

MEETING MINUTES

VERNONIA SCHOOL DISTRICT BOARD of DIRECTORS Special Meeting – August 17, 2023 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 virtually at 6:05 p.m. by Scott Rickard. MEETING CALLED TO ORDER

Board Present: Scott Rickard, Amy Cieloha, Joanie Jones, Greg Kintz, Susan Wagner, Stacey Pelster, and Javoss McGuire. BOARD PRESENT

Board Absent: None BOARD ABSENT

Staff Present: Jim Helmen, Superintendent; Michelle Eagleson, Elementary Principal; Marie Knight, Business Manager; Barb Carr, Administrative Assistant; Allison McLeod, Caroline Alexander, Olivia Keister and Juliet Safier, Licensed Staff; and Camrin Eyrrick, Classified Staff. STAFF PRESENT

Visitors Present: None VISITORS PRESENT

Scott Rickard proposed to amend the agenda to add new item #4 allowing Greg Kintz to speak to the approval of the Board/Superintendent Operating Agreement approved at the 08/10/2023 meeting. This addition would renumber adjournment to #5. AGENDA APPROVED

Joanie Jones moved to amend the agenda as discussed. Amy Cieloha seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

2. OSEA Classified Union Collective Bargaining Agreement Review & Discussion: Jim Helmen shared that a summary of language adjustments had been sent out to all Board identifying in each article the changes that were made. Greg Kintz indicated he responded to the email indicating where he had noticed typos in the document. Jim Helmen indicated a final version will be sent out capturing the adjustments. OSEA CLASSIFIED COLLECTIVE BARGAINING AGREEMENT SHARED & DISCUSSED

A summary of the contract agreement changes include:

- Addition of two sick leave days. Total is now 12.
- Adjusted the employee probationary days from 90 days to 13 months
- Added Article 4.1.4 Labor Management Committee to increase collaboration with the union and school board
- Addition of monthly paycheck options, 12 equal monthly checks or month by month during the school year
- Insurance cap increase of \$50 each year of contract
- Salary increases each year of the contract

Amy Cieloha stated she is in support of the District's attempt to close the pay gap but how will this affect our budget for next few years? Jim Helmen stated that initially the State School Fund (SSF) was expected to be \$9.9 Billion. The final SSF landed at \$10.2 Billion providing more revenue than expected. This is the first year of the biennium providing 49% of the budget. Next year will be 51%. The SSF for 2025-27 biennium is anticipated to also increase.

With the proposed salary increases, the District is able to maintain a 5% ending fund/beginning fund balance and maintain current levels of staffing as well as project growth. During the 2022-23 year, the District was strategic in reducing and consolidating programs, SPED positions, reduced administrative staff and consolidated a position into a teacher wage position. Additionally, the Student Investment Account (SIA) and High School Success Act (HSSA) brings in \$724K annually. The \$250K YDD grant also came in. It was also noted that this budget is based on the ratio of 20:1. There is some flexibility should it be needed. Staff can be combined or reduced without fully impacting students.

At the conclusion of discussion, before moving to a vote, Scott Rickard asked that Greg's email comments on the typo adjustments be brought into the motion as amended. He read the list aloud.

3. ACTION ITEM:

3.1 OSEA Classified Union Collection Bargaining Agreement

Stacey Pelster moved to approve the 2023-26 CBA as discussed and with the noted amendments from Greg Kintz's email. Javoss McGuire seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

2023-26 OSEA CBA
APPROVED

4. Board – Superintendent Operating Agreement: At the August 10th Board meeting the Board approved the Board Superintendent Operating Agreement. Greg Kintz asked for discussion as he had asked that an adjustment to the document be made prior to approval and the adjustment wasn't made. He was not in attendance at that meeting and asked for an explanation. He felt that there are two lines in the document that have duplicate language that is not necessary.

BOARD / SUPT
OPERATING
AGREEMENT
APPROVAL
DISCUSSED

Scott Rickard stated that he does not feel it needs to be opened up and corrected. Item #2 addresses a collaborative respect to the board's responsibility to establish policy and the superintendent's responsibility to manage policy. Item #5 addresses board members recognizing and respecting the Superintendent's responsibility.

Greg Kintz indicated he does not need it opened up again, he just wanted an explanation. Susan Wagner suggested discussing at the next meeting. No other board members weighed in on the topic.

Jim Helmen suggested leaving it as is, stating it can always be opened up in the future.

5. ADJOURNED: Special Meeting adjourned at 6:41 p. m.

ADJOURNED



Board Chair



District Clerk