

MEETING MINUTES

VERNONIA SCHOOL DISTRICT BOARD of DIRECTORS Regular Meeting – March 10, 2022 Vernonia Schools Library, 1000 Missouri Avenue, Vernonia

- 1.0 CALL TO ORDER:** A Regular Meeting of the Directors of Administrative School District 47J, Columbia County, Oregon was called to order at 6:01 p.m. by Stacey Pelster. MEETING CALLED TO ORDER
- Board Present:** In Person - Susan Wagner, Scott Rickard, Amy Cieloha, Joanie Jones, and Greg Kintz. Javoss McGuire arrived at 6:08 p.m. Stacey Pelster joined virtually. BOARD PRESENT
- Board Absent:** None BOARD ABSENT
- Staff Present:** Aaron Miller, Superintendent; Barb Carr, Administrative Assistant; Marie Knight, Business Manager; Nate Underwood, MS/HS Principal; Michelle Eagleson, Elementary Principal; Rachel Wilson, K-12 Vice Principal; Rachel Brown, Courtney Ferguson, Jim Krahn, Susanne Myers, Juliet Safier, Kendra Schlegel, Dylan Taylor, Ashley Ward, Justin Ward, and Pete Weisel, Licensed Staff; and Katreasa Brown, Kim Bernardi, Glenda Delemos, Camrin Eyrrick, and Jana Titus, Classified Staff. STAFF PRESENT
- Visitors Present:** Allison McLeod, Pat Kleinman, Jenn Rau, Kari Johnson, Barry Johnson, Mac McCallum, Julie McCallum, Eric (last name unknown), B.K. (full name unknown), Scott Laird, Jenna Romaine, Anjeanette Russell, Holly Vaughn, Dale Webb, Jenny Williams, Jeri (last name unknown), and Julie Ramsey. VISITORS PRESENT
- 1.1** The Pledge of Allegiance was recited. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE
- 2.0 AGENDA REVIEW:** Greg Kintz moved to approve the agenda as presented. Joanie Jones seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously with those in attendance. AGENDA REVIEW
- 3.0 SHOWCASING OF SCHOOLS:**
- 3.1** Michelle Eagleson highlighted her written report to the Board:
- She thanked her Classified Staff and recognized them during this Appreciation Week.
 - Mist Elementary received a \$3,000 grant from VEF for their STEAM program
 - Staff have completed winter core review meetings
 - Next week on Friday the second Student of Month assembly will be held. Students will wear Blue and Gold that day. Students will wear green on St. Patrick's Day.
 - Next week on Monday-Wednesday, a free dental sealant program will be offered to students at Vernonia Elementary. Middle School students can participate on Thursday and Friday. Mist Elementary will have this opportunity on May 20th.
- Kendra Schlegel gave a brief update on Winter reading data for elementary. Overall data shows that students are not making the progress they need in order to be reading at grade level but she expects to see the data improve. Teachers have met and looked over the data. Collectively they are focusing on K-5 phonics and using clear and concise language in their instruction. TITLE I COORDINATOR REPORT on ELEM READING DATA
- Nate Underwood highlighted his written report: MIDDLE / HIGH SCHOOL PRINCIPAL REPORT
- 8th Grade students took NAEP testing, the kids did excellent. Results are not provided to the District but placed in a national data base.
 - 29 Juniors took the ACT on Tuesday and did a nice job with the 4 hour exam.
 - 9th On Track Data: 78% of 9th grade students are on track to graduate by meeting 25% of their credits required to graduate. This number is down from pre-COVID data but higher than last year.
 - Graduation Status: 84% of the Class of 2022 are definitely eligible to graduate with 95% probable.
 - Recognition was given to MS/HS classified employees.

- National Honor Society is hoping to work with the Vernonia Fire Department to put on the SKID program in May
- Student trips (Senior, Close-Up and Germany) will be coming to the board for approval next month or after.
- He is looking into creating an honors diploma, which will help to determine a single valedictorian.

Scott Rickard asked if the percentages on the Junior ACT data are in line with what has been reported in the past? According to Mr. Underwood this is the 3rd year of doing the ACT and he doesn't have solid numbers to compare. Offering the Pre ACT for 9th and 10th grades should see better data down the road. VHS has historically offered the Pre SAT but not the Pre ACT.

Rachel Wilson shared a document with average referrals per day per month for all students. There was no discussion.

VICE PRINCIPAL REPORT

3.2 Student Reports: Jenna Romaine, representing high school leadership, shared the following highlights:

STUDENT REPORTS

- AP Literature exam will be on May 8
- Another blood drive will be held in May. Testing for COVID antibodies will be included.
- Students are happy the ACT is over
- Sculpture Class is working on Paper Mache'
- Other class overall activities were shared

3.3 Superintendent Report:

SUPERINTENDENT REPORT

- Classified Employee Week is this week. We have great staff and their work is very much appreciated.
- COVID 19 Update: Governor Brown has moved the removal of the mask mandate to March 11th. Starting Saturday March 12th masks will be optional for students and staff during school and while on busses. Some students and staff will continue to wear masks. All those that continue to wear a mask need to be shown grace. Staff that are not vaccinated and have an exception are required to do a daily self-assessment and monitor themselves for any COVID related symptoms. The District is no longer required to do contact tracing. If students or staff test positive they must isolate for 5 days then they can return to school wearing a mask for 5 days.
- Enrollment: holding fairly steady at 561 for K-12.
- The Forestry Program has received a grant for \$125,000 which will be used to erect a building to house their equipment and the use of a lumber mill.

Scott Rickard asked about having COVID testing at the school? Mr. Miller shared that the District has received test kits and these will likely be going home to be self-administered by students and families.

4.0 PUBLIC COMMENT ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS: Susan Wagner, Vice Chair, took over running the meeting due to technical sound delays with Chair Pelster who was attending virtually.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Jenn Rau, parent. She thanked all for their hard work. She requested that her daughter's referrals for insubordination be reversed.

Juliet Safier and Camrin Eyrrick, VEA & OSEA union Presidents. They felt the continuation of Board discussion after Chair Pelster adjourned the meeting last month was inappropriate. Both expressed concern of the perception of mistrust when this occurs. The Board shared, that although not clear, the meeting was reconvened so that discussion could be held.

Allison McLeod, parent and substitute teacher. She requested that students be allowed to remove masks starting tomorrow March 11 as a reward. She also asked that students not be kept in class the last two weeks in June.

Greg McCallum, parent and substitute teacher. He thanked the Board and the Superintendent for dropping the mask mandate.

Jim Krahn, District employee. He thanked the administration, staff and students that participated without issues in following the mask guidance. He thanked all staff for enforcing the rule and feels it has been a learning experience for students.

5.0 BUSINESS REPORTS:

5.1 Financial Report: Marie Knight reported that the current ending fund balance is approximately \$463,000. This past month the District received a timber payment of \$273,998. FINANCIAL REPORT

Scott Rickard asked how the current projected ending fund balance compares to previous years? Marie shared that she budgets annually an ending fund balance which in turn becomes the beginning fund balance in the new school year. Industry standard is to have 5% of the total budget as an ending fund balance.

Marie reminded the Board of the first Budget Committee meeting on April 21st at 6:00 p.m. There are currently 4 opening on the community side of the Budget Committee.

5.2 Maintenance Report: Mark Brown's report was reviewed by the Board. Susan Wagner asked about the water bottle filling station damage. Scott Rickard asked for follow-up on custodial Mist? Aaron Miller confirmed that 2 hours are allotted daily for custodial duties at Mist. This is consistent with what we have had in previous years. MAINTENANCE REPORT

6.0 BOARD REPORTS/ BOARD DEVELOPMENT:

6.1 Committee Reports: Susan Wagner shared that the Safety Committee is working on lock down drills and areas that need improved in this process. The Committee meets at 7:15 a.m. on the first Tuesday of every month. BOARD MEMBER REPORTS

6.2 Superintendent Search Discussion: Stacey Pelster shared that on Monday, March 14th three Superintendent finalists will be in Vernonia for a 2nd interview with the Board and a Meet and Greet with the community. The public is invited to the Meet and Greet, 6:00 p.m. in the Commons. SUPERINTENDENT SEARCH UPDATE

Scott Rickard expressed that he is glad the day is finally here. He thanked his fellow Board members for the work that has been put forth for this task. Susan Wagner agreed.

7.0 OTHER INFORMATION and DISCUSSION

7.1 Licensed and Administrative Contract Renewal: Aaron Miller shared the resolution to extend administrative and licensed contract extensions. LICENSED & ADMIN. EMPLOYEE CONTRACT RENEWAL

7.2 Student Transfer Limits for 2022-23: Aaron Miller shared that each year the District is required to set limits for how many students come in to the District. Historically the number has been 15 but last year was changed to 39 (three per grade level) due to the Vernonia Family Academy potentially opening. Mr. Miller recommends staying with the same number for 2022-23. STUDENT TRANSFER LIMITS DISCUSSED

7.3 Staff Retirement: Aaron Miller shared that David Spackman, Elementary Counselor is retiring at the end of this year. He has been with district for 15 years. Topper, the amazing therapy dog owned by Mr. Spackman will be retiring as well. STAFF RETIREMENT

7.4 COVID Protocols: This update was provided during the Superintendent's report. COVID PROTOCOLS SHARED

7.5 Future Hiring: Aaron Miller had mentioned at a previous meeting about current and potential staff shortages next year. Chair Pelster asked Mr. Miller to share what is happening outside the box and how can the board help to address this. FUTURE HIRING DISCUSSION

Aaron shared that we are already short staffed. Some staff have indicated they are retiring or

leaving but notice hasn't been provided yet. The District posts as early as possible but without official notice from staff that they are leaving we are not able to post. The District has had position openings all year and no one has applied. The District will be attending two educational job fairs at the end of the month.

Stacey Pelster offered to go and speak to college classes. Susan Wagner suggested utilizing temp agencies for classified staff, going to the open market to recruit through Indeed or Zip Recruiter, and Americorps. Scott Rickard asked if a second prep period could be provided that would be used for substituting in other classes.

8.0 ACTION ITEMS

- 8.1 Licensed Contract Renewal: Resolution 2022-01:** Scott Rickard moved to approve licensed contract extensions as presented. Javoss McGuire seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously. LICENSED CONTACT EXTENSIONS APPROVED
- 8.2 Administrative Contract Renewal: Resolution 2022-02:** Javoss McGuire moved to approve administrative contract extensions as presented. Scott Rickard seconded the motion. Amy Cieloha asked for clarification of the Agreement made last fall. According to Aaron Miller, this resolution extends that. Motion passed unanimously. ADMIN. CONTRACT EXTENSIONS APPROVED
- 8.3 2022-23 Student Transfer Limits:** Scott Rickard moved to set the incoming student transfer limits for the 2022-23 school year at 39. Javoss McGuire seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously. STUDENT TRANSFER LIMITS SET
- 8.4 Staff Retirement:** Greg Kintz moved to approve the retirement of David Spackman and Topper effective July 1, 2022. Amy Cieloha seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously. SPACKMAN & TOPPER RETIRE

- 9.0 MONITORING BOARD PERFORMANCE:** Stacey Pelster reminded the Board of past training that addressed when Board members continue to talk about issues after the meeting ends. This constitutes a serial or chain meeting which violates public meeting law. She asked that if any Board members have questions to please contact her. SERIAL / CHAIN MEETING REMINDER

10.0 CONSENT AGENDA: CONSENT AGENDA

- 10.1** Minutes of 01/29/22 Workshop, 02/08/22 Special Meeting, 02/10/22 Regular Meeting and 02/25 & 26//22 Special Meeting.

Scott Rickard moved to approve the consent agenda as amended. Discussion held on adjusting the minutes from the 2/10/22 Regular Meeting to reflect that the meeting was reconvened to continue discussion. Greg Kintz seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously. CONSENT AGENDA APPROVED

- 11.0 OTHER ISSUES:** It was suggested to have a brief future discussion to review and look over the Board meeting agenda to ensure it is working adequately. OTHER ISSUES

Amy Cieloha and Susan Wagner thanked the audience for attending.

12.0 MEETING ADJOURNED at 7:46 p.m. ADJOURNED

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



Board Chair



District Clerk