

MEETING MINUTES

VERNONIA SCHOOL DISTRICT BOARD of DIRECTORS Workshop Meeting – September 29, 2022 Vernonia Schools, 1000 Missouri Avenue, Vernonia

- 1. CALL TO ORDER:** A Workshop of the Board of Directors of Vernonia School District 47J, Columbia County, Oregon was called to order at 5:01 p.m. by Stacey Pelster. MEETING CALLED TO ORDER
- Board Present:** Greg Kintz, Javoss McGuire, Amy Cieloha, Scott Rickard, Stacey Pelster, Susan Wagner arrived at 5:22 p.m. Joanie Jones arrived at 5:42 p.m. BOARD PRESENT
- Board Absent:** None BOARD ABSENT
- Staff Present:** Jim Helmen, Superintendent and Barb Carr, Administrative Assistant STAFF PRESENT
- Visitors Present:** None VISITORS PRESENT
- 2. Board/Superintendent Operating Agreement:** Three samples were provided to the Board for review. Discussion was held on the pros and cons of each sample. Communication that occurs openly and freely was a highlight of the discussion. The statement that referenced speaking as an individual vs speaking on behalf of the Board included in the sample was reviewed. Boards members shared incidences of when community members contact them directly about an issue. Comments from the Board included: BOARD / SUPERINTENDENT OPERATING AGREEMENT DISCUSSION
- Community members reach out simply to gain information.
 - Stating personal opinions on something is fine as long as it is noted that the decision of the board will be supported, even if not a member's personal option
 - Stating personal opinions should not be discussed
 - Engaging in conversation, beyond offering who they should contact at the District with their concerns, is not recommended
- Mr. Helmen shared his hope that the Board will work as a team. When community members seek out board members they see the board member as someone with power and someone that they voted for that represents their beliefs. He stated he needs a unified team to run this District.
- After discussion it was the consensus of the Board to support the statement as written. It was also agreed upon to add to the back of the sample option the District Priorities and District Guiding Principles. The statement at the top of sample option #3 was also asked to be included.
- Schedule Final Training with Steve Kelley, OSBA.** After discussion the Board agreed on Thursday, Nov. 3 as their first choice and Wednesday, Nov. 2 as their second choice for the final 3 hours of Superintendent Onboarding training. Barb Carr will communicate this information to Steve Kelley and send an invite out to the Board when confirmed.
- 3 Schedule Fall / Spring Data Monitoring Meetings:** Discussion was held on scheduling this meeting. Discussing this information at a board meeting would not allow enough time. It was noted the current Star Assessments will be wrapped up at the end of October. The Board decided that the date for this meeting will be Thursday, Dec. 1st at 5:30 p.m.
- Jim Helmen, in order to prepare his administrative team for the meeting, asked each board member what data they would like to see.
- Scott Rickard: Are there middle school to high school trends? Outliers? Why is this grade different? What's going on behind the scenes?
- Amy Cieloha: Wants to know how data is helping with student achievement? What's going to come out of it?
- Javoss McGuire: Wants to see that we are trending up and how do we utilize data to move us forward.
- Joanie Jones: How are we aligning K-12 to get to the scores we want.

Stacey Pelster: What are teachers doing in the classroom? Are we teaching to the assessment and what is the assessment focusing on? Are teachers adjusting lessons for effectiveness?

Greg Kintz: Are there strategies for going forward? Is the curriculum working or do we need different curriculum? Are more instructional assistants needed?

Susan Wagner: It's important to see the data but she doesn't believe it is important to drill down and ask how come and where we go from there. Is there something missing that we are offering?

Mr. Helmen shared that there is a lot more than just academics, and other important data to consider, such as empathy, activities, what does Social Emotional Learning (SEL) look like now. There is value with empathy interviews and SEL. He will visit with his administration and have them come prepared to answer questions. He does not want them caught off guard with unintentional directed questions and asks the board to be very intentional on what data they want to see.

Discussion was held on the style of presentation. One option is small groups that Board members rotate through or one presentation to the entire group. Board members found value in hearing other questions asked and preferred to have one presentation to the entire group.

Other Issues:

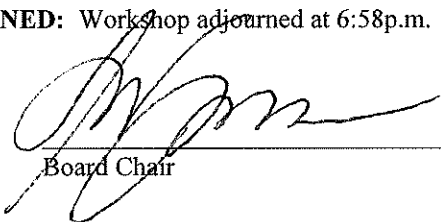
Jim Helmen shared that he would love to do presentation on things he and the administrative team are doing to engage students and teachers. There are clear goals to monitor when doing evaluations.

Scott Rickard inquired about a career day for the younger middle school students.

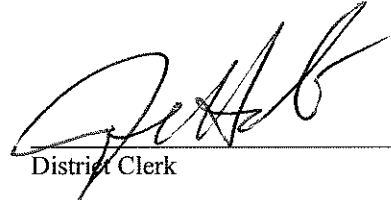
The Board will review and discuss their Board goals at the October Board meeting.

ADJOURNED: Workshop adjourned at 6:58p.m.

ADJOURNED



Board Chair



District Clerk