

MEETING MINUTES

VERNONIA SCHOOL DISTRICT BOARD of DIRECTORS Regular Meeting – November 10, 2022 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 6:00 p.m. by Stacey Pelster, Chair. MEETING CALLED TO ORDER
- Board Present:** Stacey Pelster, Amy Cieloha, Joanie Jones, and Scott Rickard BOARD PRESENT
- Board Absent:** Greg Kintz, Susan Wagner, and Javoss McGuire BOARD ABSENT
- Staff Present:** Jim Helmen, Superintendent; Nate Underwood, MS/HS Principal; Michelle Eagleson, Elem. Principal; Rachel Wilson, K-12 Vice Principal; Marie Knight, Business Manager; Barb Carr, Administrative Assistant; Rachel Brown, Kendra Schlegel, Juliet Safier, Licensed Staff; and Camrin Eyrrick, Classified Staff. STAFF PRESENT
- Visitors Present:** Scott Laird and unknown person joined online with the phone number of 818 439-9571. VISITORS PRESENT
- 1.1** The Pledge of Allegiance was recited. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE
- 2.0 AGENDA REVIEW:** Jim Helmen indicated there were no changes to the agenda. Amy Cieloha moved to approve as presented. Joanie Jones seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously with those in attendance. AGENDA REVIEW
- 3.0 PUBLIC COMMENT ON AGENDA and NON-AGENDA ITEMS:** None PUBLIC COMMENT
- 4.0 SHOWCASING OF SCHOOLS:**
- 4.1 Administrator Reports:** The Board reviewed the administrative reports prior to the meeting. There were no questions. ADMINISTRATOR REPORTS
- 5.0 BUSINESS REPORTS:**
- 5.1 Superintendent Report:** Jim Helmen's report was reviewed. SUPERINTENDENT REPORT
- Scott Rickard asked about the student achievement indicators. He is glad to see the baseline data for reading and math.
1. What does CCSS stand for? Common Core State Standards. This is the educational standards that districts are required to meet.
 2. Is the baseline data a result of this year's testing? According to Mr. Helmen, yes. There are still 10 or 11 Kindergarten students that are going through the testing process.
 3. Is there pre-COVID baseline data to compare to? No. In recent years collecting baseline data was thru DIBELS or the Smarter Balance testing. It was noted that not every student was tested through Smarter Balance. The Star Assessment program we are now using is testing all students at the same time which hasn't been done in the past.
 4. Scott wanted to know how much growth was lost during COVID? Hard to know but an indicator could be comparing our Fall testing results to last year's state averages.
 5. Are there significant trends that have surfaced between VFA students and the regular enrolled students? Are VFA students testing higher? Initial data indicates that no they are not.
- Amy Cieloha expressed that going through the reports a little deeper with Mr. Helmen was beneficial to her and her overall understanding of the process. Mr. Helmen indicated that he can go through the reports at the December 1st Board Workshop.
- 5.1.1 Strategic Plan Update:** Jim Helmen shared a current update on the work done so far. He and the administrative team have gone through the document and aligned all areas to meet

the District Priorities. Each area was looked at and individual 3-year goals were developed. Individual objectives for each goal were also created. The work thus far has been shared with teachers

The next step will be teachers getting together for group discussion and acceptance of the objectives and goals. The process for this will be breaking up into small groups to have in depth discussions on specific areas. Collectively they will determine where we want to head as a district.

Scott Rickard asked if students ever move out of Special Education? Yes, according to Mr. Helmen, that is the ultimate goal. Once the skills are learned, and students are able to function in the regular classroom without special education support, they exit out.

5.2 Financial Report: Marie Knight shared that the current budget is on track and the ending fund balance should be right around what was budgeted. She is still currently working on the audit. FINANCIAL REPORT

Scott Rickard asked if we budgeted for 9.5% this year? According to Marie Knight, no, we budgeted 9.3% this year. Next year may be 9.5% but it could be 9.7% or 9.8%. The goal this month is to start making predictions for next year's budget. The State won't provide estimates until late January or early February. Currently there are 20,000 fewer students in the State system. Next year the District needs to be conservative in budgeting for a couple of reasons. One, it's the first of a biennium so it will be 49% (the second year is 51%) and two, cost of living increases, step increases, and overall payroll costs will be up.

5.3 Maintenance Report: The Board did not have questions but asked again about the repairs to the bottle filling station. MAINTENANCE REPORT

6.0 BOARD REPORTS/ BOARD DEVELOPMENT: BOARD REPORTS
6.1 Committee Reports: There were no general committee reports. COMMITTEE UPDATES

6.2 Scholarship Committee Proposal: Scott Rickard reported on behalf of the scholarship committee which includes Scott, Greg Kintz, Javoss McGuire, and Amy Cieloha. SCHOLARSHIP COMMITTEE PROPOSAL

At the meeting held on October 24th the committee (except Amy Cieloha who was absent) met with Ashley Rogers-Ward and discussed the creation of a Board Scholarship. The Board, after completing both the large and small DEMSP Training programs through the Oregon School Boards Association received scholarship dollars totaling \$7,500.00.

Great discussion was held and the committee proposes to the Board that two different scholarships be created. One focusing on academics with a preference given to students wanting to go into the educational field and the second a career and industry focus. Each scholarship would be for \$1,000 and available to graduating seniors.

Amy Cieloha stated that it was bothersome to her that the academic scholarship had a minimum 3.0 GPA requirement and the other a 2.5 GPA. To her it feels judgmental on behalf of the Board. Scott Rickard shared that the reason for a higher and a lower GPA was simply to broaden the applicant pool.

Scott further shared that the committee briefly discussed the idea of annually holding a board fundraising event solely for the purpose of supporting future scholarships.

7.0 OTHER INFORMATION and DISCUSSION
7.1 SIA Quarter 4 Funding Report: Jim Helmen shared that 2021-22 SIA expenditures totaled \$497,444.36. SIA Funding helped to support things such as ACT, PSAT, SAT testing, one-to-one technology, educational supplies, textbook adoptions, staffing, as well as added days to the calendar. SIA QUARTER 4 FUNDING REPORT

7.2 Division 22 Standards: Jim Helmen shared the Division 22 standards. It was explained that these rules are contained in Oregon Administrative Rules O.A.R. Chapter 581 Oregon Department of Education, Division 22 - Standards for Public Elementary and Secondary Schools. Our District must be in compliance with these rules or have a plan in place to DIVISION 22 STANDARDS REPORT PRESENTED

guarantee compliance in a certain time frame. Each year the District reviews the standards and provides notice to the public. Mr. Helmen shared that although there is always room for improvement, Vernonia School District is in compliance with all standards contained in Division 22. It was noted that the OAR referencing assessment was waived for this academic year but will be back next year.

- 7.3 OSBA Legislative Priorities & Principles:** Jim Helmen shared that OSBA's Legislative Policy Committee has developed the presented priorities and principles. They ask all District's in the state to review the resolution and cast a vote in support of their efforts. OSBA LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES & PRINCIPLES

Stacey Pelster commented that the student success act is beneficial to one and not to the other and she is not able to support this resolution. Scott Rickard agreed.

8.0 ACTION ITEMS

- 8.1 Division 22 Standards:** Scott Rickard moved to accept the Division 22 Standards report as presented. Joanie Jones seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously with those in attendance. DIVISION 22 STANDARDS REPORT APPROVED

- 8.2 OSBA Legislative Priorities & Principles:** Joanie Jones moved to adopt the proposed OSBA Legislative Priorities and Principles Resolution. There was no second for this motion, therefore the motion died. OSBA LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES & PRINCIPLES RESOLUTION NOT SUPPORTED

- 8.3 Board Scholarship Proposal:** Joanie Jones moved to approve the School Board scholarship proposal as presented. Stacey Pelster seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously with those in attendance. BOARD SCHOLARSHIPS APPROVED

- 9.0 MONITORING BOARD PERFORMANCE:** Stacey Pelster stated she felt that Board Communication is going well. MONITORING BOARD PERFORMANCE

- 10.0 CONSENT AGENDA:** CONSENT AGENDA

- 10.1 Minutes of 10/13/22 Regular Meeting and the 10/24/22 Scholarship Committee Meeting.** MINUTES

Amy Cieloha moved to approve the consent agenda as presented. Scott Rickard seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously with those in attendance. CONSENT AGENDA APPROVED

- 11.0 OTHER ISSUES:** OTHER ISSUES

The Scholarship Committee will discuss a fundraiser at their next meeting. A date for this meeting will be determined at the December Board meeting.

Jim Helmen shared that District staff did a huge amount of work to support the students who recently lost a parent.

- 12.0 MEETING ADJOURNED** at 7:04 p.m. ADJOURNED

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


Board Chair


District Clerk

