

MEETING MINUTES

VERNONIA SCHOOL DISTRICT BOARD of DIRECTORS Regular Meeting – May 09, 2024 Vernonia Schools, 1000 Missouri Ave., 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 6:02 pm by Scott Rickard. MEETING CALLED TO ORDER
- Board Present:** Joanie Jones, Amy Cieloha, Javoss McGuire, Scott Rickard, Stacey Pelster, Greg Kintz, and Susan Wagner (attended virtually). BOARD PRESENT
- Board Absent:** None BOARD ABSENT
- Staff Present:** Jim Helmen, Superintendent; Nate Underwood, Middle/High School Principal; Michelle Eagleson, Elementary School Principal; Susanne Myers, Special Education Director; Marie Knight, Business Manager; Barb Carr, Administrative Assistant; Lee Costanzo, Juliet Safier, Amanda Stonier, and James Helmen, Licensed Staff and Sabrina Albee and Camrin Eyrick, Classified Staff. STAFF PRESENT
- Visitors Present:** Alicia Normand, Tony Holmes, Neilia Solberg, Jan Cockrell and Scott Laird VISITORS PRESENT
- 1.1** The Pledge of Allegiance was recited. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE
- 2.0 AGENDA REVIEW:** Addition of name in the motion of 10.2 New Hire. Stacey Pelster moved to approve the agenda as amended. Greg Kintz seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously with those in attendance. AGENDA REVIEW
- 3.0 RECESS to BUDGET MEETING** at: 6:04 p.m. MEETING RECESSED
- 4.0 RETURN TO BOARD MEETING:** at 6:30 p.m. MEETING RECONVENED
- 5.0 PUBLIC COMMENT:** None PUBLIC COMMENT
- 6.0 SHOWING CASING of SCHOOLS**
- 6.1 Administrative Reports:** Administrator reports were provided to the Board prior to the meeting. ADMINISTRATOR REPORTS
- Scott Rickard thanked Joanie Jones and Greg Kintz for helping at Kindergarten registration.
- Scott Laird commented that he appreciated the depth of the reports provided by the administrators. He also noted that it would be helpful if the attendance reports were all reported for the same time period.
- 6.1.1 Honors Diploma Proposal:** Discussion was held regarding the proposal of providing an honors diploma for those students that exceed the current levels of rigor. This is not a State of Oregon honors diploma but a VSH honors diploma. The goal is to be inclusive of all students with the ability to be flexible as well. Comments were made on the GPA minimum to achieve the honors diploma and more thought put into how students are scheduled into classes. HONORS DIPLOMA PROPOSAL
- Juliet Safier shared that students recently reviewed a slideshow highlighting all required courses and other course offerings. Mrs. Ashley Ward is a great resource for students going on to further their education whether it be college or trade school.
- The proposal will be brought before the board at the next meeting for approval. The board was asked to submit any additional questions to Mr. Helmen / Mr. Underwood.
- 7.0 BUSINESS REPORTS:**
- 7.1 Superintendent Report:** The superintendent report was provided to the Board prior to the meeting.

Jim Helmen shared that the elementary classes are focusing on writing and the high school is currently focusing on 9th grade on track. Highlights from the year will be shared at the End of the Year Celebration / Family Engagement Night on May 29th. All student Star Performers will be recognized.

SUPERINTENDENT
REPORT

Mr. Helmen stated that the District is collecting student voices on changes for the 2024-25 school year. Twenty students in each grade 6 – 12 were selected and asked about their connection to the District level of rigor in the classroom, attendance, and relationships with staff. The collected data, teacher evaluations and other trauma informed care surveys will be used to determine the focus for next year.

Summer programs - Camp Cedar Ridge is hoping to partner with Vernonia Springs to offer a summer program for K-5 students.

In response to Senate Bill 489 the District held a meeting with all Classified staff. The District also sent out a survey to all classified staff seeking interest of those that want to work over the summer. The State is mandating that the District provide opportunities for employment over the summer.

Family Engagement Night – the District has been invited and is working with OSBA to support a presentation at the summer board conference. It will be a 2 hour session highlighting the success we’ve had with community engagement.

Kids Junk Orchestra is currently working with teachers to help train and incorporate drumming into the classroom. He will work with VES, MES and VFA and will give a performance as part of the upcoming Family Engagement Night.

7.1.1 Staffing Update: New hires include elementary PE teacher Michael Lowry and VHS Science teacher Jen Schram. Dylan Taylor, HS Math Teacher, is resigning effective June 17th.

STAFFING UPDATE

7.2 Financial Report: Marie Knight shared the financial report prior to the meeting. Scott Rickard celebrated the District’s ending fund balance in excess of \$600,000.

FINANCIAL REPORT

7.3 Maintenance Report: Mark Brown’s report was provided to the Board prior to the meeting. Amy Cieloha asked for update on snack shack. Jim Helmen shared that during construction the pump cleared inspection but the ground water is too high and covers the outlet at times causing it to trip. Five Star Builders says it needs to be moved. Depending on code, it appears that the outlet needs to be extended higher or moved altogether. Stacey Pelster suggested Mark Brown reach out to Ben Pelster.

MAINTENANCE REPORT

A question was raised as to whether the vandalism in the boys’ bathroom is continuing to occur or is just repeated on the report as an error.

8.0 BOARD REPORTS/ BOARD DEVELOPMENT:

8.1 COMMITTEE REPORTS

COMMITTEE REPORTS

8.1.1 Safety Committee – no report

8.1.2 Policy Committee – policies are being presented at this meeting as a first reading

8.1.3 Scholarship Committee – Javoss McGuire is the chair of the committee. They recently met to review applications and select the recipients. Discussion was held on applications being incomplete and with a lot of typos. The committee felt there should have been more oversight and perhaps the committee needs to set expectations. If the application doesn’t meet the expectation it isn’t considered. They expressed concern about what is being put out into the community.

9.0 OTHER INFORMATION and DISCUSSION

OTHER INFORMATION
POLICY UPDATES

9.1 Policy Updates: the following policies were presented for a first reading.

BBBA – Board Member Qualifications

BCF – Advisory Committees to the Board

CB – Superintendent

- CBC/CBD – Superintendent’s Contract/Compensation and Benefits
- CPA – Layoff/Recall – Administrators
- CPA-AR – Layoff/Recall – Administrators
- DBEA – Budget Committee
- EFA – Local Wellness (delete)
- EFA-AR – Wellness Program (delete)
- EH – Electronic Data Management
- EH-AR – Records and Data Management
- GBEA – Workplace Harassment
- GCAA – Standards for Competent and Ethical Performance of Oregon Educators
- GCBDB/GDBDB – Early Return to Work
- GCDA/GDDA-AR – Criminal Records Checks and Fingerprinting
- GCPA – Reduction or Recall of Licensed Staff

The board was asked to review the policies and bring any questions to the next meeting.

10.0 ACTION ITEMS:

10.1 Staff Resignation: Javoss McGuire moved to accept the resignation of Dylan Taylor, High School Math Teacher effective June 17, 2024. Amy Cieloha seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously. TAYLOR RESIGNS

10.2 New Hire: Stacey Pelster moved to accept the superintendent’s recommendation to hire Michael Lowry, Vernonia Elementary P.E. Teacher and Jennifer Schram, High School Science Teacher. Greg Kintz seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously. LOWRY AND SCHRAM HIRED

11.0 MONITORING BOARD PERFORMANCE: Nothing discussed. BOARD PERFORMANCE

12.0 CONSENT AGENDA: CONSENT AGENDA

12.1 Minutes of 04/11/2024 Regular Meeting and 04/24/24 Scholarship Committee Meeting.

Stacey Pelster moved to approve the consent agenda as presented. Amy Cieloha seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously. CONSENT AGENDA APPROVED

13.0 OTHER ISSUES: OTHER ISSUES

13.1 Next Agenda Setting Meeting

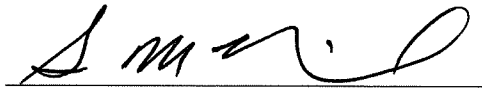
The next agenda setting meeting will be with Scott Rickard and Amy Cieloha on June 5th at 5:00 p.m.

Stacey Pelster requested that policy BBD be discussed. The recommendation will go to the policy committee review it.

Susan Wagner commented that the sound quality is very poor when attending a meeting virtually. She had a hard time hearing or understanding what was being discussed.

14.0 MEETING ADJOURNED at 8:05 p.m. ADJOURNED

Submitted by Barb Carr, Administrative Assistant



 Board Chair



 District Clerk

