

AGENDA

VERNONIA SCHOOL DISTRICT BOARD of DIRECTORS

Public Meeting

Thursday, April 9, 2026 – 6:00 p.m.
Mist Elementary, 69163 Hwy 47, Mist, OR

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/83520604554?pwd=iw4Mt5f3WDTIbEO4Y8haQMwQmo81e0.1>

Meeting ID: 835 2060 4554

Passcode: Y71Fda

Public participation on agenda items occurs at the discretion of the chair. Please indicate your interest by completing a “Public Comment Card” provided at the agenda table and give it to the Board Secretary or if attending virtually, email your interest to bcarr@vernoniak12.org 24 hours before the meeting. **Individual comments are limited to 3 minutes. Group comments are limited to 5 minutes.**

At 8:00 p.m., the Board may take a five-minute recess, and the chair will review the agenda for possible rescheduling of agenda items. For special accommodations call 429-5891 at least 48 hours prior to the meeting.

REGULAR SESSION

1.0 CALL TO ORDER..... Chair
1.1 Flag Salute

2.0 AGENDA REVIEW Chair
2.1 Action to Approve the Agenda

3.0 PUBLIC COMMENT ON AGENDA and NON-AGENDA ITEMS

This is a time for public comment on items on and not on the agenda. Normally the Board will not take any immediate action, but will refer concerns to the Superintendent and ask him to report to the Board. We would appreciate you keeping comments to 3 minutes per individual or 5 minutes if you are representing a group of patrons. Please note: Under Oregon Revised Statutes, we cannot discuss personnel concerns in a public meeting. If you have any concerns with school district personnel, please schedule a meeting with the Superintendent.

4.0 SHOWCASING OF SCHOOLS

4.1 Administrator Reports
4.1.1 Out of State Travel Requests for 2026-27

5.0 BUSINESS REPORTS

5.1 Superintendent Jim Helmen
5.1.1 Superintendent Transition Plan
5.2 Financial Marie Knight
5.3 Maintenance Mark Brown

6.0 BOARD REPORTS / BOARD DEVELOPMENT..... Chair

6.1 Committee Reports
6.1.1 Safety Committee
6.1.2 Policy Committee
6.1.3 Scholarship Committee
6.1.3.1 Scholarship Committee Fundraiser Option Discussion

7.0 OTHER INFORMATION and DISCUSSION

7.1 2026-27 Instructional Calendar

7.2 Superintendent Search Committee and Finalist Day Schedule Discussion

8.0 ACTION ITEMS

8.1 2026-27 Instructional Calendar

I move to approve the 2026-27 Instructional Calendar Option ___ as discussed.

8.2 Appoint Superintendent Search Committee Members

I move to appoint members to the superintendent search committees as discussed in item 7.2.

8.3 2026-27 Out of State Travel

I move to approve out of state travel for _(insert locations)_

9.0 MONITORING BOARD PERFORMANCE Chair

10.0 CONSENT AGENDA Chair

The Board, on an individual basis prior to the meeting, has reviewed all material. All financial reports are available for review by the public in the business office. All items listed are considered by the Board to be routine and will be enacted by the Board in one motion. There will be no discussion of these items at the time the board votes on the motion unless members of the Board request specific items to be discussed and/or removed from the Consent Agenda.

10.1 Minutes of the 03/12/2026 Regular Meeting and the 03/18/2026 Special Meeting

I move to approve the consent agenda as presented.

11.0 OTHER ISSUES Chair

11.1 Next Agenda Setting – Wednesday, May 6, 2026 – 5:00 p.m.

12.0 UPCOMING DATES

April 15, 2026	Special Meeting 5:30 p.m.
April 18, 2026	Special Meeting 9:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.
April 20, 2026	Special Meeting 6:00 p.m.
April 23, 2026	Budget Committee Meeting – 6:00 p.m.
May 1, 2026	Special Meeting – time T.B.A.

(Dates and times are subject to change. Please check the district web site at www.vernoniak12.org for the most up-to-date information)

13.0 ADJOURN Chair

Vernonia School District 47J

April 1, 2026

	K	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	F/T	Total	F&R	SpEd		
District																		1	
Mist Elementary	7	3	5	4	8	5											32	10	4
																	31%	13%	
Vernonia Elem.	30	27	22	36	37	24											176	124	47
																	70%		
a Family Academy	7	4	8	4	5	5											33		
Elementary Total	44	34	35	44	50	34											241	134	51
																	56%	21%	

Vernonia MS							43	47	39							129	70	26
f. Family Academy							5	4	10							19		
																148	47%	18%
Vernonia HS										35	24	30	31	14	134	62	25	
											1	10	10	9	0	30		
																164		
																	38%	15%
Total	44	34	35	44	50	34	48	51	49	36	34	40	40	14	553	266	103	
																	48%	19%

(as of 6/1/25) 570

October 1	42	35	39	43	51	37	48	56	54	38	40	44	41	16	584
November 1	43	34	39	43	51	36	48	54	54	37	36	42	41	16	574
December 1	42	34	38	43	51	34	48	55	55	36	36	42	41	16	571
January 1	43	34	37	44	50	34	48	53	53	36	34	41	41	15	563
February 1	43	34	36	44	50	33	48	52	51	36	34	40	42	14	557
March 1	44	35	36	44	50	34	48	52	50	36	34	40	41	14	558
April 1	44	34	35	44	50	34	48	51	49	36	34	40	40	14	553
May 1															0
June 1															0

VERNONIA AND MIST ELEMENTARY BOARD REPORT

April 9, 2026



“Building Bridges, Clearing Paths”

2025-2026 Goals:

- High Quality Instruction in all content areas with a focus on Reading, Writing, and Math
- Multiple Student Engagement Opportunities for All
- Consistent Behavior Systems: PBIS & Love and Logic
- Effective PLCs Focused on Data

Community Town Hall

We will be holding a community town hall meeting to discuss the possible expansion of Mist programming for the 2026-2027 school year. This event will take place on Wednesday, April 29th from 6-7 pm in the Mist gym. All community members are welcome to attend. Your input is valuable to our decision making process. Please spread the word.

ORTIi Conference

Mrs. Schlegel and Mrs. Eagleson will be presenting Vernonia's literacy assessment journey using STAR, with a particular focus on the strategic use of Curriculum-Based Measures (CBSs) alongside Computer Adaptive Tests (CATs) at the ORTIi Spring Conference in Eugene on April 16th. We are honored to represent our district and share how our elementary schools are doing to increase reading accuracy, fluency and comprehension.

Spring Conferences

The elementary schools had 78% at our spring conferences. Teachers shared the most recent STAR and CBM data with families. We were thrilled to connect with

our families and share the growth their students are making and the areas for continued improvement.

Kindergarten Transition Grant

We received \$3,200 to support the transition for our incoming 2026-2027 kindergarten students. This grant will provide funds for our Kindergarten Tour and Kindergarten registration event.

Our kindergarten tour will take place for all incoming kindergarten students on Tuesday, April 21st from 10 am-12 pm. Students will have the opportunity to ride the bus to VES from the Head Start Parking lot, tour the school, eat lunch and play with our current kindergarten students at recess.

Kindergarten Registration will be held on Thursday, May 7th from 5:30-7:00 pm. Dinner will be provided for our incoming kindergarten students and their families. Families will be able to meet our teachers and staff that support kindergarten as well as engage with our community partners: Vernonia Fire & Ambulance, Vernonia Dental, Wauna, Vernonia Public Library, Sprouts, Scouts, Local Preschools, and Curls Transportation. We are looking forward to a fun night with our incoming kindergarten families.

Behavior Intervention Review Meetings

Vernonia Elementary grade level teams met the week of March 30 to discuss strategies to support students struggling with behavior. In 6-8 weeks, teams will meet again to determine the effectiveness of the strategies implemented. The collaboration, commitment and professionalism of our staff is the reason the elementary schools are making huge gains academically, socially and emotionally.

OSAS Interim Testing

Students in grades 3 through 5 have begun OSAS interim testing to help prepare them for testing in May. Teachers will use these tests to identify learning gaps early, adjust instruction and familiarize students with test items.

Reading Adoption Community Preview Night

Our community is invited to preview the reading curriculum adoption materials under consideration for the district on Thursday, April 23 from 5-6 pm. This event will be held before the district's budget meeting.

The elementary staff will be reviewing materials and attending presentations by the publishing companies during the month of April to provide input on the curriculum for adoption.

Book Blast

Vernonia Elementary students excitedly received their free Book Blast books on April 1. As a school, we received \$428 to purchase new books for our library through this fundraiser, which arrived on March 31st. We are committed to building a love of reading for all our students. Mrs. DeLemos will be promoting these new books during library time over the next few months.

Scholastic Book Fair

This year's Scholastic Book Fair sold \$3,000 and raised \$1,500 for new library books. It was a huge success! Thank you to Mrs. Schlegel for organizing this event to get more books in the hands of our students.

Reading incentives

Our students have the opportunity to participate in 2 different reading incentives for reading at home.

4 Stags Pizzeria is providing a slice of pizza for any student who meets the requirement for reading at home each month. Here is how students can earn a free slice of pizza for reading:

- K-2nd grade students read 20 minutes per day for 5 days a week (400 minutes/month)
- 3rd-5th grade students 30 minutes per day for 5 days a week (600 minutes/month)

Students who meet the above requirements monthly will be entered in the Wheels for Book Program through the Clatskanie Masonic Lodge. In May, 4 VES students and 2 MES students' names will be drawn to win a bike, scooter or skateboard.

Check out how our school is tracking and encouraging our students to read:





April 2026

**VHS/VMS Board Report–
Greetings Board!
Welcome to Logger Nation**

MS/HS News

- All staff
 - With an emphasis on improving communication, support, professionalism, and accountability amongst staff:
 - Staff to staff
 - Admin to staff
 - Staff to students

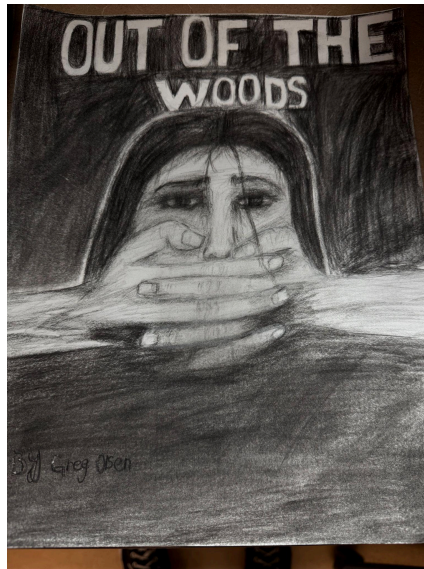
Staff as a whole began looking at what we all want to **See, Hear, Feel**, and **Do—More** and **Less**, as we work together as part of the Vernonia Schools Team. Building on previous work with the adopted Maxims of **Building Bridges** and **Clearing Paths**, staff created norms around:

- **Relationships**
- **Communication**
- **Professionalism**
- **Well-Being**
- **Mindset**

- **Smarter Balanced State Test Assurance Training and Interim Assessments**
 - Staff that may be involved in State Testing went through some annual training on proper administration. It is the goal to have students take subject interim assessments to get used to the testing platform with the ultimate goal for students to perform their very best.

MS ELA

- Students in all grades have been working on individual books reports that include an informative essay and a project of their choice. Examples attached:



MS Social Studies

Students are learning about events that happened in the United States during the 1800s which include:

- Oregon Trail (they already did a mad dash about Manifest Destiny)
- Gold Rush
- Texas
- Mexican American War
- Reforms (Education, Mental Health and Prisons, Transcendentalism, Temperance Movement, Suffrage, 2nd Great Awakening, and the Abolitionist Movement). This will lead into the Civil War and Reconstruction later on in the 4th quarter.

Mrs. Ward is taking 8 eighth graders to Washington DC next week in the annual CloseUp trip. This year we'll be making a stop in Philadelphia instead of Williamsburg! Students attending include: *Emmerson Dennis, Tyler Bryson, Mario Espinoza, Jordan Buehrer, Jasper Mitchell, Kathleen Medley-Fowler, Ashayla O'Neal, and Orinthia O'Neil.*

6th graders are starting their unit on the Renaissance and will also study about the Age of Exploration this quarter.

6th graders are starting their unit on the *Renaissance* and will also study about the *Age of Exploration* this quarter.

7th graders are starting their unit on *Ancient Greece* which will include an in depth look at Greek Mythology before going on to Ancient Rome in quarter 4.

Art

- The **Junior Salmon Auction**, presented by Mrs. Kintz and Vernonia's Hands On Art, will be held on Thursday, April 2
- Mrs. Kintz's 7th and 8th grade art students are going to be painting some of the Middle School science room ceiling tiles soon. Pictures of the process and completion may be more of an update for the May report.

Band/Music

- Mrs. Barrie and the middle and high school musicians will be performing in the Spring Concert on Wednesday May 13.

Out of State Travel Fun

Recently two groups of students had the opportunity for some fun—Trip to Germany and Senior Trip to Disneyland. The Board approved this travel (and the 8th Grade Close Up trip to Washington DC) in the Spring of each year prior to travel. We will be asking for this once again. Thank you.

- **Senior Trip:** *Elana Bolat, Mackenzie Burklund, Kate Chen, Addison Coburn, Zoey Hurdsman, Robyn Naron, Woraphon Dumsee, Gevorg Hovhannisyna, and Milan Scheuring.*
- **European Excursion:** *Kate Nelson, Ryker Wood, Charlotte Schlegel, Rydia Boyer, Nova Gleason, and Jasmin Peterson*

PROM

Gala By The Beach-May 9, 2026

- McMennimens-Gearhardt

- Thanks to Curls for providing Transportation

Scholarship/Senior Update:

Scholarships

- On March 18th, all seniors were emailed the application packet for scholarships. This allowed students to begin working on their applications before they received local scholarships. Fortunately for the seniors, before the Careers Class ended, Mrs. Ward assigned students the two essay questions as an assignment. In addition, Mrs. Ward has students start collecting letters of recommendation in October.
- Students began receiving PDF's of Local Scholarships on April 2 in their school emails. These scholarships were also available in their Google Classroom.
- Ms. Safier should be at the Board Meeting for additional updates.



"Building Bridges,.....Clearing Paths"



VERNONIA SCHOOL DISTRICT 47J



Jim Helmen-Superintendent
Board Report
April, 2026
70-70-90

Budget Committee Process Overview

(See 2026–27 Budget Calendar on the VSD website under “Financial”)

- The Budget Committee’s initial meeting is scheduled for Thursday, April 23, 2026, at 6:00 p.m. in the VSD Library.
- The Budget Officer is Superintendent Jim Helmen.

First Budget Committee Meeting

The committee will:

- Elect a presiding officer (required) and vice chair (optional)
- Establish procedural rules
- Receive the budget message and proposed budget
- Review the budget calendar, including the target adoption date of June 11, 2026, at a regular school board meeting
- Request additional information as needed

The district will:

- Make budget documents available to the public upon request
- Provide opportunities for public comment at one or more budget committee meetings (not required at the first meeting but must occur before approval)

Public Notice Requirement

Per ORS 294.448, notice of the budget hearing must be published not more than 30 days and not less than 5 days prior to the hearing. The district will coordinate timelines in alignment with Board Policy DBC (Budget Calendar).

VERNONIA SCHOOL DISTRICT 47J



Jim Helmen-Superintendent
Board Report
April, 2026
70 -70 - 90

Development of the 2026–2027 District Calendar

The Vernonia School District Calendar Team has developed two proposed calendar options for the 2026–2027 academic year. Both options have been presented to the School Board for review and consideration. These drafts were carefully analyzed by the District Office and Leadership Teams to ensure alignment with required student instructional minutes and certified staff contract days.

Key considerations in the calendar development process include:

- Expanded opportunities for student, family, and teacher engagement, as well as academic planning, through the spring conference schedule.
- Balanced distribution of student contact days across all four quarters to support consistent instructional pacing.
- Continuation of Monday early release to provide dedicated time for professional development, data team collaboration, and Professional Learning Community (PLC) meetings.
- Scheduling of athletic practices and extracurricular activities to begin after the staff contract day, ensuring the prioritization of instructional time.

Additional Important Dates:

- Senior Graduation: June 5, 2027
- Middle School Promotion: June 8, 2027
- Kindergarten Camp and VSD Registration: Dates and times are currently in development and will be communicated once finalized.

VERNONIA SCHOOL DISTRICT 47J



Jim Helmen-Superintendent
Board Report
April, 2026
70 - 70 - 90

Required, [OAR 581-022-2320](#). Due annually. Coordinate with Board policy IC/ICA - School Year/School Calendar and/or collective bargaining agreements, as applicable.

Letter to The Community, “Providing Clarity on District Finances” rationale **Purpose for Community Communication**

On April 1, 2026, I provided communication to the community to ensure transparency, address emerging questions and concerns, and provide accurate, comprehensive information regarding the District’s financial decisions and program adjustments made during the 2025–2026 school year. Recent public discussions indicated that some information being shared lacked full context or contained inaccuracies. This outreach was intended to clarify the rationale behind District actions, reinforce trust through open communication, and ensure stakeholders are well-informed as the District continues planning for the future.

Additionally, the communication supports the District’s commitment to proactive engagement by providing timely, factual information that allows families and community members to better understand decisions that impact students, staff, and programs.

Major themes of communication in this message

- **Transparency and Accuracy:** Provided clear, verified financial and operational information to address misconceptions and ensure community understanding.
- **Student-Centered Decision Making:** Emphasized that all decisions were guided by the priority of protecting K-12 student learning opportunities.
- **Financial Responsibility and Stability:** Outlined the factors contributing to budget adjustments and reinforced the District’s commitment to maintaining long-term financial health and avoiding deficit spending.
- **Deliberate and Responsible Process:** Highlighted the careful review, third-party validation, and thoughtful timeline used before making significant decisions.
- **Impact and Support for Staff:** Acknowledged the effects of staffing changes and outlined the support provided to affected employees.

VERNONIA SCHOOL DISTRICT 47J



Jim Helmen-Superintendent
Board Report
April, 2026
70 -70 - 90

- Preservation of Programs: Communicated that core academic programs and student opportunities were maintained as a result of early and strategic action.
- Community Engagement and Trust: Reinforced the importance of open communication, accountability, and partnership with the community.
- Forward Focus: Assured stakeholders of the District’s current financial stability and continued planning for the 2026–2027 school year.

ELA Adoption Process Update

The District moved forward with the K–12 English Language Arts (ELA) instructional materials adoption in alignment with the Oregon Department of Education (ODE) adoption cycle and requirements. While the District had previously secured a waiver that would have allowed for a one-year delay, proceeding this year ensured continued compliance with the established seven-year adoption cycle and maintained access to high-quality, standards-aligned instructional materials for students.

At the elementary level, this adoption represented the required Year 7 review and selection. Advancing this work on schedule allowed the District to align with ODE’s Early Literacy Success Initiative expectations, including the use of evidence-based, scientifically grounded reading instruction. Funding for the elementary adoption is being supported through the Early Literacy Grant, with a phased approach of approximately half of the cost allocated in the current fiscal year and the remaining portion planned for the following year.

At the secondary level, the District also initiated the adoption process to ensure alignment with current standards and instructional best practices. Funding for middle and high school materials will be supported through a combination of Student Investment Account (SIA) and general funds. This approach ensures that resources are aligned across grade levels while maintaining fiscal responsibility.

VERNONIA SCHOOL DISTRICT 47J



Jim Helmen-Superintendent
Board Report
April, 2026
70-70-90

As part of the ODE-adopted materials selection process, the District has prioritized transparency and stakeholder engagement. Instructional materials will be made available for School Board and community review on April 23, in advance of the first budget committee meeting. Additional opportunities for staff and community input will be provided prior to final adoption to ensure a thoughtful and inclusive decision-making process.

This work reflects a comprehensive and collaborative effort across the District. A significant thank you is extended to Kendra Schelegel for her leadership and dedication in coordinating the majority of the K–12 adoption process. Her work in organizing materials, facilitating review structures, and ensuring alignment with state requirements has been instrumental in moving this process forward efficiently and effectively.

Collective Bargaining Update: Certified and Classified Staff

The District continues to make steady progress in preparation for both Certified and Classified collective bargaining processes in alignment with Oregon Public Employee Collective Bargaining Act (PECBA) requirements. Oregon law outlines clear expectations for good-faith bargaining, including timely communication, the preparation of proposals, and a mutual commitment to meet at reasonable times to negotiate the terms of employment.

For Certified Bargaining, the District is prepared to begin negotiations and is currently awaiting confirmation from the Certified Union regarding scheduling of the initial bargaining session. In preparation, we have completed a comprehensive review of the current Collective Bargaining Agreement (CBA), including development of a redlined draft reflecting proposed updates, as well as associated financial models for the 2026–2029 agreement. These materials have been shared with District leadership for internal review and have also been submitted to legal counsel to ensure compliance and alignment with state bargaining requirements. This preparatory work positions the District to engage in a timely, transparent, and good-faith bargaining process once meeting dates are established.

VERNONIA SCHOOL DISTRICT 47J



Jim Helmen-Superintendent
Board Report
April, 2026
70 -70 - 90

For Classified Bargaining, we have connected with Classified Union leadership to initiate the process. Union representatives are currently coordinating with their state representative to begin scheduling initial bargaining sessions. The District stands ready to engage as soon as dates are confirmed and will continue to communicate updates accordingly.

Overall, the District is meeting Oregon's expectations for the bargaining process by engaging in proactive preparation, maintaining open lines of communication with both unions, and ensuring that all proposals and processes are developed thoughtfully and in compliance with legal guidelines. We remain committed to a collaborative and respectful bargaining process that supports staff while maintaining the District's fiscal responsibility and operational stability.

Mist Elementary Community Meeting: Purpose and Process

The purpose of the upcoming Mist Elementary Community Meeting is to engage families, staff, and community members from the Mist, Birkenfeld, and Vernonia areas in a transparent and collaborative discussion regarding potential expansion options for Mist Elementary School beginning in the 2026–2027 school year. This meeting is intended to provide clear information, share the rationale behind potential options, and gather meaningful community input to help inform the District's final decision-making process.

This work is grounded in the District's commitment to supporting student growth, maintaining financial stability, and honoring the strong sense of pride and identity within the Mist Elementary community.

Following initial internal discussions with administration and district leadership, the District will host a Community Town Hall:

- Date: Wednesday, April 29
- Time: 6:00–7:00 p.m.

The meeting has been scheduled to accommodate existing student activities and maximize community participation.

VERNONIA SCHOOL DISTRICT 47J



Jim Helmen-Superintendent
Board Report
April, 2026
70 - 70 - 90

At the meeting, the District will present two potential school structure options for the 2026–2027 school year:

- Option 1: Maintain Current Structure
 - Approximately 30–33 students (Grades K–5)
 - 2 certified teachers
 - 1 instructional assistant
 - Two combined classrooms: K–2 and 3–5
- Option 2: Expanded Capacity Model
 - Approximately 60–65 students (Grades K–5)
 - 3 certified teachers
 - 2 instructional assistants (including one 0.5 FTE custodial role)
 - Three combined classrooms: K–1, 2-3, and 3–5

Both options present unique benefits. Option 1 maintains the current structure and continuity, while Option 2 provides increased capacity and offers greater structural and financial sustainability for the District over time.

Following the community meeting, the District will:

1. Gather and review community input from all stakeholders
2. Evaluate feedback alongside enrollment projections, staffing considerations, and financial impacts
3. Determine a recommended option
4. Communicate the final decision to the community
5. Begin implementation planning to ensure families have adequate time to make informed decisions regarding student placement for the 2026–2027 school year

The District is committed to a thoughtful, inclusive process that prioritizes students, respects community voice, and ensures long-term sustainability.

VERNONIA SCHOOL DISTRICT 47J



Jim Helmen-Superintendent
Board Report
April, 2026
70 -70 - 90

Superintendent Transition Plan – Summary

The Superintendent will present a transition plan outlining key priorities and actions to ensure the District remains stable, organized, and well-positioned for continued success through June 30, 2026. The overarching goal is to provide a seamless transition by resolving major operational, financial, and instructional components prior to leadership change.

Key Focus Areas:

- **Labor & Contracts:**
Finalize certified and classified collective bargaining agreements, secure board approval, and minimize any unresolved negotiations carrying forward.
- **Budget & Financial Stability:**
Adopt a balanced 2026–2027 budget with the goal of approximately a 3% ending fund balance, provide a multi-year financial forecast, align expenditures to district priorities, and ensure audit readiness and strong internal controls.
- **Leadership Hiring:**
Complete recruitment and onboarding planning for key positions, including Business Manager, Maintenance Director, Student Services Director, and other critical roles, with clear structures and expectations in place. If any hires are not finalized prior to the transition, the incoming superintendent will continue and complete the hiring process.
- **Mist Elementary Reconfiguration:**
Implement the selected expansion model (Option 1 or 2), including staffing, enrollment systems, and operational planning, while incorporating community input and ensuring long-term sustainability.
- **Staffing & HR Readiness:**
Finalize staffing assignments, update key HR documents, confirm contracts, and ensure organizational clarity for the 2026–2027 school year.

VERNONIA SCHOOL DISTRICT 47J



Jim Helmen-Superintendent
Board Report
April, 2026
70 -70 - 90

- **Grants & Compliance:**
Complete all required state and federal plans (SIA, HSS, Early Literacy), meet reporting requirements, and establish a clear compliance calendar.
- **State Testing & Student Outcomes:**
Ensure completion of state assessments and provide the Board with a comprehensive summary of student performance data, including graduation, attendance, behavior, and academic progress.
- **Facilities & Operations:**
Provide updates on maintenance, summer planning, and operational systems including transportation, food service, and technology.
- **Governance & Transition Support:**
Organize key district documents, calendars, and systems, and provide transition support to ensure continuity for the incoming superintendent.

By June 30, 2026, the District is optimistic to have settled contracts, a balanced budget, filled leadership positions (or with hiring processes clearly underway), finalized staffing, current compliance systems, completed student performance reporting, and a stabilized Mist Elementary program.

The Superintendent will remain available to support the incoming superintendent as requested and needed to ensure the smoothest possible transition and continued momentum for the District.

Summer Learning Grant

The District has submitted an application for the Oregon Department of Education (ODE) Summer Learning Grant and expects notification of award status in late April or early May. This competitive grant, totaling approximately \$123,000, is designed to support comprehensive

VERNONIA SCHOOL DISTRICT 47J



Jim Helmen-Superintendent
Board Report
April, 2026
70 -70 - 90

summer programming that addresses academic learning, enrichment opportunities, credit recovery, STEM experiences, and community-based activities for students in grades K–12.

If awarded, summer learning will begin in late June 2026 and run for four weeks, providing structured opportunities to support student growth and engagement beyond the regular school year. The ODE Summer Learning Grant prioritizes programs that accelerate learning, address unfinished learning, and expand access to enrichment opportunities, particularly for students who benefit from additional academic and social support.

In the event the District does not receive the grant, summer programming will need to be reevaluated, as there are currently no allocated funds in the budget to support a full summer learning program.

Youth Transition Program (YTP) – Summer Programming Update

We will continue to support students with special needs through participation in the Youth Transition Program (YTP), which focuses on developing employment skills and post-secondary readiness. YTP provides students with meaningful opportunities to explore career pathways, gain work experience, and build independence as they transition from school to the workforce or further education.

The District will be meeting with Columbia County Vocational Rehabilitation Services this month to collaboratively develop a summer YTP programming plan. This planning will focus on expanding opportunities for students to engage in work-based learning, skill development, and community connections during the summer months in our district and community.

memo

Vernonia School District 47J

To: Vernonia School District Board of Directors, Superintendent Jim Helmen
From: Marie Knight
Date: 3/12/2026
Re: March 2026 Financial Information

Financial Data through the Month ending February 28, 2026. The reports attached reflect revenue and expenditures through 2/28/2026.

General Fund ending balance is projected at \$ 186,556. This reflects a decrease of \$ 1,781 from the prior month. This is due to adjusting estimates for both revenue and expenditures.

State and Local revenue estimates were updated to match the State School Fund Estimate 3/3/2026 from ODE. Additionally, we received the first estimate for 2026-2027. This information is being used for our budget development.

Thanks!

-Marie Knight

Business Manager, Vernonia School District 47J

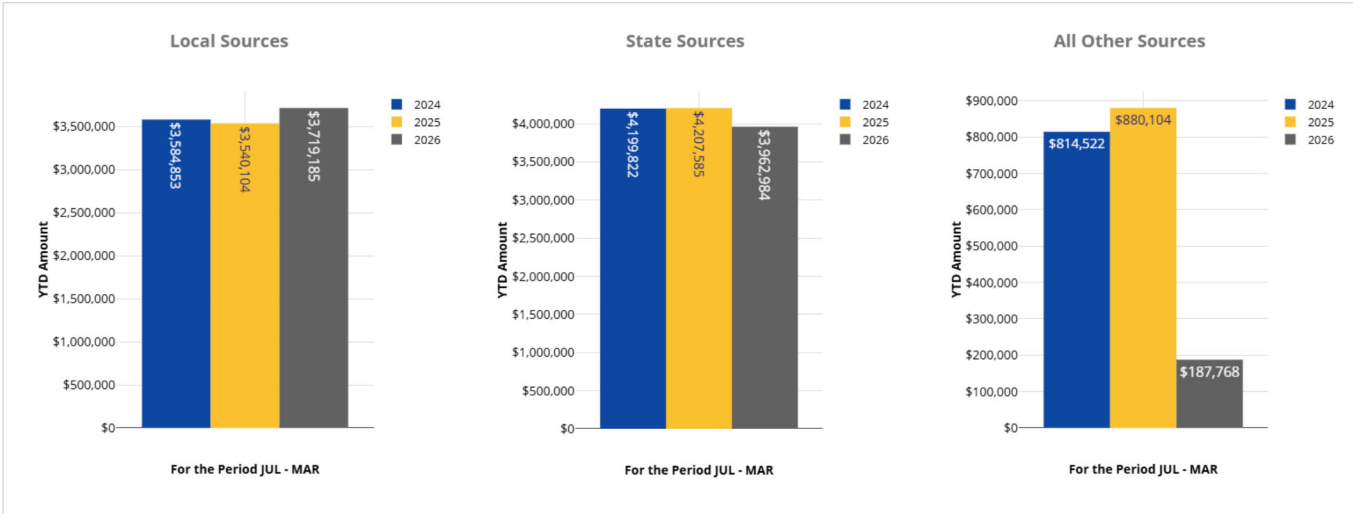
Source	Budget 2025-26	Actual YTD Rev. 2/28/2026	Projected through 6/30/2026	Total Estimated 2025-26	(Over)/Under Budget	Budget 2024-25	Actual YTD 2024-25
SSF Funding							
1111 Current Year Property Taxes	3,375,000	3,555,042	19,958	3,575,000	(200,000)	3,225,000	3,384,951
1112 Prior Year's Property Taxes	75,000	46,627	28,373	75,000	-	75,000	86,499
1114 Payment in Lieu of Property Taxes	15,000	306		306		15,000	271
1190 Penalties & Interest on Investments	7,500	4,795	830	5,625		5,000	5,289
2101 County School Funds	30,000	7	44,000	44,007	(14,007)	20,000	56,282
3101 State School Support Funds	4,800,000	3,716,649	1,396,291	5,112,940	(312,940)	4,840,000	3,735,118
May SSF payback- estimated for FY2425			(66,000)	(66,000)			
3103 Common School Fund	80,000	38,775	38,775	77,550	2,450	75,352	78,718
3104 State Timber	650,000	207,560	272,440	480,000	170,000	650,000	682,226
Total SSF Revenue	\$ 9,032,500	\$ 7,569,763	\$ 1,734,666	\$ 9,304,429	\$ (354,497)	\$ 8,905,352	\$ 8,029,355
Non State School Support Formula Sources							
Local Sources							
1510 Earnings on Investments	130,000	49,228	48,272	97,500	32,500	90,000	125,082
1710 Admissions/Fees	15,000	306	10,944	11,250	3,750	13,000	8,278
1740 Fees	40,000	150	19,850	20,000		30,000	54,664
1910 Rentals	20,000	6,025	18,975	25,000	(5,000)	10,000	21,056
1920 Donations from Private Sources	110,700	10,291	779	11,070	99,630	100,000	8,968
1960 Recovery of Prior Year Expenditures	25,000	15,356	4,644	20,000	5,000	20,000	9,488
1961 Recovery of current year	15,000	17,913	4,587	22,500		10,000	26,140
1980: Indirect	25,000	3,916	8,584	12,500		-	34,389
1990 Miscellaneous Local Revenue	85,000	2,684	12,320	15,004	69,996	85,000	15,004
1994: Medicaid Admin Claiming	50,000	-	-	-	50,000	70,000	
1995: Erate	20,000	6,545	13,455	20,000			
Total Non Formula Local Sources	535,700	112,414	142,410	254,824	255,876	428,000	303,067
Intermediate Sources							
2102 Education Service District Apportionment	150,000	276,684	-	276,684	(126,684)	165,000	193,658
2105: Natural Gas	20,000	-	5,130	5,130	14,870	20,000	5,130
2199: Other	-	-	15,000	15,000	(15,000)	-	11,798
Total Intermediate Sources	170,000	276,684	20,130	296,814	(126,814)	185,000	210,586
State/Federal Sources							
3199: SSF Small High School Grant	35,000	-	29,561	29,561		35,000	29,561
3299: High Cost Disability	62,000	-	62,000	62,000		50,000	56,957
Total State/Federal Sources	97,000	-	91,561	91,561	-	85,000	86,518
Other Sources							
5400 Beginning Fund Balance*	800,000	(88,924)	-	(88,924)	888,924	800,000	767,687
Total Other Sources	800,000	(88,924)	-	(88,924)	888,924	800,000	767,687
Total Non SSF Revenue	\$ 802,700	\$ 389,098	\$ 254,101	\$ 643,198	\$ 129,063	\$ 698,000	\$ 600,171
Total Resources	\$ 10,635,200	\$ 7,869,937	\$ 1,988,766	\$ 9,858,703	\$ 663,489	\$ 10,403,352	\$ 9,397,213
	\$ 0	Less Estimated Requirements		\$ 9,693,710			
		Estimated Ending Fund Balance		\$ 164,993			

Function	Budget 2025-26	Actual YTD EXP 2/28/2026	Projected through 6/30/2026	Total Estimated 2025-26	(Over)/ Under Budget	% Committed	Budget 2024-25	YTD* 2024-25	
Instruction									
1111 Elementary, K-5 or K-6	2,024,128	1,111,263	657,721	1,768,984	\$ 255,143	87.39%	\$ 1,722,654	\$ 1,927,146	2 IA resigned, 4 tchrs cut
1121 Middle/Junior High Programs	832,659	528,085	324,659	852,744	\$ (20,085)	102.41%	\$ 619,125	\$ 782,140	1.5 tchr cut, move teacher from HSS
1122 Middle/Junior High School Extracurricular	51,915	37,889	14,026	51,915	\$ -	100.00%	\$ 44,892	\$ 49,960	
1131 High School Programs	1,094,952	616,287	348,384	964,672	\$ 130,280	88.10%	\$ 1,107,178	\$ 935,730	1 IA resigned, 1.5 tchr cut
1132 High School Extracurricular	226,737	179,230	52,507	231,737	\$ (5,000)	102.21%	\$ 200,688	\$ 254,917	
1210 Programs for Talented and Gifted	500	0	-	-	\$ 500				
1220 Restrictive Pgms for Students w/Disabilities	73,000	53,123	36,040	89,163	\$ (16,163)	122.14%	\$ 136,000	\$ 125,961	
1250 Programs for Students w/Severe Disabilities	1,031,286	545,033	351,213	896,246	\$ 135,040	86.91%	\$ 1,040,051	\$ 884,123	Move SPED tchr to IDEA, replace SPED Dir.
1260 Treatment and Habilitation	5,000	10,350	-	10,350	\$ (5,350)	207.01%	\$ 5,000	\$ 23,453	
1283 District Alternative Programs	-	178	-	178	\$ (178)		\$ -	\$ 13,663	
1284 Vernonia Family Academy	74,814	83,853	76,824	160,677	\$ (85,863)	214.77%	\$ 175,292	\$ 204,308	
1285 Distance Learning	132,332	66,187	-	66,187	\$ 66,144	50.02%	\$ 120,958	\$ 123,282	Move teacher to 1284
1400 Summer School Program	6,281	6,029	-	6,029	\$ 252	95.98%	\$ 12,890	\$ 6,395	
Total Instruction	\$ 5,553,603	\$ 3,237,507	\$ 1,861,375	\$ 5,098,882	\$ 454,721		\$ 5,184,727	\$ 5,331,077	
Support Services									
2110 Attendance Services	75,228	40,328	28,882	69,210	6,018	92.00%	73,889	71,027	
2119 Other Attendance/Social Work Services	-	367	431	798	1,229		-	6,202	
2120 Guidance Services	146979.5	90,948	61,680	152,628	(5,649)	103.84%	140328.68	147,014	
2130 Health Services	7,818	61,383	59,240	120,623	(112,805)	1542.89%	7,779	969	ESD services, nurse, ot pt
2140 Psychological Services	119,935	54,928	8,618	63,545	56,390	52.98%	116,537	-	Cut SEL Director/School psych, add ESD School Psych
2150 Speech Pathology and Audiology Services	93,500	62,849	43,261	106,110	(12,610)	113.49%	90,000	86,474	
2190 Service Directions, Student Support Svcs	98,669	42,761	31,241	74,002	24,667	75.00%	70,798	85,057	
2210 Improvement of Instruction	53,722	39,545	350	39,895	13,827	74.26%	23,395	69,019	
2220 Library/Media Center	130,500	84,402	49,298	133,700	(3,200)	102.45%	125,694	126,871	
2310 Board of Education	83,994	72,551	34,449	107,001	(23,006)	127.39%	83,295	73,613	
2321 Office of the Superintendent Services	416,603	304,610	111,993	416,603	-	100.00%	411,559	415,996	
2410 Office of the Principal Services	646,547	407,813	198,031	605,844	40,703	93.70%	651,279	608,099	
2490 School Administration- Other Support	600	1,541	500	2,041	(1,441)	340.20%	-	1,123	
2520 Fiscal Services	327,610	268,568	190,086	458,654	(131,044)	140.00%	434,066	346,953	Included ESD Business Services, Unemployment
2524 Payroll Services	1,200	1,260	1,000	2,260	(1,060)	188.37%	-	1,573	
2542 Care and Upkeep of Building Services	699,944	546,199	118,748	664,947	34,997	95.00%	612,310	652,264	1 custodian resigned, not replaced
2543 Care and Upkeep of Grounds Services	67,560	27,070	26,978	54,048	13,512	80.00%	105,481	47,499	
2544 Maintenance	123,984	94,234	31,529	125,763	(1,779)	101.43%	122,870	140,761	
2545 Vehicle Upkeep	3,000	2,148	852	3,000	-	100.00%	2,850	1,697	
2550 Student Transportation Services	1,060,530	676,619	386,409	1,063,027	(2,497)	100.24%	1,026,500	1,028,917	
2640 Staff Services	7,437	3,718	2,657	6,375	1,062	85.72%			
2660 Technology Services	144,234	127,200	13,250	140,450	3,784	97.38%	137,190	83,733	
2710 Supplemental Retirement Program	-	29,683	4,081	33,764	(33,764)		9,720	62,622	
Total Support Services	\$ 4,309,597	\$ 3,040,725	\$ 1,403,565	\$ 4,444,290	\$ (132,666)		\$ 4,245,539	\$ 4,057,481	
Community Services									
3100 Food Service	2,000	38	500	538	1,462	27%	-	114	
Total Community Services	\$ 2,000	\$ 38	\$ 500	\$ 538	\$ 1,462		\$ -	\$ 114	
Other Requirements									
5200 Transfers of Funds	220,000	0	150,000	150,000	70,000	68.18%	190,000	97,984	Est Food Service Transfer
6000 Contingency	450,000	0	-	-	450,000	100.00%	-	-	
7000 Unappropriated Ending Fund Balance	100,000	0	-	-	100,000	100.00%	-	-	
Total Other Requirements	\$ 770,000	\$ -	\$ 150,000	\$ 150,000	\$ 620,000		\$ 190,000	\$ 97,984	
Total Requirements	\$ 10,635,200	\$ 6,278,270	\$ 3,415,440	\$ 9,693,710	\$ 24,942,055		\$ 9,620,266	\$ 9,486,656	



2025-2026 Vernonia SD 47J
General Fund Year to Date Revenue Overview
March 2026

YTD Local Sources \$3,719,185 92.79% of Budget	YTD State Sources \$3,962,984 70.43% of Budget	YTD All Other Sources \$187,768 18.78% of Budget
--	--	--



	FY 2024 YTD Amount	FY 2025 YTD Amount	FY 2026 YTD Amount	FY 2026 Annual Budget	FY 2026 % YTD Budget
Operating Revenues					
State School Fund Formula					
Local Revenue	\$3,368,465	\$3,323,159	\$3,606,771	\$3,472,500	103.87%
Intermediate Revenue	\$17	\$65	\$7	\$30,000	0.02%
State Revenue	\$4,199,822	\$4,207,585	\$3,962,984	\$5,530,000	71.66%
Total State School Fund Formula	\$7,568,304	\$7,530,809	\$7,569,763	\$9,032,500	83.81%
Local Revenue	\$216,387	\$216,945	\$112,414	\$535,700	20.98%
Intermediate Revenue	\$2,588	\$5,782	\$276,684	\$170,000	162.76%
State Revenue	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	0.00%
Federal Revenue	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Other Revenue	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	0.00%
Total Operating Revenues	\$7,787,279	\$7,753,536	\$7,958,861	\$9,835,200	80.92%
Beginning Fund Balance	\$811,918	\$874,257	-\$88,924	\$800,000	-11.12%
TOTAL RESOURCES	\$8,599,196	\$8,627,793	\$7,869,937	\$10,635,200	74.00%

Revenue Insight:

General Fund (Source 54XX Removed) YTD revenues totaled \$7,958,861 through March 2026, which is \$205,324 or 2.6% more than the amount received last year for this period. The YTD difference is driven by an increase in 2000-2999 Intermediate Sources of \$270,844, a decrease in 3000-3999 State Sources of -\$244,601, and an increase in 1000-1999 Local Sources of \$179,081.

Differences due to: State Sources-Timing, March receipts have not all been entered yet. Intermediate Sourced-ESD Service Credits taken as cash Local Sources-timing of property tax receipts.

	FY 2024 YTD Amount	FY 2025 YTD Amount	FY 2026 YTD Amount	FY 2026 Annual Budget	FY 2026 % YTD Budget
General Fund Revenues	\$8,599,196	\$8,627,793	\$7,869,937	\$10,635,200	74.00%
General Fund Expenses	\$5,697,465	\$6,165,750	\$6,282,270	\$10,635,200	59.07%
General Fund Balance	\$2,901,731	\$2,462,043	\$1,587,667	\$0	



2025-2026 Vernonia SD 47J
General Fund Year to Date Expense Overview
March 2026

YTD Salaries and Benefits

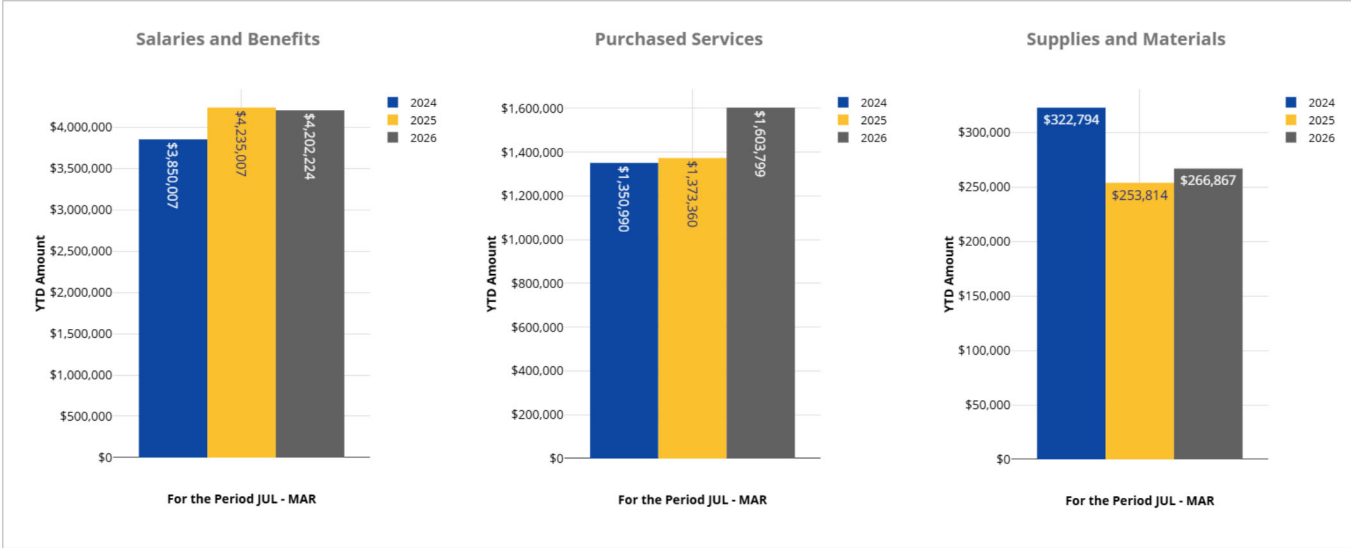
\$4,202,224
58.23% of Budget

YTD Purchased Services

\$1,603,799
75.12% of Budget

YTD Supplies & Materials

\$266,867
85.07% of Budget



	FY 2024 YTD Amount	FY 2025 YTD Amount	FY 2026 YTD Amount	FY 2026 Annual Budget	FY 2026 % YTD Budget
Salaries					
Regular Salaries	\$2,230,643	\$2,448,907	\$2,418,738	\$4,315,305	56.05%
All Other Salaries	\$214,766	\$235,597	\$224,539	\$320,621	70.03%
Total Salaries	\$2,445,410	\$2,684,504	\$2,643,278	\$4,635,926	57.02%
Benefits					
Retirement	\$683,801	\$787,244	\$804,255	\$1,428,781	56.29%
Employee Insurance	\$476,057	\$491,719	\$504,511	\$765,658	65.89%
All Other Benefits	\$244,740	\$271,539	\$250,181	\$386,790	64.68%
Total Benefits	\$1,404,598	\$1,550,503	\$1,558,947	\$2,581,229	60.40%
Other Expenditures					
Purchased Services	\$1,350,990	\$1,373,360	\$1,603,799	\$2,134,985	75.12%
Supplies and Materials	\$322,794	\$253,814	\$266,867	\$313,710	85.07%
Capital Outlay	\$10,200	\$12,663	\$0	\$0	0.00%
Other Objects	\$163,474	\$175,906	\$209,381	\$199,350	105.03%
Transfers	\$0	\$115,000	\$0	\$220,000	0.00%
Total Operating Expenditures	\$5,697,465	\$6,165,750	\$6,282,270	\$10,085,200	62.29%
Contingencies	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$450,000	0.00%
Unappropriated Ending Fund Balance	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$100,000	0.00%
TOTAL REQUIREMENTS	\$5,697,465	\$6,165,750	\$6,282,270	\$10,635,200	59.07%

Expense Insights:

General Fund YTD expenses totaled \$6,282,270 through March 2026, which is \$116,520 or 1.9% more than the amount spent last year for this period. The YTD difference is driven by an increase in 300-399 Purchased Services of \$230,439, a decrease in 700-799 Transfers of -\$115,000, and a decrease in 100-199 Salaries of -\$41,227.

Differences due to: Purchased services increase-ESD services paid with cash, not service credits Transfers: timing of food service and other transfers Payroll costs: due to staff reduction.



2025-2026 Vernonia SD 47J
General Fund Month To Date Revenue Overview
March 2026

MTD Local Sources

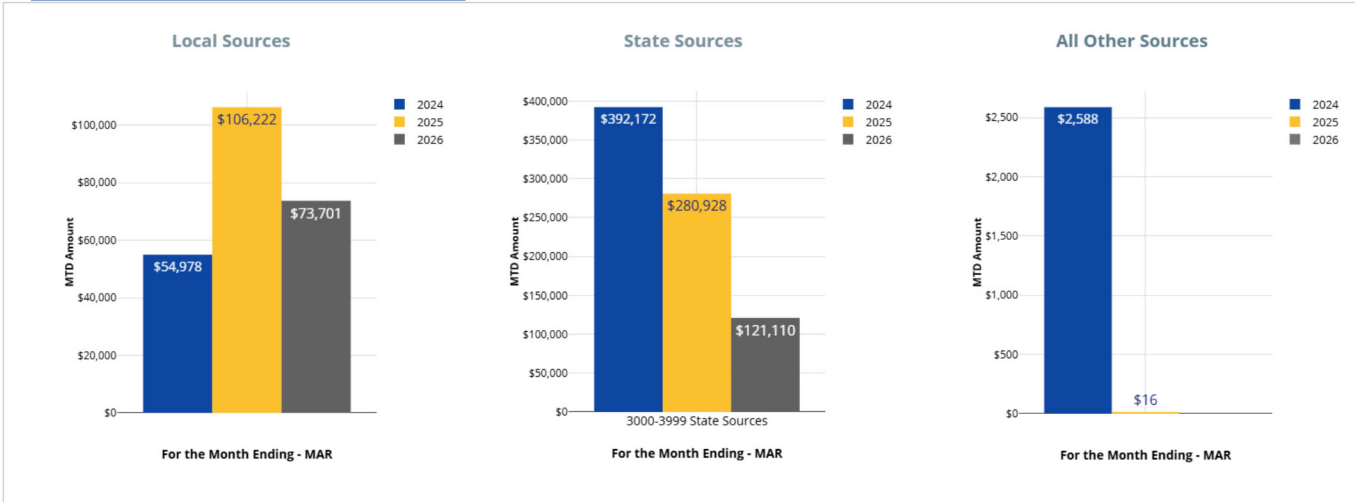
\$73,701
1.84% of Budget

MTD State Sources

\$121,110
2.15% of Budget

MTD All Other Sources

\$0
0.00% of Budget



	FY 2024 MTD Amount	FY 2025 MTD Amount	FY 2026 MTD Amount	FY 2026 Annual Budget	FY 2026 % MTD Budget
Operating Revenues					
State School Fund Formula					
Local Revenue	\$37,258	\$47,578	\$65,830	\$3,472,500	1.90%
Intermediate Revenue	\$0	\$16	\$0	\$30,000	0.00%
State Revenue	\$392,172	\$280,928	\$121,110	\$5,530,000	2.19%
Total State School Fund Formula	\$429,430	\$280,928	\$186,940	\$9,032,500	2.07%
Local Revenue	\$17,721	\$58,644	\$7,871	\$535,700	1.47%
Intermediate Revenue	\$2,588	\$0	\$0	\$170,000	0.00%
State Revenue	\$0	\$58,644	\$0	\$97,000	0.00%
Federal Revenue	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Other Revenue	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$800,000	0.00%
Total Operating Revenues	\$449,738	\$387,166	\$194,811	\$9,835,200	1.98%
Beginning Fund Balance	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$800,000	0.00%
TOTAL RESOURCES	\$449,738	\$387,166	\$194,811	\$10,635,200	1.83%

Revenue Insight:

General Fund (Source 54XX Removed) revenues totaled \$194,811 in March 2026, which is -\$192,355 or -49.7% less than the amount received last year for this month. The year over year difference is driven by a decrease in 3000-3999 State Sources of -\$159,818, a decrease in 1000-1999 Local Sources of -\$32,521, and a decrease in 2000-2999 Intermediate Sources of -\$16.

Differences due to: State and Local Sources-Timing, March receipts have not all been entered yet.

	FY 2024 MTD Amount	FY 2025 MTD Amount	FY 2026 MTD Amount	FY 2026 Annual Budget	FY 2026 % YTD Budget
General Fund Revenues	\$449,738	\$387,166	\$194,811	\$10,635,200	1.83%
General Fund Expenses	\$751,563	\$856,993	\$753,658	\$10,635,200	7.09%
General Fund Balance	-\$301,825	-\$469,827	-\$558,847	\$0	



2025-2026 Vernonia SD 47J
General Fund Month To Date Expense Overview
March 2026

MTD Salaries and Benefits

\$516,580

7.16% of Budget

MTD Purchased Services

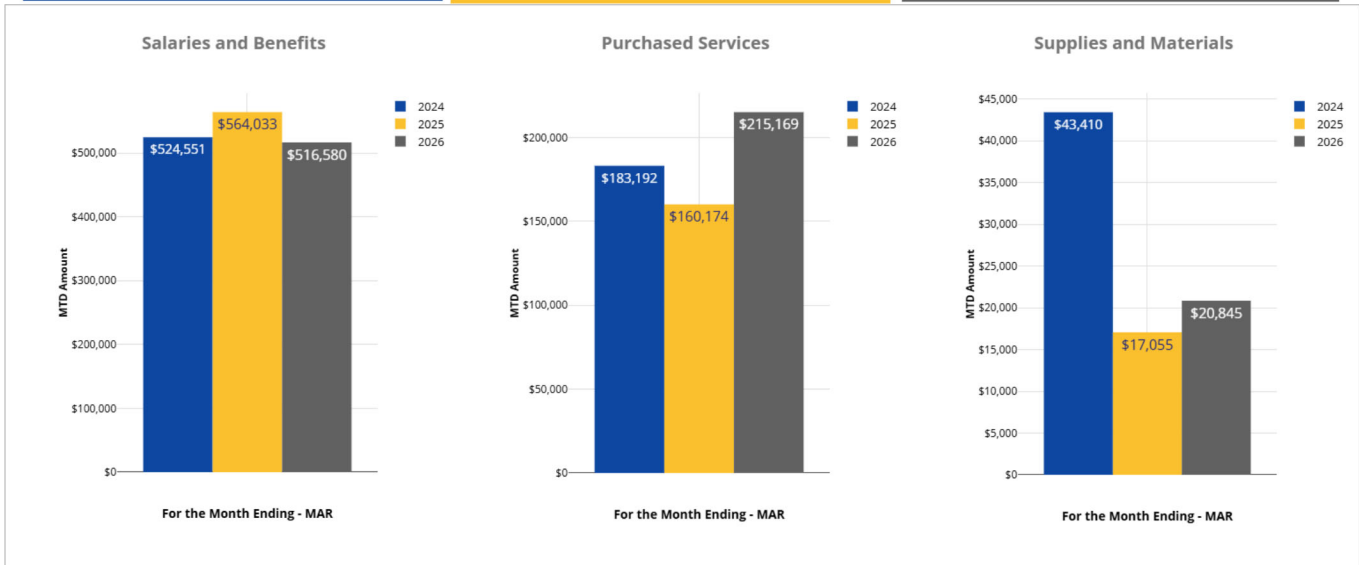
\$215,169

10.08% of Budget

MTD Supplies & Materials

\$20,845

6.64% of Budget



	FY 2024 MTD Amount	FY 2025 MTD Amount	FY 2026 MTD Amount	FY 2026 Annual Budget	FY 2026 % MTD Budget
Salaries					
Regular Salaries	\$299,160	\$326,321	\$300,687	\$4,315,305	6.97%
All Other Salaries	\$28,575	\$26,779	\$23,087	\$320,621	7.20%
Total Salaries	\$327,735	\$353,100	\$323,774	\$4,635,926	6.98%
Benefits					
Retirement	\$99,618	\$108,223	\$96,468	\$1,428,781	6.75%
Employee Insurance	\$65,134	\$68,084	\$67,309	\$765,658	8.79%
All Other Benefits	\$32,065	\$34,626	\$29,030	\$386,790	7.51%
Total Benefits	\$196,817	\$210,933	\$192,807	\$2,581,229	7.47%
Other Expenditures					
Purchased Services	\$183,192	\$160,174	\$215,169	\$2,134,985	10.08%
Supplies and Materials	\$43,410	\$17,055	\$20,845	\$313,710	6.64%
Capital Outlay	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	0.00%
Other Objects	\$409	\$730	\$1,065	\$199,350	0.53%
Transfers	\$0	\$115,000	\$0	\$220,000	0.00%
Total Operating Expenditures	\$751,563	\$856,993	\$753,658	\$10,085,200	7.47%
Contingencies	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$450,000	0.00%
Unappropriated Ending Fund Balance	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$100,000	0.00%
TOTAL REQUIREMENTS	\$751,563	\$856,993	\$753,658	\$10,635,200	7.09%

Expense Insights:

General Fund expenses totaled \$753,658 in March 2026, which is -\$103,335 or -12.1% less than the amount spent last year for this month. The year over year difference is driven by a decrease in 700-799 Transfers of -\$115,000, an increase in 300-399 Purchased Services of \$54,994, and a decrease in 100-199 Salaries of -\$29,326.

Differences due to: Purchased services increase-ESD services paid with cash, not service credits Transfers: timing of food service and other transfers Payroll costs: due to staff reduction.

Vernonia High School Student Body Account as of April 2, 2026

Active Class Accounts	Balance as of 3/6/26	Balance as of 4/2/26	Difference	Notes
8th GRADE CLOSE-UP	\$ 6,165	\$ 6,165	\$ -	
ALUMNI SCHOLARSHIP FUND	\$ 14,711	\$ 14,711	\$ -	
ART CLASS FUND	\$ 2,713	\$ 2,713	\$ -	
ART CLUB	\$ 48	\$ 48	\$ -	
ART P2P	\$ 1,696	\$ 1,796	\$ 100	
ATHLETICS GENERAL FUND	\$ 9,197	\$ 13,350	\$ 4,153	Athletics General Fund-Funds used for overall athletic projects and to support the needs of individual teams. Current projects are: new banners for the gym prior to the start of the 2026-2027 sports seasons, new scorers table, new scoreboard system for the gym. Increase this month are from the concessions account. This is revenue from events worked by the athletics staff.
ATHLETICS P2P	\$ 17,539	\$ 19,455	\$ 1,916	
AVID	\$ 375	\$ 375	\$ -	
American Red Cross Scholarship	\$ 250	\$ 250	\$ -	
BAND CLASS FUND	\$ 2,477	\$ 2,477	\$ -	
BAND P2P	\$ 3,030	\$ 3,030	\$ -	
BAND-INSTRUMENT RENTAL	\$ 1,927	\$ 1,927	\$ -	
BAND/MUSIC_MS_24	\$ 799	\$ 799	\$ -	
BASEBALL HS	\$ (451)	\$ (101)	\$ 350	
BOYS HS BASKETBALL	\$ 1,336	\$ 1,336	\$ -	
BOYS VOLLEYBALL	\$ 352	\$ 352	\$ -	
Transition Program-Balloon Company	\$ 77	\$ 117	\$ 41	
Transition Program-CONCESSIONS	\$ 14,700	\$ 13,230	\$ (1,470)	Net decrease from revenue and journal entry to Athletics General Fund
Transition Program-COFFEE CART	\$ 7,467	\$ 8,371	\$ 903	
CHEERLEADING	\$ 1,990	\$ 1,990	\$ -	
CITIZENSHIP SCHOLARSHIP	\$ 400	\$ 400	\$ -	
CLASS OF 2026	\$ 3,732	\$ 3,732	\$ -	
CLASS OF 2027	\$ 4,558	\$ 4,843	\$ 285	
CLASS OF 2028	\$ 180	\$ 180	\$ -	
CLASS OF 2029	\$ 361	\$ 361	\$ -	
CLAY TARGET TEAM	\$ 1,515	\$ 1,515	\$ -	
CTE-Engineering	\$ 76	\$ 76	\$ -	
CTE-Natural Resource Management	\$ 1,026	\$ 1,026	\$ -	
DIGITAL ARTS CLASS FUND	\$ 1,602	\$ 1,602	\$ -	
EQUESTRIAN CLUB	\$ 9,672	\$ 9,672	\$ -	
FOOTBALL HS	\$ 2,569	\$ 2,569	\$ -	
FOREIGN LANGUAGE	\$ 465	\$ 465	\$ -	
GATE	\$ 5,952	\$ 5,979	\$ 27	
GIRLS HS BASKETBALL	\$ 3,494	\$ 3,494	\$ -	
GOLF	\$ 225	\$ 225	\$ -	
LIBRARY	\$ 165	\$ 165	\$ -	
Elementary Library	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ -	
Total for LIBRARY	\$ 165	\$ 165	\$ -	
LOCK/LOCKER FEES	\$ 875	\$ 875	\$ -	
MEMOLOG	\$ 8,142	\$ 8,192	\$ 50	
MS Yearbook	\$ 655	\$ 655	\$ -	
Total for MEMOLOG	\$ 8,797	\$ 8,847	\$ 50	
MIDDLE SCHOOL SB	\$ 320	\$ 320	\$ -	
6th Grade	\$ 726	\$ 726	\$ -	
8th Grade Trip	\$ 1,663	\$ 1,663	\$ 29	

Leadership	\$ 3,697	\$ 3,697	\$ -
MS ACTIVITIES	\$ (0)	\$ (0)	\$ -
MS Student Body	\$ 7,620	\$ 7,620	\$ -
Total for MIDDLE SCHOOL SB	\$ 14,026	\$ 14,026	\$ -
MS BASKETBALL	\$ 464	\$ 464	\$ -
MS VOLLEYBALL	\$ 49	\$ 49	\$ -
National Honor Society	\$ 36	\$ 36	\$ -
ROBOTICS SCHOLARSHIP	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Robotics	\$ 4,037	\$ 4,037	\$ -
SENIOR TRIP 2026			\$ -
Total for SENIOR TRIP 2026	\$ 6,260	\$ 1,848	\$ (4,412)
SHOP P2P	\$ 1,790	\$ 1,790	\$ -
SHOP PROJECTS	\$ 173	\$ 173	\$ -
SOFTBALL HS	\$ 363	\$ 763	\$ 400
Fundraisers	\$ 1,230	\$ 1,230	\$ -
Total for SOFTBALL HS	\$ 1,593	\$ 1,993	\$ 400
STUDENT BODY	\$ (9,454)	\$ (9,454)	\$ -
OASC Conference	\$ 147	\$ 147	\$ -
ODFL	\$ (2)	\$ (2)	\$ -
Winter Formal	\$ 3,763	\$ 3,763	\$ -
Total for STUDENT BODY	\$ (5,546)	\$ (5,546)	\$ -
SpED	\$ 137	\$ 137	\$ -
TRACK HS	\$ (444)	\$ (444)	\$ -
The Greathouse Creativity Fund	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
VHS PE	\$ 967	\$ 967	\$ -
VOLLEYBALL	\$ 2,017	\$ 2,017	\$ -
Virginia B. Johns Scholarship	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
WELDING P2P	\$ 940	\$ 949	\$ 9
WRESTLING HS	\$ 383	\$ 383	\$ -
OWC	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ -
Wrestling Fundraising	\$ 574	\$ 574	\$ -
Wrestling Sweatshirts	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Total for WRESTLING HS	\$ 957	\$ 957	\$ -
Washington DC	\$ 2	\$ 2	\$ -
X COUNRTY	\$ 3,780	\$ 3,780	\$ -
Sweatshirts	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Total for X COUNRTY	\$ 3,780	\$ 3,780	\$ -
Total	\$ 163,303	\$ 165,655	\$ 2,352

March 2026 Maintenance Report

Alarm Related Calls:

14

Facility Use

Board meeting, after school program, stadium meetings, Wintersports awards assemblies. Summer sports, celebration of life, VRFD, Conferences.

Projects/Work for the Month

- *Board report.
- *Mist: Monthly maintenance, daily delivery of lunches, custodial cleaning. We also spent the better part of a day over break doing extra cleaning, powerwashed the fence and ground work. Thank you Joanie for helping.
- *Installed new sinks in both shops.
- *I had to fabricate a part for the drinking fountain to fit in the new sinks in the wood shop. This will be completed next week.
- * Assembled new office furniture for the upstairs office and moved another office.
- Install portable Radon detector in house to verify readings
- emergency lighting in the house.
- *Install eyewash stations in shops.
- begin prepping fields for spring sports.
- *Install new paper towel dispenser in ms girls restroom
- * worked on alarm system faults
- *Begin grounds work
- *Scraped softball field with tractor blade, added some sand to the surface and dragged.
- *New Mower: We will need to replace the current commercial mower asap. We hoped to have it one more year, but that is no longer possible. In order for us to maintain the sports fields, graduation etc. this needs to happen asap. The grass is ready to explode and we will not be able to keep up with what we have without one. If you have any questions, I will be glad to address them. But it is cut and dry, we are without a mower that can keep up with the needs of the property.
- *A day of ground work over break (all my staff)
- *Dragged softball.
- *Adjust hvac and lighting schedules for break to conserve energy.
- *Backflow devices and kitchen hood anse tested
- *Repairs to the dishwasher in the kitchen.
- *Worked on stove in slc
- * Moved furniture for classrooms
- *Repair damaged restroom (athletic area) faucets
- *Replaced paper towel dispenser In boys (athletic) restroom
- *Working on a ventilation fan for the house. Ordered parts, scheduled electrician for next week.
- *Ordered new 4 yard dumpster.
- *Moved sand pile to its proper location.

Weekly/Monthly

- *Fire/evac drills
- *Equipment repair: regular maintenance weekly
- *AED inspections and testing
- *Generator quarterly maintenance and testing.
- *The lighting and security schedule changed about once a month as times change
- *Shop work
- *Custodial meetings
- *Deliver lunches to Mist daily & custodial work. (2 employees, two hours a day)
- *IPM inspections
- *Inspect roof units (weekly)
- *Fire extinguisher inspection (Monthly)
- *Generator testing (monthly)
- *Playground inspections (Monthly)
- *Paperwork (weekly)
- *Weekly biomass maintenance during winter months

Miscellaneous:

I check facilities/systems, check emails and handle miscellaneous or minor repairs. The remainder of the day I try to get caught up on any maintenance/grounds items and or assist staff, students and admin with day to day needs that arise. Along with ordering, reports and follow ups with customers and suppliers. Weekly/monthly /facility inspections. Cover custodial while we deliver lunch to Mist and do our daily custodial duties.

Vandalism:

Ongoing issue with restrooms throughout the school. Dispensers being ripped off walls, faucets being damaged etc.

Thank you

Mark Brown

Facility/Maintenance/Grounds Supervisor/IPM Coordinator

Vernonia School District

971-297-6403

VERNONIA SCHOOL DISTRICT 47J

www.vernonia.k12.or.us



MEMO

TO: Vernonia School District Board of Directors
FR: Nate Underwood and the Instructional Calendar Committee
RE: 2026-27 Instructional Calendar Proposal

DATE: March 6, 2026

Enclosed are two calendar options for your consideration and approval either at this meeting or the meeting in April.

Both Drafts contain the following:

- August 31st - school starts. This is prior to the Labor Day holiday which falls on Sept. 7th.
- The number of student contact days is 168 and staff contract days is 186. This is the same as our current year calendar.
- There are five potential weather make-up days - one in Feb. and two in the months of April and May. There are five of these days in the current year calendar.
- There are both Fall and Spring conferences as was the case this year.
- Thanksgiving, Winter, and Spring breaks are consistent with recent years.
- Both have 4 Teacher Inservice Days.
- Both have only 1 day after school ends for teacher check-out.

The main difference in the two drafts is as follows:

- DRAFT A - January 4th (the first day back after winter break) is set as a teacher planning day.
- DRAFT B - January 25th (the first day of second semester) is set as a teaching planning day.

The staff preference is Draft B. This provides a more timely planning day for those teachers teaching an elective course that changes from one semester to the next.

Sincerely,

Nate Underwood, Principal
Vernonia High/Middle Schools

VERNONIA SCHOOL DISTRICT
1201 Texas Avenue
Vernonia, OR 97064-1447
Phone: (503) 429-5891
Fax (503) 429-7742

VERNONIA HIGH SCHOOL
1000 Missouri Avenue
Vernonia, OR 97064-1445
Phone: (503) 429-1333
Fax (503) 429-4539

VERNONIA MIDDLE SCHOOL
1000 Missouri Avenue
Vernonia, OR 97064-1445
Phone: (503) 429-1333
Fax (503) 429-4539

VERNONIA ELEM. SCHOOL
1000 Missouri Avenue
Vernonia, OR 97064-1445
Phone: (503) 429-1333
Fax (503) 429-4539

MIST ELEM. SCHOOL
69163 Hwy. 47
Mist, OR 97016-7203
Phone: (503) 755-2486
Fax (503) 755-2213

2026-2027 Instructional Calendar

DRAFT A

July

4 Independence Day

JULY							Student Contact	Contract Days
S	M	T	W	T	F	S		
			1	2	3	4		
5	6	7	8	9	10	11		
12	13	14	15	16	17	18		
19	20	21	22	23	24	25		
26	27	28	29	30	31			
							0	0

August

Kindercamp

VHS Registration

VMS Registration

20 New Staff Orientation

21 New Staff Classroom Work Day

24-28 Staff Inservice

27 Staff Inservice/Meet the Family K-12

31 School Begins K-12

AUGUST							Student Contact	Contract Days
S	M	T	W	T	F	S		
						1		
2	3	4	5	6	7	8		
9	10	11	12	13	14	15		
16	17	18	19	20	21	22		
23	24	25	26	27	28	29		5
30	31						1	1
							1	6

September

7 Labor Day

SEPTEMBER							Student Contact	Contract Days
S	M	T	W	T	F	S		
		1	2	3	4	5	4	4
6	7	8	9	10	11	12	4	5
13	14	15	16	17	18	19	5	5
20	21	22	23	24	25	26	5	5
27	28	29	30				3	3
							21	22

October

9 No School-State Wide Inservice

29 End of Quarter 1

30 No School Teacher Work Day

OCTOBER							Student Contact	Contract Days
S	M	T	W	T	F	S		
				1	2	3	2	2
4	5	6	7	8	9	10	4	4
11	12	13	14	15	16	17	5	5
18	19	20	21	22	23	24	5	5
25	26	27	28	29	30	31	4	5
							20	21

November

4-5 Early Release PM Conferences

6 No School Trade Day

11 No School Veteran's Day

25-27 No School - Thanksgiving Break

NOVEMBER							Student Contact	Contract Days
S	M	T	W	T	F	S		
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	4	5
8	9	10	11	12	13	14	4	5
15	16	17	18	19	20	21	5	5
22	23	24	25	26	27	28	2	3
29	30						1	1
							16	19

December

21-31 No School Winter Break

DECEMBER							Student Contact	Contract Days
S	M	T	W	T	F	S		
		1	2	3	4	5	4	4
6	7	8	9	10	11	12	5	5
13	14	15	16	17	18	19	5	5
20	21	22	23	24	25	26	0	0
27	28	29	30	31			0	0
							14	14

January

1 No School Winter Break

4 No School Teacher Work Day

18 No School - Martin Luther King

21 End of Semester 1/Q2

22 No School Teacher Work Day

JANUARY							Student Contact	Contract Days
S	M	T	W	T	F	S		
					1	2	0	0
3	4	5	6	7	8	9	4	5
10	11	12	13	14	15	16	5	5
17	18	19	20	21	22	23	3	5
24	25	26	27	28	29	30	5	5
31							17	20

February

15 No School - Presidents' Day

26 No School - Weather Make-Up Day

FEBRUARY							Student Contact	Contract Days
S	M	T	W	T	F	S		
	1	2	3	4	5	6	5	5
7	8	9	10	11	12	13	5	5
14	15	16	17	18	19	20	4	5
21	22	23	24	25	26	27	4	4
28							18	19

March

17-18 Early Release PM Conferences

19 No School Trade Day

22-26 No School - Spring Break

MARCH							Student Contact	Contract Days
S	M	T	W	T	F	S		
	1	2	3	4	5	6	5	5
7	8	9	10	11	12	13	5	5
14	15	16	17	18	19	20	4	5
21	22	23	24	25	26	27	0	0
28	29	30	31				3	3
							17	18

April

1 End of Quarter 3

2 No School Teacher Work Day

9 No School - Weather Make-Up Day

23 No School - Weather Make-Up Day

APRIL							Student Contact	Contract Days
S	M	T	W	T	F	S		
					1	2	1	2
4	5	6	7	8	9	10	4	4
11	12	13	14	15	16	17	5	5
18	19	20	21	22	23	24	4	4
25	26	27	28	29	30		5	5
							19	20

May

7 No School - Weather Make-Up Day

21 No School - Weather Make-Up Day

31 No School - Memorial Day

MAY							Student Contact	Contract Days
S	M	T	W	T	F	S		
						1	0	0
2	3	4	5	6	7	8	4	4
9	10	11	12	13	14	15	5	5
16	17	18	19	20	21	22	4	4
23	24	25	26	27	28	29	5	5
30	31						0	1
							18	19

June

5 VHS Graduation

8 VMS Promotion

9 End of Semester 2/Q4

10 Teacher Work/Check Out

18 Juneteenth

JUNE							Student Contact	Contract Days
S	M	T	W	T	F	S		
		1	2	3	4	5	4	4
6	7	8	9	10	11	12	3	4
13	14	15	16	17	18	19		
20	21	22	23	24	25	26		
27	28	29	30					
							7	8

LEGEND:	
	Holiday
	No School - Non contract day
	No School - Staff Development
	Early Release-Staff Devopment
	OPEN HOUSE K-12
	PM CONFERENCES K-12
	No School - AM Conferences K-12
	No School - Teacher Work Day
	End of Quarter
	No School - Snow Make Up Day

Total Student Days/Contract Days	Student	Staff
	168	186
	Q1	42
	Q2	42
	Q3	41
	Q4	43
	Total	168

2026-2027 Instructional Calendar

DRAFT B

July

4 Independence Day

JULY							Student Contact	Contract Days
S	M	T	W	T	F	S		
			1	2	3	4		
5	6	7	8	9	10	11		
12	13	14	15	16	17	18		
19	20	21	22	23	24	25		
26	27	28	29	30	31			
							0	0

August

Kindercamp
 VHS Registration
 VMS Registration
 20 New Staff Orientation
 21 New Staff Classroom Work Day
 24-28 Staff Inservice
 27 Staff Inservice/Meet the Family K-12
 31 School Begins K-12

AUGUST							Student Contact	Contract Days
S	M	T	W	T	F	S		
						1		
2	3	4	5	6	7	8		
9	10	11	12	13	14	15		
16	17	18	19	20	21	22		
23	24	25	26	27	28	29		5
30	31						1	1
							1	6

September

7 Labor Day

SEPTEMBER							Student Contact	Contract Days
S	M	T	W	T	F	S		
		1	2	3	4	5	4	4
6	7	8	9	10	11	12	4	5
13	14	15	16	17	18	19	5	5
20	21	22	23	24	25	26	5	5
27	28	29	30				3	3
							21	22

October

9 No School-State Wide Inservice
 29 End of Quarter 1
 30 No School Teacher Work Day

OCTOBER							Student Contact	Contract Days
S	M	T	W	T	F	S		
				1	2	3	2	2
4	5	6	7	8	9	10	4	4
11	12	13	14	15	16	17	5	5
18	19	20	21	22	23	24	5	5
25	26	27	28	29	30	31	4	5
							20	21

November

4-5 Early Release PM Conferences
 6 No School Trade Day
 11 No School Veteran's Day
 25-27 No School - Thanksgiving Break

NOVEMBER							Student Contact	Contract Days
S	M	T	W	T	F	S		
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	4	5
8	9	10	11	12	13	14	4	5
15	16	17	18	19	20	21	5	5
22	23	24	25	26	27	28	2	3
29	30						1	1
							16	19

December

21-31 No School Winter Break

DECEMBER							Student Contact	Contract Days
S	M	T	W	T	F	S		
		1	2	3	4	5	4	4
6	7	8	9	10	11	12	5	5
13	14	15	16	17	18	19	5	5
20	21	22	23	24	25	26	0	0
27	28	29	30	31			0	0
							14	14

January

1 No School Winter Break
 18 No School - Martin Luther King
 21 End of Semester 1/Q2
 22 No School Teacher Work Day
 25 No School Teacher Work Day

JANUARY							Student Contact	Contract Days
S	M	T	W	T	F	S		
					1	2	0	0
3	4	5	6	7	8	9	5	5
10	11	12	13	14	15	16	5	5
17	18	19	20	21	22	23	3	5
24	25	26	27	28	29	30	4	5
31							17	20

February

15 No School - Presidents' Day
 26 No School - Weather Make-Up Day

FEBRUARY							Student Contact	Contract Days
S	M	T	W	T	F	S		
1	2	3	4	5	6		5	5
7	8	9	10	11	12	13	5	5
14	15	16	17	18	19	20	4	5
21	22	23	24	25	26	27	4	4
28							18	19

March

17-18 Early Release PM Conferences
 19 No School Trade Day
 22-26 No School - Spring Break

MARCH							Student Contact	Contract Days
S	M	T	W	T	F	S		
1	2	3	4	5	6		5	5
7	8	9	10	11	12	13	5	5
14	15	16	17	18	19	20	4	5
21	22	23	24	25	26	27	0	0
28	29	30	31				3	3
							17	18

April

1 End of Quarter 3
 2 No School Teacher Work Day
 9 No School - Weather Make-Up Day
 23 No School - Weather Make-Up Day

APRIL							Student Contact	Contract Days
S	M	T	W	T	F	S		
					1	2	1	2
4	5	6	7	8	9	10	4	4
11	12	13	14	15	16	17	5	5
18	19	20	21	22	23	24	4	4
25	26	27	28	29	30		5	5
							19	20

May

7 No School - Weather Make-Up Day
 21 No School - Weather Make-Up Day
 31 No School - Memorial Day

MAY							Student Contact	Contract Days
S	M	T	W	T	F	S		
							1	0
2	3	4	5	6	7	8	4	4
9	10	11	12	13	14	15	5	5
16	17	18	19	20	21	22	4	4
23	24	25	26	27	28	29	5	5
30	31						0	1
							18	19

June

5 VHS Graduation
 8 VMS Promotion
 9 End of Semester 2/Q4
 10 Teacher Work/Check Out
 18 Juneteenth

JUNE							Student Contact	Contract Days
S	M	T	W	T	F	S		
		1	2	3	4	5	4	4
6	7	8	9	10	11	12	3	4
13	14	15	16	17	18	19		
20	21	22	23	24	25	26		
27	28	29	30					
							7	8

LEGEND:	
	Holiday
	No School - Non contract day
	No School - Staff Development
	Early Release-Staff Devopment
	OPEN HOUSE K-12
	PM CONFERENCES K-12
	No School - AM Conferences K-12
	No School - Teacher Work Day
	End of Quarter
	No School - Snow Make Up Day

Total Student Days/Contract Days	Student	Staff
	168	186
	Q1	42
	Q2	43
	Q3	40
	Q4	43
	Total	168

MEETING MINUTES

VERNONIA SCHOOL DISTRICT BOARD of DIRECTORS Regular Meeting – March 12, 2026 Vernonia Schools Building, 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 6:00 p.m. by Greg Kintz, Board Chair. MEETING CALLED TO ORDER
- Board Present:** Tony Holmes, Lisa Curry, Amy Cieloha, Alicia Mahoney, Joanie Jones, and Greg Kintz BOARD PRESENT
- Board Absent:** Javoss McGuire BOARD ABSENT
- Staff Present:** Jim Helmen, Superintendent; Nate Underwood, Middle High School Principal; Michelle Eagleson, Elementary Principal; Marie Knight, Business Manager; Barb Carr, Administrative Assistant; Mark Brown, Maintenance Supervisor; Kendra Schlegel, Brett Costley, Ashley Ward, Jennifer Schram, Juliet Safier, and Rachel Brown, Licensed Staff; and Debbie Johnston and Karen Roberts, Classified Staff. STAFF PRESENT
- Visitors Present:** Scott Laird, Beth (last name not provided), Charlotte Schlegel, and Nova Gleason VISITORS PRESENT
- 1.1** The Pledge of Allegiance was recited. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE
- 2.0 AGENDA REVIEW:** Lisa Curry moved to approve the agenda as presented. Alicia Mahoney seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously with those in attendance. AGENDA REVIEW
- 3.0 PUBLIC COMMENT ON AGENDA and NON-AGENDA ITEMS:** PUBLIC COMMENT
- Brett Costley spoke in regards of upcoming listening session scheduled for the night of the conferences. He requested a second opportunity for staff. He also spoke regarding action taken at last meeting when it was stated prior to executive session that there wouldn't be action afterwards.
- Juliet Safier, spoke regarding recent staffing cuts and the burdens placed on others. She is hoping the budget committee will take this into consideration and requests that the college and career readiness position be a certified position.
- 4.0 SHOWCASING OF SCHOOLS**
- 4.1 Administrator Reports:** All Administrator reports were provided to the Board prior to the meeting. ADMINISTRATOR REPORTS
- Comments on the elementary report included being curious how the students dressed to look "old". According to Mrs. Eagleson students came with grey hair, wrinkles, walked with canes, and even had curlers in their hair. When asked how many students were eligible for the extra recess as an attendance reward, she stated a lot. Alicia Mahoney noted that the reading intervention is starting to click with students and compliments were given to the staff.
- Kendra Schlegel spoke about intervention core review meetings. The data clearly shows improvement. Currently, only four 3rd grade students aren't quite 100% at grade level. The implemented strategies are making a difference. Writing data has been looked at through intervention review and staff are reviewing the data in their PLC groups. Discussions are also happening around how to get the students ready for state testing. Their stamina is so much better than it was a year and a half ago.
- Amy Cieloha asked Mr. Underwood for an update on the building bridges, clearing paths campaign. According to Mr. Underwood, it's going pretty well. There was work to do after the initial staff meetings so primary and secondary staff held separate sessions and then came together as a K-12 staff. Their work, focusing on the positive, was taken by administration and put into 5 categories or pillars:
- Relationships
 - Communication
 - Professionalism
 - Well-Being

- Mindset

When asked if he felt all staff were able to contribute equally, he explained the process was set up so that all could contribute equally if they wished.

Juliet Safier shared an update on VHS Scholarships. Currently there is a Google Classroom for seniors that contains all information they need. The goal is to have everything to Seniors by March 31st with a scholarship packet due date of April 30th.

Charlotte Schlegel and Nova Gleason, VHS Leadership students updated the Board on recent and upcoming events.

- 4.2 Winter Sports Report:** A written report was provided to the Board. It was shared that bus driver Linda Christopherson was recognized at the Winter Sports Dessert for her performance in the recent athletic school bus accident heading to Nestucca. The Nestucca School District was also recognized for their support.

WINTER SPORTS REPORT

5.0 BUSINESS REPORTS:

- 5.1 Superintendent Report:** The Superintendent report was provided to the Board prior to the meeting.

SUPERINTENDENT REPORT

Superintendent Helmen was asked if he is expecting to have to make additional cuts during this year’s budget process. According to Superintendent Helmen he is not expecting to do this but they still must go through the process of looking at numbers, core requirements and also reviewing Board and SIP goals. The short legislative session did not have additional cuts to the education budget so the district has a pretty good idea of what the ending fund balance will be. Helmen further shared that what is needed is to focus on every student getting what they need. He can’t answer one way or the other at this time but will know more in a couple of weeks. This will not be an isolated decision, it’s an administrative decision focusing on the district’s three goals:

- High academic rigor
- CTE programming
- Social / Emotional supports

The main question currently is how to maintain the above goals and infuse an administrative position in Special Education or Student Services that can manage special education and other administrative tasks.

Lisa Curry asked if it is anticipated that the budget will be more user friendly, especially in the area of staff FTE? According to Mr. Helmen, yes, a summary will be provided.

Amy Cieloha stated that she is hoping extra attention will be given to the College and Career Readiness option and that Spanish be offered next year. She also commented on having Outdoor School funded when a good portion of these students have just attended the local summer camp where very similar activities are being offered.

Alicia Mahoney asked if the Board will receive a copy of the workforce survey given to staff. Yes, when it is ready Mr. Helmen will share it with the Board.

Classified Appreciation Week was held the first week in March. Our District has incredible classified staff. The work they do on daily basis is amazing.

Superintendent Helmen recognized retiring staff at the end of this year.

- Mark Brown, Maintenance Supervisor – 19 years of service
- Marie Knight, Business Manager – 18 years of service
- Pete Weisel – MS/HS Counselor – 18 years of service
- Sena Wilmoth – Mist 3rd-5th Teacher – 5 years of service
- Theresa Gray – Instructional Assistant – 25 years of service

A question was asked on the enrollment report of where the students enrolled in a hybrid model land on the report? They are in the VHS numbers according to Mr. Helmen.

A comment from a couple months ago was revisited by Amy Cieloha in regards to OSAA eligibility. A lengthy discussion followed. OSAA guidelines state students must be taking and passing 5 classes regardless if it is a dual credit or regular credit class.

Open campus for seniors and juniors in good standing was confirmed. This is not available for anyone else. This information has been sent out to families.

- 5.2 Financial Report:** The financial report was provided to the Board prior to the meeting. Marie Knight shared that the ending fund balance has not changed much and the report is in the same format as last month. The fee for the Superintendent Search will be encumbered in April. The Student Body accounts will be fully reviewed by the end of the year. Clarification on the Athletic Fund was asked. Marie Knight shared this is for general athletic purchases. FINANCIAL REPORT
- 5.3 Maintenance Report:** Mark Brown's report was provided to the Board prior to the meeting. The board inquired about the continuation of damage to the restrooms. Can dividers be replaced with a more sturdy option? Mark indicated he can look into this but the majority of the damage is to the doors not to the dividers. MAINTENANCE REPORT
- Spring sports prep work has been happening which includes field lines, turning water back on in the lines, snack shack garbage cans, etc. The baseball field needs drainage on the back fence line and Mark Brown will get an estimate to have this work done to get the fields playable.
- Discussion was held on the conflict of holding the District basketball tournament at the same time as having a facility use approval for the Seattle Cascades Drum and Bugle Corp. Communication to have Seattle Cascades clean things up as well as highlight to the visiting basketball fans that we have students from all over the world here, would be helpful.
- 5.3.1 Mist Elementary Maintenance Update:** Currently only 10 hours per week are available for Mist custodial / maintenance work which is not sustainable. Mr. Helmen stated they are looking at what changes can be done for next year. Fences will be power washed over Spring break. Joanie Jones offered to help. MIST MAINTENANCE UPDATE
- 6.0 BOARD REPORTS/ BOARD DEVELOPMENT:**
- 6.1 Committee Reports:**
- 6.1.1 Policy Committee:** Policy presented later for 2nd reading
 - 6.1.2 Safety Committee:** Nothing reported
 - 6.1.3 Scholarship Committee:** Nothing reported
- COMMITTEE REPORTS
POLICY COMMITTEE
SAFETY COMMITTEE
SCHOLARSHIP COMM.
- 70 OTHER INFORMATION and DISCUSSION**
- 7.1 2026-27 Instructional Calendar Options:** Two options were presented for consideration of approval at the April meeting. The main difference between the two options is that option A has a teacher work day at the conclusion of winter break and option B has the teacher work day at the conclusion of the 1st semester. 2026-27 INSTRUCTIONAL CALENDAR OPTIONS DISCUSSED
- 7.2 Policy Updates –** The following policies were presented for a second reading.
- 7.1.1 BBBB –** Board Member Oath of Office
 - 7.1.2 BH/BHA –** Orientation of New Board Members
 - 7.1.3 CGB –** Evaluation of the Superintendent
 - 7.1.4 CHCA –** Handbooks
 - 7.1.5 CI –** Temporary Administrative Arrangements
 - 7.1.6 DBD –** Budget Priorities
 - 7.1.7 DD –** Grant Funding Proposals and Applications
 - 7.1.8 DL –** Payroll
 - 7.1.9 FFA –** Memorials
 - 7.1.10 GB –** General Personnel Policies
 - 7.1.11 GBG –** Staff Participation in Political Activities
 - 7.1.12 IFD –** Course Approval
 - 7.1.13 IGBHC-AR –** Notice for Alternative Education
 - 7.1.14 IGBHC –** Alternative Education Notification
 - 7.1.15 JFCA –** Student Dress and Grooming
 - 7.1.16 KBCA –** News Release
 - 7.1.17 KK –** Visitors to District Facilities
- POLICY UPDATES
PRESENTED AS SECOND
READING

- 7.3 Staffing Updates:** Mr. Helmen shared during his Superintendent report those staff leaving the district at the end of the year. Postings will start to go out next week. STAFFING UPDATES
- 8.0 ACTION ITEMS**
- 8.1 Policy Approval:** Joanie Jones moved to approve policy updates listed in item 7.2. Alicia Mahoney seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously with those in attendance. POLICY UPDATES APPROVED
- 8.2 Staff Retirements:** Lisa Curry moved to accept the retirement of staff members Mark Brown, Maintenance Supervisor; Marie Knight, Business Manager; Peter Weisel, MS/HS Counselor; Sena Wilmoth, Mist 3rd-5th Teacher; and Theresa Gray, Instructional Assistant effective June 30, 2026. Amy Cieloha seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously with those in attendance. BROWN, KNIGHT, WEISEL, WILMOTH & GRAY RETIREMENTS ACCEPTED
- 9.0 MONITORING BOARD PERFORMANCE:** Greg Kintz shared all are doing a great job working as a team. Clarification on the plan for the March 18th community listen session was provided. MONITORING BOARD PERFORMANCE
- 10.0 CONSENT AGENDA:**
- 10.1** Minutes of 02/12/2026 Regular Meeting, 02/19/2026 Special Meeting, and the 03/04/2026 Special Meeting.
Alicia Mahoney moved to approve the consent agenda as presented. Lisa Curry seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously with those in attendance. CONSENT AGENDA APPROVED
- 11.0 RECESS to EXECUTIVE SESSION** under O.R.S. 192.660 (2)(i) “To review and evaluate the performance of the chief executive officer or any other public officer, employee or staff member...” at 8:37 p.m.
RECESS to EXECUTIVE SESSION
- The Board reviewed the 2025-26 annual evaluation for Superintendent Jim Helmen.
- 12.0 RETURN to REGULAR SESSION** at 9:17 p.m. RETURN TO REGULAR SESSION
- 13.0 ACTION ITEMS**
- 13.1 Licensed and Administrative Staff Contract Renewal:** Joanie Jones moved to approve Licensed Staff Extension resolution #2026-03 and the Administrative Contract Extension resolution #2026-04 as presented. Lisa Curry seconded the motion. Alicia Mahoney abstained from voting. No reason was provided. All others voted in favor of the motion. Motion passed. LICENSED & ADMINISTRATIVE CONTRACT EXTENSIONS APPROVED.
- 13.2 Superintendent Annual Evaluation:** Alicia Mahoney moved to approve the 2025-26 annual evaluation of Superintendent Jim Helmen. Joanie Jones seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously with those in attendance. ANNUAL SUPT. EVALUATION APPROVED
- 13.0 OTHER ISSUES:** Next Agenda Setting Meeting – Wednesday, April 1st at 5:00 p.m. Joanie Jones volunteered to join Jim Helmen and Greg Kintz. OTHER ISSUES
- 14.0 UPCOMING DATES:** UPCOMING DATES
- March 18, 2026 – Special Meeting/Work Session – 5:30 pm.
March 18 & 19, 2026 – K-12 Conferences
March 20, 2026 – No School – Teacher Trade Day
March 23 – 27, 2026 – No School – Spring Break
April 6, 2026 – Policy Committee 5:00 p.m. Virtual
April 9, 2026 – School Board Meeting – 6:00 p.m.at Mist
- 15.0 MEETING ADJOURNED** at 9:30 p.m. ADJOURNED

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

Board Chair

District Clerk

MEETING MINUTES

VERNONIA SCHOOL DISTRICT BOARD of DIRECTORS Work Session and Special Meeting – March 18, 2026 Vernonia Schools, 1000 Missouri Avenue, Vernonia

- 1. CALL TO ORDER:** A Work Session and Special Meeting of the Board of Directors of Vernonia School District 47J, Columbia County, Oregon was called to order at 5:30 p.m. by Greg Kintz. MEETING CALLED TO ORDER
- 1.1** The Flag Salute was recited.
- Board Present:** Tony Holmes, Alicia Mahoney, Lisa Curry, Joanie Jones, Amy Cieloha, and Greg Kintz BOARD PRESENT
- Board Absent:** Javoss McGuire BOARD ABSENT
- Staff Present:** Nate Underwood, MS/HS Principal; Barb Carr, Administrative Assistant; Marie Knight, Business Manager; Lee Costanzo, Justin Benassi, Rachel Brown, Juliet Safier, Kendra Schlegel, Sara Goodman, Charise Ash, Bret Bunke, and Ashley Ward, Licensed Staff; and Liz Woolsey, Camrin Eyrrick, Victoria Leonetti, and Stacy Adams, Classified Staff. STAFF PRESENT
- Visitors Present:** Rob Hess, Scott Laird, Dave Kline, and Tonya Cairo VISITORS PRESENT
- 2.0 AGENDA REVIEW:** Lisa Curry moved to approve the agenda as presented. Alicia Mahoney seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously with those in attendance AGENDA REVIEW
- 3.0 DISCUSSION**
- 3.1 Superintendent Search Planning – Community Listening Session on Qualifications and Characteristics.** SUPT SEARCH COMMUNITY LISTENING SESSION
- Rob Hess, with Grundmeyer Leader Services explained that he would like to listen to those in attendance in person or online to what characteristics and qualifications they'd like to see in the next VSD Superintendent.
- The following staff members spoke – Lee Costanzo, Camrin Eyrrick, Juliet Safier, Charise Ash, Ashley Ward., Liz Woolsey, and Brett Costley – and a list of Qualifications and Characteristics was developed.
- QUALIFICATIONS**
- CTE Program Support
 - Supports Staff Well-Being
 - Understands Rural Education
 - Advocate for Resources
 - Trust Builder
 - Supports All Extra-Curriculars
 - Labor Management Understanding
 - Special Education Support
 - Open to Feedback from All Stakeholders
 - Support and Acknowledge 2nd Language Learners
- CHARACTERISTICS**
- Collaborative Leader
 - Partner with Associations
 - Transparent / Honest / Open
 - Creative Problem-Solver
 - Clear Communication
 - Build All Staff Expertise
 - Understand Local Context

03-18-2026

- Listen to Staff Input (Keep momentum going)
- Open Communication – Board to Staff to Superintendent
- Keep Promises

4.0 WORK SESSION

4.1 Planning Meeting.

SUPT SEARCH
PLANNING
MEETING

Rob Hess shared that he will finalize the community survey right away so it can be shared. This will assist in obtaining additional information to support the search for a new Superintendent. The survey will provide notice if individuals are interested in helping out with the process, they can email the board. The survey will go out in the next day or so. It was reiterated that the survey is anonymous with all responses going to GLS and not to the district. The survey will be open and available until April 10, 2026.

The proposed timeline for hiring a new superintendent was reviewed and agreed to by the Board.

- Stakeholder survey open - March 20 – April 10.
- Application period – March 5 – April 12. Weekly updates will be provided to the Board as applications come in. The Board will see every candidate that applies.
- Candidate Review – April 15 at 5:30 p.m. All applications will be reviewed in executive session and 5-8 applicants will be selected for semi-finalist interviews. GLS will present their results after prescreening all applicants. Candidates will be placed in 3 categories – Green – most qualified. Yellow – qualified. Red – not qualified.
- Semi-Finalist Screening Interviews – April 18 at 9:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.. 25-minute ZOOM interviews with semi-finalists will be held in executive session. 2-3 finalists selected. GLS will do a deep dive into the finalists with reference summaries, state licensure checks, and social media reports. This information will be provided in executive session prior to finalist interviews.
- Finalist Interviews – May 1. Final schedule for this day to be developed.

The board held discussion on the salary range and came to consensus at \$140,000 - \$170,000.

The board also discussed their areas of importance for the next superintendent, in conjunction with what had been previously noted by staff.

- Holding a doctorate is not required
- Bilingual
- Special Education Support

The Board was asked what they wanted candidates to know about Vernonia:

- Location
- Youth Sports Programs are a huge part of the community
- Timber industry and small rural school
- Community of multi-generational families

Discussion was held on how the community and staff can be involved in the process. There are three areas for participation. Input will be accepted from staff and community involvement but the final decision ultimately lies with the Board.

1. Screening Team – reviewing applications selecting who will interview
2. Semi Finalist Interview
3. Finalist Interviews

Those interested in participating were asked to submit their name to the Board via email.

5.0 RECESS to EXECUTIVE SESSION Under O.R.S. 192.660 (2) (f) “To consider records exempt by law from public inspection.” at 7:00 p.m.

RECESS TO
EXECUTIVE
SESSION

6.0 RETURN TO SPECIAL MEETING at 7:51 p.m.

RETURN TO
SPECIAL MEETING

7.0 ACTION: Lisa Curry moved to delegate authority to the board chair to send communication to the Superintendent as discussed in executive session. Joanie Jones seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously with those in attendance.

CHAIR KINTZ
AUTHORIZED TO
COMMUNICATE
WITH THE SUPT.

8.0 ADJOURN: The Special Meeting adjourned at 7:54 p.m.

ADJOURNED

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

Board Chair

District Clerk