

MEETING MINUTES

VERNONIA SCHOOL DISTRICT BOARD of DIRECTORS Special Meeting – April 15, 2026 Vernonia Schools, 1000 Missouri Avenue, Vernonia

1. CALL TO ORDER: A Special Meeting of the Board of Directors of Vernonia School District 47J, Columbia County, Oregon was called to order at 5:35 p.m. by Greg Kintz. MEETING CALLED TO ORDER
1.1 The Flag Salute was recited.

Board Present: Lisa Curry, Alicia Mahoney, Amy Cieloha, Greg Kintz, Joanie Jones, and Tony Holmes BOARD PRESENT

Board Absent: Javoss McGuire BOARD ABSENT

Staff Present: Barb Carr, Administrative Assistant; Nate Underwood, Middle and High School Principal; Jennifer Schram, Juliet Safier, Lee Costanzo, and Brett Costley, Licensed Staff; and Jana Titus and Karen Roberts, Classified Staff. STAFF PRESENT

Visitors Present: Trent Grundmeyer, Rob Hess, Dave Kline, and Aaron Bayer with Grundmeyer Leader Services; Leslie Barnes, Kim Bernardi, Scott Laird, Susan Wagner, Gordon Jarman, and Amy Rose. VISITORS PRESENT

Rob Hess spoke to the group and discussed the process. The objective of this meeting is to review the 20 applications that have come in and narrow it down to no more than 8 for the first round of interviews. He shared that every decision is a risk as no one knows how the outcome will be. Having a good and clear process helps. He reminded all that what is discussed regarding applicants is confidential and not to be shared. DISCUSSION

GLS played a sample AI generated podcast interview talking about Vernonia. They use this tool and provide it to candidates. The podcast highlighted the wants and needs of Vernonia School District based on prior feedback received. A lot of the comments in the podcast were references to the stakeholder survey comments. The group as a whole felt the comments about a toxic environment were harsh and asked that this comment be adjusted. Some in the group did not agree with the comment of only 20% of students being college bound.

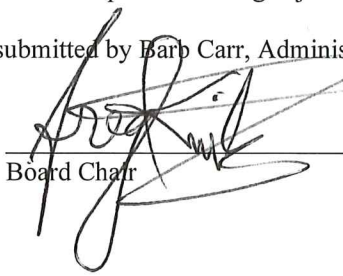
2.0 RECESS to EXECUTIVE SESSION under O.R.S. 192.660 (2) (a) To consider the employment of a public officer, employee, staff member or individual agent.” at 6:05 p.m. RECESS TO EXECUTIVE SESSION

Applications received were reviewed one at a time by the group.
Community and staff members in attendance were excused at 8:00 p.m. and reminded of the confidentiality.
The board discussed the applicants and selected those for the first round of interviews.

3.0 RETURN TO SPECIAL MEETING at 8:33 p.m. RETURN TO SPECIAL MEETING

4.0 ADJOURN: The Special Meeting adjourned at 8:33 p.m. ADJOURNED

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



Board Chair



District Clerk