

MEETING MINUTES

VERNONIA SCHOOL DISTRICT BOARD of DIRECTORS Regular Meeting – October 12, 2023 Mist Elementary, 69163 Hwy 47, Mist

- 1.0 CALL TO ORDER:** A Regular Meeting of the Directors of Administrative School District 47J, Columbia County, Oregon was called to order at 6:03 p.m. by Scott Rickard. MEETING CALLED TO ORDER
- Board Present:** Greg Kintz, Javoss McGuire, Scott Rickard, and Susan Wagner
Board Absent: Stacey Pelster, Joanie Jones, Amy Cieloha
Staff Present: Jim Helmen, Superintendent; Michelle Eagleson, Elementary Principal; Susanne Myers, Special Education Director; Marie Knight, Business Manager; Barb Carr, Administrative Assistant, and Kendra Schlegel, Sena Wilmoth, and Tabetha Groshong, Licensed Staff. BOARD PRESENT
BOARD ABSENT
STAFF PRESENT
- Visitors Present:** Julie Ramsey, Doris Buchholz, Scott Laird, and Matt Doyle VISITORS PRESENT
- 1.1 The Pledge of Allegiance was recited. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE
- 2.0 AGENDA REVIEW:** Susan Wagner moved to approve the agenda as presented. Javoss McGuire seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously with those in attendance. AGENDA REVIEW
- 3.0 PUBLIC COMMENT:** None PUBLIC COMMENT
- 4.0 SHOWING CASING of SCHOOLS ADMINISTRATOR REPORTS**
- 4.1 ADMINSTRATOR REPORTS:** The Board received all Administrator Reports prior to the meeting.
- Scott Rickard asked about the next steps after gathering student assessment. According to Jim Helmen, last year all elementary and certain grade level students were tested. The Data Teams will meet and determine where students are performing and then align instruction, determining where interventions might be necessary. The data will also be used to align the PLC groups including reading comprehension and writing. After assessing again in January the District will be able to see growth on the changes made.
- Principals have done a great job with their reports, adding diagrams to see how things are going in their respective buildings. The District Talented and Gifted student numbers are lower than the average. Based on enrollment numbers we should have approximately 12 students; currently there are 3. All 3rd grade students are tested each year to determine qualification for the TAG program.
- Scott Rickard commented on the Special Education Report, thanking Susanne Myers for the mention of new senate bills. Susanne shared that she feels the District is off to a good start regarding the changes being implemented because of the bills. It all starts with a series of meetings followed by paperwork. Students will then be identified that fall under the new guidelines. Greg Kintz asked if there is any leeway on the abbreviated timelines for students. According to Susanne, every student has the right to a full school day. The rule doesn't say they can't have an abbreviated day but the goal is not to have it. It is possible unintended outcomes may surface once the rule is put into place. Jim Helmen recognized Susanne for her work to bring us into compliance with the new guidance.
- Jim Helmen highlighted the efforts of the District to support new teachers. The District has 3 layers of new teachers this year. They are coming to us as:
Level 1: a teacher with teaching / classroom experience
Level 2: a teacher with little teaching experience or classroom time as an instructional assistant
Level 3: a teacher without teaching experience and needs additional support.
- For those teachers at Level 1, the District has instructional coaches through the NWRESA lending support. Level 2 teachers have teacher mentors working with them, focusing on processes, etc. For Level 3 teachers, the District has hired recently retired teacher, Robin

Murphy to support our 2 brand new teachers as if they were in a student teaching situation. She is in the classroom side-by-side with them.

- 4.2 **Class Size Report:** Jim Helmen shared that overall our enrollment is up slightly from where it ended last year. Currently 100 students are enrolled in the Vernonia Family Academy. During COVID, this number was over 200. Quite a few high school level students have a blended day, coming into the building for electives. This program is full. CLASS SIZE REPORT

5.0 BUSINESS REPORTS:

- 5.1 **Superintendent Report:** The Superintendent's Report was provided to the Board prior to the meeting. SUPERINTENDENT REPORT

Scott Rickard commented that he was excited to see the ODE 21st Century Grant materialize. Jim Helmen shared that it will be a great opportunity to support the kids and the community.

Matt Doyle, NWRES D Columbia County Administrator: Jim Helmen introduced Matt Doyle. Mr. Doyle shared that he comes from St. Helens, as the Administrator at the Columbia County Service Center. He has also worked in St. Helens as a School District Administrator. He has spent time as a sub and saw firsthand the gaps in the classrooms. A lot of his time is spent supporting teachers and specialists such as occupational therapists, physical therapists, speech pathologists and instructional assistants. He also supports early childhood development. He convenes the Columbia County Superintendents once a month and he also meets once a month with special education directors. Mr. Doyle shared that he works closely with Jim Helmen to ensure that Vernonia receives the services it needs to support students. NWRES D COLUMBIA SERVICE CENTER ADMINSTRATOR SPEAKS BRIEFLY TO THE BOARD

- 5.2 **Financial Report:** Marie Knight shared that she is not yet done with the 2022-23 financial audit. She explained that certain dates are set aside for the auditors to work on our District. If the audit is not completed on the dates set aside for us, they move on to the next audit returning to finish us when they have time. She does not anticipate having to go into February and March like last year. Nothing big has come up. There were no questions from the Board. FINANCIAL REPORT

- 5.3 **Maintenance Report:** Mark Brown's report was provided to the Board prior to the meeting. There were no questions from the Board. MAINTENANCE REPORT

Jim Helmen highlighted a couple items.

The District recently purchased a Gator for the Maintenance Department. This has been budgeted for a couple of years and it recently arrived. It will be valuable in maintaining a large campus. NEW GATOR HAS BEEN PURCHASED

OSAA is now going to a shot clock for boys' and girls' basketball. It will be installed over the main score board in the large gym. OSAA IMPLEMENTING SHOT CLOCK IN BASKEBALL

Logger Concessions had a soft opening last weekend. The Grand Opening will be next Friday, Oct. 20. at 6:30 pm. Scott Laird, a member of the Stadium Committee, stated that he is thankful to be done with phase 1 – the concession building. The Committee can now move on to focusing on the grand stands. CONCESSION STAND COMPLETE

6.0 BOARD REPORTS/ BOARD DEVELOPMENT:

6.1 COMMITTEE REPORTS

6.1.1 Safety Committee – No report given.

6.1.2 Policy Committee – The committee met recently and worked through a few policy updates. These updates are presented for a 1st reading and part of this packet. Greg Kintz indicated that he would like the committee to review the Volunteer Policy.

6.1.3 Scholarship Committee – No report given.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

7.0 OTHER INFORMATION and DISCUSSION

- 7.1 **Division 22 Standards:** Jim Helmen shared that after his thorough review of our policies, procedures, and standards, the Vernonia School District is in compliance. There was one area of minor exception and that was ensuring our systems and practices, our TAG program for example, are posted on the District website. This information is due to ODE by November 1st. Mr. Helmen will submit soon and meet this deadline. If any corrections are needed, ODE will notify the District by November 15th. DIVISION 22 STANDARDS IN COMPLIANCE NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC

7.2 Policy Updates – 1st Reading.

- BD/BDA – Board Meetings. Discussion was held on language in number 1, addressing special meetings and on the inclusion of #8 mandatory training for board members.
- BDC – Executive Sessions.
- EFA – Local Wellness
- GCBDA/GDBDA – Family Medical Leave

POLICY UPDATES – 1st READING

8.0 ACTION ITEMS: There were no action items scheduled for this meeting.

9.0 MONITORING BOARD PERFORMANCE: Nothing discussed.

10.0 CONSENT AGENDA:

CONSENT AGENDA

**10. Minutes of 09/14/2023 Regular Meeting
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Susan Wagner moved to approve the consent agenda as presented. Greg Kintz seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously with those in attendance.

CONSENT AGENDA APPROVED

11.0 OTHER ISSUES:

OTHER ISSUES

Jim Helmen, shared that it was a request from the Board to compare law firms for the District’s legal representation. He looked at services provided and all were comparable however the rate at which those services cost differed. He took the District’s recent fair dismissal appeal case and looked at cost over time. He took the bill and broke it down for associated costs and hourly rates for all staff working on behalf of our District and compared this to other firms.

DISTRICT LEGAL REPRESENTATION OPTIONS COMPARED

With our current attorney representation the total hourly support rate was \$3,715.00. In comparison to what it would have been with:

- Hungerford Law Firm - \$6,500.00
- Harang & Lang PC - \$10,000 – \$30,000
- Lynch, Murphy and McLane - \$5,890.00
- Miller Nash - \$6,570.00

Jim Helmen stated he is happy with the representation of the District. Susanne Myers agreed. It is Mr. Helmen’s recommendaiton that we stay with Garrett Hemann Robertson. If at any time he feels the District is not getting the needed support he will look at this again.

Jim Helmen recognized our Principals as October is Principal Appreciation Month. Thank you to Michelle Eaglson and Nate Underwood.

PRINCIPALS RECOGNIZED IN OCTOBER

Greg Kintz shared that OSBA recently held their Legislative Road Show. Information will be coming out from OSBA and next month there will be two resolutions for our Board to consider supporting.

OSBA UPDATE

The District Fall Engagement Night is scheduled for November 15th.

The Mist Birkenfeld Fall Festival will be held November 4th. This is an annual fundraiser for the Mist Birkenfeld Helping Circle which supports student scholarships and covers the cost of the street lights in Mist.


UPCOMING CALENDAR EVENTS

Next Board meeting will be November 9
OSBA conference coming up November 9-11.

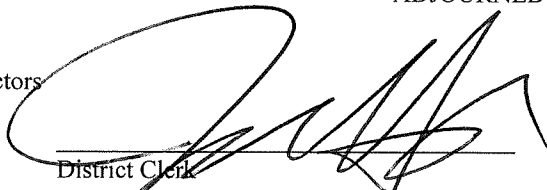
13.0 MEETING ADJOURNED at 7:09 p.m.

ADJOURNED

Submitted by Barb Carr,
Administrative Assistant to the Superintendent and Board of Directors



Board Chair



District Clerk