

**VERNONIA SCHOOL DISTRICT 47J**  
**1201 TEXAS AVENUE**  
**VERNONIA OR 97064**

**BOARD OF DIRECTORS WORKSHOP MINUTES**

**September 22, 2021**

**CALL TO ORDER:** A Workshop of the Board of Directors of Vernonia School District 47J, Columbia County, Oregon was called to order at 6:34 p.m. virtually. MEETING CALLED TO ORDER

**Board Present:** Stacey Pelster, Joanie Jones, Susan Wagner, Javoss McGuire, Amy Cieloha, and Scott Rickard. Greg Kintz arrived at 6:49 p.m. BOARD PRESENT

**Board Absent:** None. BOARD ABSENT

**Staff Present:** Aaron Miller, Superintendent and Barb Carr, Administrative Assistant STAFF PRESENT

**Visitors Present:** Scott Laird VISITORS

1. **Columbia County Commissioners Response:** Columbia County Board of Commissioners reached out to local partners asking for input regarding possible specific action to be enacted in local jurisdictions to address the Governor's mask and vaccine mandates. RESPONSE TO COLUMBIA COUNTY COMMISSIONERS REQUEST DISCUSSED and APPROVED

The consensus of the Board was to move forward with submitting a response. Discussion was held on language. The result of that discussion was:

*Primary concern: We are all different, the places that we live are different, and that needs to be considered and heard. Desire for, and importance of, local control. For example, having the flexibility to support and treat everyone as alike instead of discriminatorily separating and segregating through mask and vaccine mandates.*

*Solution: Spend time and political capital to lobby the governor to restore local control to jurisdictions across the State. Guidelines not mandates.*

Greg Kintz moved to authorize Chair Pelster to send a response to Columbia County Board of Commissioners on behalf of the School Board as discussed. Scott Rickard seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken – Stacey Pelster, Greg Kintz, Javoss McGuire, Scott Rickard, Joanie Jones, and Amy Cieloha voted in favor. Susan Wagner voted against. Motion passed.

2. **RECESS TO EXECUTIVE SESSION** under O.R.S. 192.660 92) (b) at 7:46 p.m. RECESS TO EXECUTIVE SESSION

Discussion was held on a complaint received. Complainant withdrew complaint, no further action is needed.

3. **RETURN TO THE WORKSHOP** at 7:53 p.m. RETURNED TO WORKSHOP

4. **OTHER ISSUES:** Greg Kintz commented that recent email communication coming to the Board from a few community members has been handled properly by the Board not engaging. It was reminded that anyone with questions need to be referred to Superintendent Miller. BOARD / COMMUNITY / SUPT COMMUNICATION NOTED

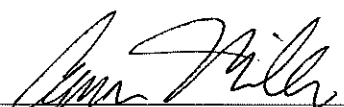
Stacey Pelster noted that the scheduled virtual community meetings with Superintendent Miller will be helpful and appreciates that Mr. Miller has set these up.

Scott Rickard asked for clarification on how to respond if community wants the Board to be aware of something. The public is invited to speak during the public comment section of the regular board meetings. Mr. Miller asked that these comments be referred to him.

**ADJOURNED:** Workshop adjourned at 7:59 p.m.. ADJOURNED

Submitted by Barb Carr, Administrative Assistant

  
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Board Chair

  
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District Clerk

09-22-2021