# **MEETING MINUTES**

# VERNONIA SCHOOL DISTRICT BOARD of DIRECTORS Regular Meeting – January 12, 2023

Vernonia Schools, 1000 Missouri Avenue, Vernonia, OR 97064

1.0 **CALL TO ORDER:** A Regular Meeting of the Directors of Administrative School District 47J, Columbia County, Oregon was called to order at 6:05 p.m. by Stacey Pelster, Chair.

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER

Board Present: Stacey Pelster, Susan Wagner, Greg Kintz, Scott Rickard, Amy Cieloha, Javoss

**BOARD PRESENT** 

McGuire, Joanie Jones (joined virtually) Board Absent: None

BOARD ABSENT

Staff Present: Jim Helmen, Superintendent; Nate Underwood, MS/HS Principal; Michelle Eagleson, Elementary Principal; Rachel Wilson, K-12 Vice Principal; Susanne Myer, SPED Director; Marie Knight, Business Manager; Barb Carr, Administrative Assistant; and Kendra Schlegel and Olivia Keister, Licensed Staff.

STAFF PRESENT

Visitors Present: Scott Laird

VISITORS PRESENT

1.1 The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

AGENDA REVIEW: Amy Cieloha moved to approve the agenda as presented. Susan Wagner 2.0 seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously with those in attendance.

AGENDA REVIEW

PUBLIC COMMENT ON AGENDA and NON-AGENDA ITEMS: 3.0

PUBLIC COMMENT

Olivia Keister, teacher and resident of Vernonia, expressed her concerns on the Menstrual Dignity Act. She feels it is creating a multiple use, mixed sex, bathroom. Educators are tasked with creating an environment welcoming to all students and she sees issues with the Act.

#### SHOWCASING OF SCHOOLS: 4.0

Administrator Reports: The Board reviewed the administrative reports prior to the 4.1 meeting.

**ADMINISTRATOR** REPORTS

Scott Rickard asked Michelle Eagleson if all elementary teaching slots are filled? Yes.

Nate Uunderwood added that the CTE program recently required a new forklift and thanks to a donation, a new MIG Welding System.

#### 5.0 **BUSINESS REPORTS:**

5.1 **Superintendent Report**: Jim Helmen's report is provided to the Board prior to the meeting. Scott Rickard asked about the recent drop in enrollment. Jim Helmen reported that two families moved out of Vernonia, a couple students have transferred to an online education option, and another student transferred to a neighboring district where both parents work. He has and will continue to reach out to parent/guardians of students transferring out of our district.

SUPERINTENDENT REPORT

Susan Wagner commented on the thought exchange data. Jim Helmen stated that the majority of the participants were staff. He is happy with the results and with those that attended.

District data will be presented at the January 19, 2023 workshop with the data team. Jim will dive into the data more and present at the workshop.

Amy Cieloha, commented that there is still an issue with the dismissal time and the 90 minute block schedule. Susan Wagner stated she felt getting rid of the 90 minute block was wanted.

5.1.1 Strategic Plan Update: Jim Helmen stated that he will provide an update to the Board STRATEGIC PLAN at the workshop on January 19th. Stacey Pelseter shared that she will not be in attendance at UPDATE this meeting.

01/12/23

5.2 Financial Report: Marie Knight's report was provided to the Board prior to the meeting.

She is continuing to work with district auditors and hopes to present the audit soon. 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

#### 6.0 BOARD REPORTS/ BOARD DEVELOPMENT:

#### 6.1 Committee Reports:

Susan Wagner reported on the Safety Committee. They have had vandalism to the care packages in the restrooms and feels it is important to have discussions, either at the class level or on an individual basis about this. It is a continuing issue creating more work for staff. A conversation has occurred about additional cameras inside school for more monitoring.

BOARD REPORTS COMMITTEE UPDATES

Policy Committee: Javoss McGuire shared that the committee took OSBA's recommendations and either took their option or made an option more applicable to our district. Scott Rickard shared that the committee met twice and got through the October 2021 packet. In summary, the yellow highlights are verbiage that the committee selected. Grey highlights are required changes from the state made by OSBA. Blue highlights is the option given by OSBA between policy versions. Lined out text is deleted. The group of policy revisions presented at this meeting for a first reading will come back to the Board next month for approval.

#### 7.0 OTHER INFORMATION and DISCUSSION

7.1 Staff Resignation & Retirement: Jim Helmen shared that Jim Krahn has submitted his resignation from teaching effective Jan. 6, 2023, but will remain on staff as a coach. Rachel Wilson is retiring from PERS effective January 19, 2023 but wishes to work back. The retirement is on paper only.

STAFF RESIGNATION & RETIREMENT SHARED

Policy Updates: Policy updates were discussed during item 6.1.
 Amy Cieloha asked for clarification or had comments on the following policies:
 BBBH – public comments should be allowed for both items on and not on the agenda.
 GBNAA/JHFF – asked for clarification in the process.
 JB – feels policy is vague.
 IJ – would like to see this available to all students

POLICY UPDATES
PRESENTED FOR 1st
READING

7.3 Athletic Coop Agreement: Jim Helmen shared that district athletic director Gordon Jarmen received a request from two ladies at VHS wanting to play golf. They desire to participate at Banks High School through a cooperative agreement. Jim stated he is ready to sign off. The OSAA timeline requires our Board to approve. We reserve the right to pull back the agreement if our own team were to materialize.

ATHLETIC COOP AGREEMENT WITH BANKS H.S. SHARED

### 8.0 ACTION ITEMS

8.1 Staff Resignation / Retirement: Susan Wagner moved to accept the resignation of Jim Krahn effective Jan. 6, 2023 and the retirement of Rachel Wilson, effective Jan. 19, 2023. Greg Kintz seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

KRAHN RESIGNS and WILSON RETIRES

**8.2 Athletic Coop Agreement:** Susan Wagner moved to accept the athletic coop agreement with Banks High School. Javoss McGuire seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

ATHLETIC COOP WITH BANKS APPROVED

**9.0 MONITORING BOARD PERFORMANCE:** OSBA recently sent notice to school board members that individual members are now required to disclose their finances.

MONITORING BOARD PERFORMANCE

## 10.0 CONSENT AGENDA:

10.1 Minutes of 12/08/22 Regular Meeting MINUTES

Greg Kintz moved to approve the consent agenda as presented. Javoss McGuire seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously. Scott Rickard amended his vote to abstain from the vote. He was not in attendance at the meeting reflected in the minutes.

CONSENT AGENDA APPROVED

CONSENT AGENDA

01/12/23 2-3

11.0 OTHER ISSUES: OTHER ISSUES

Greg Kintz shared he will visit other schools with CTE programs to see how they are formed and how they work.

Amy Cieloha asked about addressing the public comment. Information will be provided at the next meeting.

Barb Carr shared that three board position terms will expire June 30, 2023 and will be part of the May 16, 2023 election. She will send out information to expiring positions and paste information on the district website for anyone interested in running for school board.

Jim Helmen shared that January is School Board Appreciation Month and he appreciates the work the board does and the time they give. Board members received cards made by students, a VSD book bag, a flood book consisting of student artwork and a Logger Nation t-shirt. Jim shared that he is having the CTE program make something special for them as well, however this will be available later in the year.

### 12.0 MEETING ADJOURNED at 7:23 p.m.

**ADJOURNED** 

Submitted by Barb Carr,

Administrative Assistant to the Superintendent and Board of Directors

Board Chair

District Clerk