

MEETING MINUTES

VERNONIA SCHOOL DISTRICT BOARD of DIRECTORS Regular Meeting – July 9, 2026 Vernonia Schools Library, 1000 Missouri Avenue, Vernonia

- 1.0 CALL TO ORDER:** A Regular Meeting of the Directors of Administrative School District 47J, Columbia County, Oregon was called to order at 6:00 p.m. by Greg Kintz. MEETING CALLED TO ORDER
- Board Present:** Greg Kintz, Joanie Jones, Lisa Curry, Amy Cieloha, Alicia Mahoney and Tony Holmes BOARD PRESENT
- Board Absent:** Vacant position BOARD ABSENT
- Staff Present:** Darla Waite-Larkin, Superintendent; Michelle Eagleson, Elementary Principal; Barb Carr, Administrative Assistant; Debbie Johnston, Maintenance Supervisor; Brett Costley, Juliet Safier, Justin Ward, Charise Ash, and Jenn Schram, Licensed Staff; and Camrin Eyrriick, Classified Staff. STAFF PRESENT
- Visitors Present:** Scott Laird, Angela Bettencourt, Christopher McManus, and Colton DeWitt VISITORS PRESENT
- 1.1** The Pledge of Allegiance was recited. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE
- 2.0 ACTION ITEM**
- 2.1 Board Vacancy Appointment:** Greg Kintz asked the board to vote by private ballot their top candidate. After the first round it was a tie between Colton DeWitt and Christopher McManus. A second round was held with Christopher McManus having the most votes. McMANUS APPOINTED TO VACANT BOARD POSITION #6
- Lisa Curry moved to appoint Christopher McManus to position #6 effective July 9, 2026. Tony Holmes seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.
- 3.0 OATH OF OFFICE:** Superintendent Darla Waite-Larkin administered the Oath of Office to Christopher McManus, who will serve until the next election cycle in the Spring of 2027. OATH OF OFFICE ADMINISTERED
- 4.0 AGENDA REVIEW:** Lisa Curry moved to approve the agenda as presented. Tony Holmes seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously. AGENDA REVIEW
- 5.0 PUBLIC COMMENT ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS:** None PUBLIC COMMENT
- 6.0 BUSINESS REPORTS:**
- 6.1 Superintendent Report:** Darla Waite-Larkin's report was provided to the Board prior to the meeting. Highlighted items included: SUPERINTENDENT REPORT
- Pam Voss has been hired as the new business manager. She starts Monday, July 13.
 - Grounds team is working hard
 - Summer Learning going well with 65 students registered
- Discussion was held regarding the Special Education Director position. Mrs. Waite-Larkin shared that before moving forward with hiring for this position she feels it is financially responsible to hold off until the District has received the 4th quarter Timber revenue. This should arrive in August and it has been shared that it is running low across the State. Hiring a Special Education Director will be revisited in August. SPECIAL EDUCATION DIRECTOR POSITION ON HOLD
- Alicia Mahoney shared the disappointment felt within the community due to things being dropped last year. She prefers that the District move forward with filling this position. Mrs. Waite-Larkin shared that she personally has great knowledge in the area of Special Education and will discuss the whole picture with the Board once the Timber revenue has been received.
- A shout out to summer meals was given. The kids are loving the items and were excited about the chocolate milk.
- 6.2 Maintenance Report:** Debbie Johnston's report was provided to the Board prior to the meeting. MAINTENANCE REPORT

The board expressed their appreciation for the report. There were questions about the water issues at Mist. Debbie shared that they were never formally instructed to start any work on this. She will be meeting with the Superintendent to review the issues and put a plan together.

Greg Kintz shared that he had previously shared information about a grant for small schools to replace the water system. He never heard back on this and will share again with the new Superintendent.

A question was asked about the enrollment at Mist Elementary this next school year. Charise Ash shared grades K-2 will have 19, and grades 3-5 will have 22, for a total of 41.

- 6.3 Financial Memo:** There is no financial report this month. Marie Knight included a brief memo. She is finalizing the transition to our new business manager and will continue to work occasionally as the transition wraps up. **FINANCIAL REPORT NOT PROVIDED**

Alicia Mahoney shared that through her work, her volunteer hours were recognized and a donation of \$250 was made to the Board for the Scholarship Account. A check should be arriving to the District. **SCHOLARSHIP ACCOUNT DONATION COMING**

7.0 BOARD REPORTS/BOARD DEVELOPMENT:

- 7.1 Discussion of Board Retreat:** Greg Kintz shared that the facilitator for a 2-3 hour board retreat is not available in August. Mrs. Waite-Larkin will collect date availability to get something scheduled in September. **BOARD RETREAT DISCUSSION**

Greg Kintz shared that the recently attended a webinar about teaching civics in schools that he thought was good. He also stated that through his work with OSBA they are focusing on trying to raise the 11% SpEd funding cap. The small rural schools special education student enrollment average is 17-19% currently.

8.0 OTHER INFORMATION and DISCUSSION

- 8.1 Superintendent Advisory Assignments:** Board member volunteers to serve as follows:
- 8.1.1 Safety Committee:** Chris McManus **SAFETY COMMITTEE**
 - 8.1.2 Policy Committee:** Alicia Mahoney and Joanie Jones **POLICY COMMITTEE**
- 8.2 Board Assignments:**
- 8.2.1 Negotiations Team:** Lisa Curry, Alicia Mahoney, and Greg Kintz **NEGOTIATIONS TEAM**
 - 8.2.2 Scholarship Committee:** Joanie Jones, Amy Cieloha, and Tony Holmes **SCHOLARSHIP COMMITTEE**
- 8.3 2026-27 Substitute Teacher Pay:** Last year the District paid \$221.00 per day for substitute teachers. Mrs. Waite-Larkin recommends going with the state recommended rate for 2026-27 which is \$236.26 per day. **2026-27 SUBSTITUTE TEACHER PAY REVIEWED**
- 8.4 2026-27 Board Meeting Schedule:** A draft of the 2026-27 board meeting schedule was reviewed. As per usual, the October and April meetings will be held at Mist Elementary. Discussion was held around the November meeting date. There is always the potential for conflict with the date of the OSBA Annual Convention. After discussion it was determined to adjust the November meeting date to Tuesday, November 10th. **2026-27 BOARD MEETING SCHEDULE REVIEWED**
- 8.5 District Surplus:** Mrs. Waite-Larkin shared the information provided by the Athletic Department which identified the item and the reasoning for the request to surplus. The sled linear leg press takes up a lot of floor space while serving only one athlete at a time. The athletic department will sell the item and reinvest the proceeds into equipment that better supports the athletes. **DISTRICT SURPLUS REQUEST SHARED**

9.0 ACTION ITEMS

- 9.1 Board Committee Assignments:** Amy Cieloha moved to appoint Alicia Mahoney, Lisa Curry, and the new Board Chair to the Negotiations Committee and Amy Cieloha, Joanie Jones and Tony Holmes to the Scholarship Committee. Joanie Jones seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously. **BOARD COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENTS APPOINTED**

- 9.2 2026-27 Substitute Teacher Pay:** Joanie Jones moved to set the substitute teacher pay for 2026-27 at \$236.26 per day. Alicia Mahoney seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously. 2026-27 SUBSTITUTE TEACHER PAY APPROVED
- 9.3 2026-27 Board Meeting Schedule:** Alicia Mahoney moved to approve the 2026-27 Board Meeting Schedule as amended – November meeting moved to Nov. 10. Lisa Curry seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously. 2026-27 BOARD MEETING SCHEDULE APPROVED
- 9.4 Surplus Declaration:** Lisa Curry moved to declare the Leg Press as discussed in item 8.5 as surplus. Amy Cieloha seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously. ITEM DECLARED SURPLUS
- 10.0 MONITORING BOARD PERFORMANCE:** None MONITORING BOARD PERFORMANCE
- 11.0 ELECTION OF BOARD CHAIR and VICE CHAIR.**
- 11.1 Election of 2026-17 Board Chair:** Tony Holmes moved to nominate Greg Kintz as chair for 2026-27. Lisa Curry seconded the motion. There were no other nominations. The vote was called for, with Greg Kintz abstaining from the vote. All others voted in favor of the motion. Motion passed. KINTZ ELECTED CHAIR FOR 2026-27
- 11.2 Election of 2026-27 Board Vice Chair:** Amy Cieloha moved to nominate Joanie Jones as vice chair for 2026-27. Alicia Mahoney seconded the motion. There were no other nominations. The vote was called for, with Joanie Jones abstaining from the vote. All other voted in favor of the motion. Motion passed. JONES ELECTED VICE CHAIR FOR 2026-27
- 12.0 CONSENT AGENDA:** CONSENT AGENDA
- 12.1** Minutes of 06/11/26 Special Meeting and the 6/11/26 Regular Meeting.
- 12.2** Designate:
- 12.2.1** Chief Administrative & Budget Officer/Clerk: Darla Waite-Larkin
- 12.2.2** Custodian of Funds: Authorize Signatures, Use of Facsimile Signatures for District Checks, as appropriate: Darla Waite-Larkin
- 12.2.3** Representative of Federal/State Fund & Grant Applications: Darla Waite-Larkin
- 12.2.4** Depository of Funds: US Bank & Government Pool
- 12.2.5** District Auditors: Clear Trail CPAs, LLC
- 12.2.6** Insurance Agent of Record: Brown & Brown Northwest
- 12.2.7** Attorney of Record: Garrett, Hemann, Robertson, Jennings, Comstock & Trethewy, P.C.
- 12.2.8** Newspaper of Record: Vernonia's Voice
- 12.3** Set:
- 12.3.1** Borrowing Limit - \$150,000
- Alicia Mahoney moved to approve the consent agenda as presented. Tony Holmes seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously. CONSENT AGENDA APPROVED
- 12.0 OTHER ISSUES:** Next Agenda Setting Meeting will be held virtually on Wednesday, August 5 at 3:30 p.m. Alicia Mahoney volunteered to join the Superintendent and Board Chair. NEXT AGENDA SETTING MEETING
- 13.0 MEETING ADJOURNED** at 7:04 p.m. ADJOURNED

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

Board Chair

District Clerk