

MEETING MINUTES

VERNONIA SCHOOL DISTRICT BOARD of DIRECTORS Regular Meeting – November 9, 2023 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 6:03 p.m. by Scott Rickard. MEETING CALLED TO ORDER
- Board Present:** Scott Rickard, Amy Cieloha, Greg Kintz, Joanie Jones, Susan Wagner (virtual) and Stacey Pelster (virtual) BOARD PRESENT
- Board Absent:** Javoss McGuire BOARD ABSENT
- Staff Present:** Jim Helmen, Superintendent; Nate Underwood, Middle/High School Principal (virtual); Michelle Eagleson, Elementary Principal (virtual); Susanne Myers, Special Education Director (virtual); Marie Knight, Business Manager; Barb Carr, Administrative Assistant; Leonard Hamilton, District Nurse; and Kendra Schlegel, Licensed Staff (virtual). STAFF PRESENT
- Visitors Present:** Scott Laird VISITORS PRESENT
- 1.1** The Pledge of Allegiance was recited. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE
- 2.0 AGENDA REVIEW:** Discussion item 7.2 OSAA Cooperative Sponsorship and Action item 8.6 OSAA Athletic Coop were both added to the agenda. Amy Cieloha moved to approve the agenda as amended. Joanie Jones seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously with those in attendance. AGENDA REVIEW
- 3.0 PUBLIC COMMENT:** None PUBLIC COMMENT
- 4.0 SHOWING CASING of SCHOOLS**
- 4.1 Administrative Reports:** Administrator reports were provided to the Board prior to the meeting. There were no comments or questions. ADMINISTRATOR REPORTS
- 5.0 BUSINESS REPORTS:**
- 5.1 Superintendent Report:** The Superintendent's Report was provided to the Board prior to the meeting. SUPERINTENDENT REPORT
- Jim Helmen shared that there have been concerns from parents about the increased cases of lice in the elementary school. Although we have seen a slight uptick, this is by no means unique to Vernonia or unique to this school year. The main concern for the District is to determine the best way to support our families. Mr. Helmen invited Leonard Hamilton, the District Nurse, to attend this meeting and speak to this issue.
- Mr. Hamilton shared that he is working to address the issue. He has had discussions with parents, suggested natural remedies, and provided product to the families. Challenges continue and he is working hard to try and turn the situation around. Carpets have been removed from the classroom and he is reaching out to his colleagues to see what others are doing. The State of Oregon has guidelines in place stating that children should not be excluded from school with the presence of lice. Some District's are excluding as soon as lice has been identified and then the student is allowed to return the next day after a recheck and no evidence.
- Amy Cieloha thanked Leonard for being our nurse and addressing the issue. She stated her thoughts of bringing in volunteers to do checks. Stacey Pelster stated her concern about the impact to other children.
- Jim Helmen stated that our District is taking a more proactive approach. Our policy JHCCF indicates that there will be exclusion and this stance will be maintained. It is important to note that this does go against ODE guidelines but it does follow the CDC guidelines. We will support exclusion with more family support and getting the students back in school as soon as possible. The District is aware of where the issues are and have offered financial support to the family which has been declined.
- DISTRICT ADDRESSES
ISSUE OF INCREASED
CASES OF STUDENTS
WITH HEAD LICE

It was also noted that in the elementary wing students are putting their coats into plastic bags before placing them in their shared cubbies. Mr. Helmen will be sending a letter out to all our families soon.

Amy Cieloha asked about a VFA family meeting update? Mr. Helmen explained that currently families are requesting extra-curricular services which specifically goes against ODE guidance. This guidance has become more strict. The District wants to maintain the VFA program as it is now but within the guidelines of ODE. More conversation are coming. The District's goal is to be cautious and intentional and will likely implement changes next year.

VFA PARENT MEETINGS
CONTINUE WITH
PROGRAM CHANGES
LIKELY FOR NEXT YEAR

5.2 Financial Report: Marie Knight shared that she is working hard on grants and moving people around within the payroll system. The District audit is still not finished. She's been sending gentle reminders to the auditors but it's been a couple weeks since they have asked for anything. Scott Rickard commented on the ending fund balance. Marie feels confident we should be close to what is projected.

FINANCIAL REPORT

5.3 Maintenance Report: Mark Brown's report was provided to the Board prior to the meeting. Greg Kintz asked if the basketball shot clocks have been installed? Yes, with the installation of the cages that go around them next week.

MAINTENANCE REPORT

5.4 Transportation Report: Shelley Hennessy with Curls School Bus Services provided a written report to the Board. There were no questions.

TRANSPORTATION
REPORT

6.0 BOARD REPORTS/ BOARD DEVELOPMENT:

6.1 COMMITTEE REPORTS

COMMITTEE REPORTS

6.1.1 Safety Committee – no update provided

6.1.2 Policy Committee – a 2nd reading of policies and subsequent approval is under action items.

6.1.3 Scholarship Committee – no meeting held recently

6.2 OSBA Board of Directors Candidate: Greg Kintz shared that the zones and regions around the state are determined by numbers of students. Multnomah and Washington County are by themselves. Our region, the North Coast Region, encompasses Clatsop, Columbia and Tillamook counties. Greg is seeking his 8th term to serve on the OSBA Board representing our region.

KINTZ SEEKS 8th TERM
ON OSBA BOARD

6.3 OSBA Legislative Policy Committee: Greg Kintz shared that historically it has been hard to maintain people to serve more than one term on this committee. Sondra Gomez from Seaside is committed and works hard. She has Greg's support.

KINTZ ENDORSES
GOMEZ FOR OSBA
LEGISLATIVE POLICY
COMMITTEE

6.4 Resolution #1 – Amending OSBA's 2018 Bylaws: –Greg Kintz shared that OSBA hadn't looked at their bylaws for some time. The included amendments brings the bylaws up to current times with language and with adjustments to some terms of officers. Greg recommends our Board support this resolution.

OSBA RESOLUTIONS
EXPLAINED BY KINTZ

6.5 Resolution #2 – Amending OSBA's Bylaws Relating to Composition of the Board of Directors: Greg Kintz shared that these amendments relate to the composition of the board of directors and the rural school board caucus. The process of developing this new caucus had previously been determined when the Members of Color Caucus was formed. Greg recommends our Board support this resolution.

7.0 OTHER INFORMATION and DISCUSSION

7.1 District Report Cards: Jim Helmen shared and reviewed the 2022-23 At-A-Glance school profiles, which provided information on class size, attendance, English language arts and math testing, parent and community engagement, extracurricular activities and safety policies, bullying and harassment.

DISTRICT REPORT
CARDS – AT-A-GLANCE
PROFILES SHARED

Mr. Helmen reviewed the District goal of 70 – 70 – 90. 70% of our students proficient in English language arts – 70% proficient in math – and 90% attendance rate. A lot of work took place last year to develop new and intentional practices to move our students forward. Everything we are doing is directly related to moving the dial of that goal.

The District has an upcoming community / parent engagement night on November 15th. The District will recognize our star performing students along with giving the families the recognition they deserve as well. Amy Cieloha, Greg Kintz, and Joanie Jones indicated they will be in attendance to help out.

Scott Rickard thanked Mr. Helmen for the explanation of the report card data. He is curious how we get the parents involved and invested. According to Mr. Helmen, by doing what we are doing. Inviting them in and building a trusting relationship.

7.2 OSAA Cooperative Sponsorship: Jim Helmen shared that the District has received a request to allow two students from Jewell to come to Vernonia to play basketball. The Board needs to formally approve the cooperative agreement. OSAA ATHLETIC COOPERATIVE SPONSORSHIP

8.0 ACTION ITEMS:

8.1 Policy Updates: Greg Kintz moved to approve the presented policies (BD/BDA-Board Meetings, BDC- Executive Sessions, GCBDA/GDBDA-Family Medical Leave and EFA-Local Wellness) as presented. Susan Wagner seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously with those in attendance. POLICY UPDATES APPROVED

8.2 OSBA Board of Director Candidate: Amy Cieloha moved that the Vernonia School Board support Greg Kintz for the OSBA Board of Director North Coast Region position. Joanie Jones seconded the motion. Susan Wagner commented that she is always amazed at Greg's influence and vote of confidence from his peers at OSBA. Yes votes: Amy Cieloha, Joanie Jones, Scott Rickard, and Susan Wagner. Stacey Pelster was no longer online at this time. Greg Kintz abstained from voting. Motion passed. BOARD VOTES TO SUPPORT GREG KINTZ TO SERVE ANOTHER TERM AS AN OSBA BOARD OF DIRECTOR

8.3 OSBA Legislative Policy Committee Candidate: Greg Kintz moved that the Vernonia School Board support Sondra Gomez for the OSBA Legislative Policy Committee for the North Coast Region. Joanie Jones seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously with those in attendance. BOARD VOTES TO SUPPORT SONDRA GOMEZ TO OSBA LEGISLATIVE POLICY COMM.

8.4 OSBA Resolution #1: Amy Cieloha moved to cast a vote in support of OSBA Resolution #1 amending OSBA's 2018 Bylaws as presented. Greg Kintz seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously with those in attendance. OSBA RESOLUTION #1 SUPPORTED

8.5 OSBA Resolution #2: Greg Kintz moved to cast a vote in support of OSBA Resolution #2 Amending the OSBA's bylaws related to the composition of the Board of Directors as presented. Joanie Jones seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously with those in attendance. OSBA RESOLUTION #2 SUPPORTED

8.6 OSAA Athletic Coop. Amy Cieloha move to approve the OSAA Athletic Cooperative agreement with Jewell for the 2023-24 Boys' Basketball season as discussed. Joanie Jones seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously with those in attendance. ATHLETIC COOP WITH JEWELL FOR BOYS BASKETBALLAPPROVED

9.0 MONITORING BOARD PERFORMANCE: Nothing discussed. BOARD PERFORMANCE

10.0 CONSENT AGENDA: CONSENT AGENDA


10.1 Minutes of 10/12/2023 Regular Meeting

Susan Wagner moved to approve the consent agenda as presented. Greg Kintz seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously with those in attendance. CONSENT AGENDA APPROVED

11.0 OTHER ISSUES: Next agenda setting meeting will be Scott Rickard and Joanie Jones. OTHER ISSUES

12.0 MEETING ADJOURNED at 7:30 p.m. ADJOURNED

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



Board Chair



District Clerk