power to build an agenda without the checks and balances that come with the work being done collaboratively. The order of agenda items is fairly long standing with some things moved around on occasion (for example, several years ago comments were briefly moved towards the end of the meeting versus the beginning where they stand now and have long stood). The honoring of students and reception of guests has been at the start of our meeting for a very long time (because it is an agenda item it has been positioned after the agenda review) without any issue. As recently as the meeting on January 18th (the meeting prior to the one in question), we welcomed and honored students (that meeting honored accomplished student musicians) at that point in the agenda. All of that said, despite the longstanding practice, the superintendent and I have already made it clear we will bring forward the proposal of shifting guests to just after the land acknowledgement for the foreseeable future.

While it is tempting to imagine what might have played out differently, it is more important that we learn from the meeting in question, that we receive the message we - as a body of seven - were sent by the students walking out, and make shifts in our practices - for example, the shift of when we will honor guests as noted above.

Thank you, again, for reaching out,
Maya

From: "John Quetzalcoatl Murray" <johnq@publicnewspapers.org>

To: "rabasa m" <rabasa_m@4j.lane.edu>

Sent: Sunday, February 12, 2023 8:10:37 AM

Subject: Accept responsibility as chair for Feb. 1 meeting issues?

STOP. THINK. VERIFY. This message is not from a 4J address. Stop, think, and verify the source before you click links, open attachments, or respond. Never share passwords or confidential information.

[Quoted text hidden]

--

Maya Rabasa
(she/her/ella)
Board Chair
Eugene School District 4J



Accept responsibility as chair for Feb. 1 meeting issues?

John Quetzalcoatl Murray <johnq@publicnewspapers.org>
To: rabasa_m@4j.lane.edu

Sun, Feb 12, 2023 at 8:10 AM

Dear Chair Rabasa,

John Q here for [Whole Community News](#) and [KEPW 97.3 FM](#). After reviewing the recording of the [Feb. 1 board meeting](#), we have several questions.

- As chair you are responsible for building the meeting agenda. After this incident, would you consider moving recognition items and items involving student guests ahead of all other agenda items so they are handled first and your guests do not have to wait for other board business?
- Board Member Lafer did not speak up during the head nod affirmations for the "Signal / board communications" item, but as chair you later allowed him to re-open that item for discussion. Did you consider telling him that the item was already accepted?
- As chair, you at any point could have paused the agenda setting and recognized the champion student-athletes. There is a point in the discussion where it becomes clear that the re-vote on every agenda change is going to take more time than scheduled. In retrospect, might you have paused that discussion and recognized the students earlier, which you were allowed to do? (The board did in fact choose that course after the students left the room.)
- After the students left, you appeared to blame another board member for what happened, rather than accepting responsibility for your role in (1) setting the sequence of agenda items, (2) using an informal head-nod procedure rather than verbal aye and nay votes, (3) allowing Board Member Lafer to reopen an item that had already been approved for the agenda, and (4) not suggesting that the board pause its discussion to recognize the students when it was clear to those in the room that they were growing restless.

In short, do you accept responsibility for your actions as board chair that contributed to the current ill will and blaming in the community that is directed at Board Member O'Rourke?

And if so, would you make a statement to that effect? We are happy to jump on a Zoom call or phone call with you at your convenience.

Peace,
John [Quetzalcoatl](#) Murray (we / us / our)
(on Kalapuya lands in the Willamette watershed)

<https://WholeCommunity.News>