

MEETING MINUTES

VERNONIA SCHOOL DISTRICT BOARD of DIRECTORS Regular Meeting – July 13, 2023 Vernonia Schools Library, 1000 Missouri Avenue, Vernonia

- 1.0 CALL TO ORDER:** A Regular Meeting of the Directors of Administrative School District 47J, Columbia County, Oregon was called to order at 6:02 p.m. by Stacey Pelster. MEETING CALLED TO ORDER
- Board Present:** Stacey Pelster, Susan Wagner, Greg Kintz, Javoss McGuire, Joanie Jones and Amy Cieloha (virtually) BOARD PRESENT
- Board Absent:** None BOARD ABSENT
- Staff Present:** Jim Helmen, Superintendent; and Barb Carr, Administrative Assistant STAFF PRESENT
- Visitors Present:** Scott Laird VISITORS PRESENT
- 1.1** The Pledge of Allegiance was recited. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE
- 2.0 SWEAR IN NEWLY ELECTED BOARD MEMBERS**
- 2.1 Oath of Office:** Jim Helmen administered the Oath of Office to Amy Cieloha, Greg Kintz, and Scott Rickard.
- 3.0 AGENDA REVIEW:** AGENDA REVIEW
- Susan Wagner moved to approve the agenda as amended (numbering adjusted in the Action Items section). Javoss McGuire seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.
- Susan Wagner moved to amend her motion to also add Action Item 8.3 Approval of the CIP Action Plan for 2023-2028. Javoss McGuire seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.
- 4.0 PUBLIC COMMENT ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS:** None. PUBLIC COMMENT
- 5.0 BUSINESS REPORTS:**
- 5.1 Superintendent Report:** SUPERINTENDENT REPORT
- Jim Helmen shared the final copy of CIP Action Plan for 2023-2028. The document is reflective of a 5-year plan to achieve the District's goal of 70% student math proficiency, 70% student ELA proficiency, and 90% student attendance. The document is also reflective in CTE, dual college credit, SEL and wellness programs. During the 2022-23 year, systems and processes were put into place that led to the creation of this document. The goals listed in the document, follows the goals developed by the District Leadership team. The Action Plan is a fluid document and can be amended during the 5 years and in 2028 a new document will be approved.
- Mr. Helmen reviewed the comparisons on how Vernonia students performed on the State Smarter Balance assessments compared to how students performed across the county. The growth Vernonia Elementary students made in Star Reading is reflective of approximately 70% of the students showing over a year's worth of growth.
- Scott Rickard asked about the low middle school math scores and it was shared by Mr. Helmen, that when he reviewed the Star Assessment results, a huge amount of growth in the area of concepts was achieved. Vernonia Middle School created a 50 and 100-point club to help incentivize students when taking the test. This year the staff focused on knowing where our kids are to enable the development of the best instructional practices for growth going forward.
- Overall Mr. Helmen and the staff are happy and proud of student Star Assessment scores. Star is the most widely used assessment program in the country. A lot of our students are 3 years behind. Teachers are teaching, but the District has a long way to go. Attendance rates are increasing. Behavior issues are down.

5.2	Financial Report: As this is the first month of the new year, a financial report was not provided by Marie Knight.	FINANCIAL REPORT
5.3	Maintenance Report: Mark Brown's report was provided to the Board prior to the meeting. There were no questions from the Board.	MAINTENANCE REPORT
6.0	BOARD REPORTS/ BOARD DEVELOPMENT:	
6.1	Committee Reports: The Negotiation's Team is still working with both union groups to negotiate their respective contracts. Greg Kintz, a member of the negotiations team, shared that they do have tentative agreements with both OSEA and VEA.	NEGOTIATION TEAM COMMITTEE UPDATE
6.2	Policy Committee: Nothing discussed.	POLICY COMMITTEE
7.0	OTHER INFORMATION and DISCUSSION	
7.1	May 16, 2023 Election Abstract: The election abstract provided by the Columbia County Elections office was shared. The abstract shows the number of votes received.	ELECTION ABSTRACT REVIEWED
7.2	Superintendent Advisory Assignment: Discussion was held on the advisory committee assignment options and board members volunteered to serve on a committee.	SUPT ADVISORY ASSIGNMENTS DISCUSSED
	7.2.1 Safety Committee: Susan Wagner	
	7.2.2 Policy Review Committee: Javoss McGuire and Scott Rickard	
7.3	Board Assignments: Discussion was held on the Board Assignment Committees and board members expressed their interest.	BOARD ASSIGNMENTS DISCUSSED
	7.3.1 Negotiations Team: Joanie Jones, Javoss McGuire and the board chair (Scott Rickard)	
	7.3.2 Scholarship Committee: Stacey Pelster, Joanie Jones, Javoss McGuire, Greg Kintz, and Amy Cieloha.	
7.4	2023-24 Substitute Teacher Pay: Jim Helmen reviewed the memo from the State on substitute minimum requirements and recommends the daily rate of \$206.35. This is up from \$201.05 for the 2022-23 year.	2023-24 SUBSTITUTE TEACHER PAY REVIEWED
7.5	2023-24 Board Meeting Schedule: The board reviewed the draft calendar and held discussion on the potential workshop dates.	2023-24 BOARD MEETING SCHEDULE REVIEWED
7.6	New Hires: Jim Helmen shared the he has two new hires. Cecelia Barrie is an amazing band/choir teacher coming from Madras to lead our MS/HS Band & Choir program. Dawn Rhoads-Jay will join as our 2 nd Grade teacher. Dawn comes from Cannon Beach Academy.	NEW HIRES
	Internally, the District has hired Raynett Mann as the Tier 3 Behavior classroom teacher. Raynett spent last year as an instructional assistant in the life skills program. Lita Blodgett was our head Life Skills teacher last year and has been hired her back as a K-12 Behavior person in the Life Skills classroom which will be supervised by Susanne Myers.	
7.7	Staff Resignations: Jim Helmen shared that Celeste Avy, Mist K-2 teacher, and Geoff Schwartz, high school Science teacher have resigned.	STAFF RESIGNATIONS
8.0	ACTION ITEMS	
8.1	Election Abstract: Susan Wagner moved to approve the May 16, 2023 Election Abstract as presented. Javoss McGuire seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.	MAY 2023 ELECTION ABSTRACT APPROVED
8.2	Board Committee Assignments: Scott Rickard moved to appoint Javoss McGuire, Joanie Jones and the 2023-24 chair to the Board Negotiations Team and all board members but Susan Wagner and Scott Rickard to the Board Scholarship Committee for 2023-24. Susan Wagner seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.	BOARD COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENTS APPOINTED
8.3	CIP Action: Joanie Jones moved to approve the CIP Action for 2023-28 as presented. Motion seconded by Scott Rickard. Motion passed unanimously.	
8.4	2023-24 Substitute Teacher Pay: Joanie Jones moved to set the substitute teacher pay for	SUBSTITUTE TEACHER

for 2023-24 at \$206.35 per day. Javoss McGuire seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously. PAY ESTABLISHED FOR 2023-24

8.5 2023-24 Board Meeting Schedule: Javoss McGuire moved to approve the 2023-24 Board Meeting Schedule as presented. Motion seconded by Joanie Jones. Motion passed unanimously. BOARD MEETING SCHEDULE APPROVED

8.6 New Hires: Joanie Jones moved to approve the Superintendent's recommendation to hire Cecilia Barrie, MS/HS Band and Choir Teacher, Dawn Rhoads-Jay, Vernonia Elementary 2nd Grade Teacher, Raynett Mann, Tier 3 Teacher, and Lita Blodget, K-12 Behavior Specialist in Life Skills. Javoss McGuire seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously. BARRIE, RHOADS-JAY, MANN and BLODGET HIRED

8.7 Staff Resignations: Greg Kintz moved to accept the resignation of Celeste Avy, Mist K-2 teacher, and Geoff Schwartz, High School Science Teacher. Susan Wagner seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously. AVY and SCHWARTZ RESIGN

9.0 MONITORING BOARD PERFORMANCE: Nothing discussed.

10.0 ELECTION OF BOARD CHAIR and VICE CHAIR

10.1 Election of 2023-24 Board Chair: Stacey Pelster nominated Scott Rickard for chair. Susan Wagner nominated Greg Kintz. There were no other nominations and the chair called for a vote by individual: RICKARD ELECTED CHAIR FOR 2023-24

Susan Wagner voted for Greg Kintz
Scott Rickard voted for Scott Rickard
Greg Kintz voted for Greg Kintz
Javoss-McGuire voted for Scott Rickard
Joanie Jones voted for Scott Rickard
Amy Cieloha voted for Scott Rickard
Stacey Pelster voted for Scott Rickard.

Scott Rickard will be the chair for the 2023-24 school year.

10.2 Election of 2023-24 Board Vice Chair: Scott Rickard nominated Stacey Pelster as Vice Chair. Susan Wagner nominate Greg Kintz. There were no other nominations and the chair called for a vote by individual: KINTZ ELECTED VICE CHAIR FOR 2023-24

Susan Wagner voted for Greg Kintz
Scott Rickard voted for Stacey Pelster
Greg Kintz voted for Greg Kintz
Javoss McGuire voted for Greg Kintz
Joanie Jones voted for Greg Kintz
Stacey Pelster voted for Greg Kintz
Amy Cieloha voted for Stacey Pelster.

Greg Kintz will be the vice chair for the 2023-24 school year.

11.0 CONSENT AGENDA: Scott Rickard, asked to remove item 11.2.7 Attorney of Record from the consent agenda and further asked the District to advertise an RFP to be able to check and compare attorney rates to a target group of educational law firms. Stacey Pelster indicated she was not happy with the interaction she had with the firm and would support going out for an RFP. CONSENT AGENDA

Susan Wagner suggested in lieu of doing a full RFP, to do a rate study instead.

Jim Helmen indicated that it would be easy to look at rates. At this time, he would not recommend removing this from the consent agenda so as not to interrupt service. The District can make a change at any time during the year. The District is currently working with our attorney of record on an on-going issue and would prefer to resolve this before addressing any potential changes in the District's legal counsel.


- 11.1 Minutes of 06/08/2023 Regular Meeting.
- 11.2 Designate:
 - 11.2.1 Chief Administrative & Budget Officer/Clerk: James Helmen
 - 11.2.2 Custodian of Funds: Authorize Signatures, Use of Facsimile Signatures for District Checks, as appropriate: James Helmen
 - 11.2.3 Representative of Federal/State Fund & Grant Applications: James Helmen
 - 11.2.4 Depository of Funds: US Bank & Government Pool
 - 11.2.5 District Auditors: Pauly, Rogers & Co. P.C.
 - 11.2.6 Insurance Agent of Record: Brown & Brown Northwest
 - 11.2.7 Attorney of Record: Garrett, Hemann, Robertson, Jennings, Comstock & Trethewy, P.C.
 - 11.2.8 Newspaper of Record: Vernonia's Voice
- 11.3 Set:
 - 11.3.1 Borrowing Limit - \$150,000

Stacey Pelster moved to approve the consent agenda as presented Greg Kintz seconded the motion. CONSENT AGENDA APPROVED
 Motion passed unanimously.


12.0 OTHER ISSUES: OTHER ISSUES
 Next Board Meeting Agenda Setting will be Scott Rickard and Amy Cieloha.

13.0 MEETING ADJOURNED at 7:25 p.m. ADJOURNED

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



 Board Chair



 District Clerk