

# MEETING MINUTES

## VERNONIA SCHOOL DISTRICT BOARD of DIRECTORS Special Meeting – February 19, 2026 Vernonia Schools, 1000 Missouri Avenue, Vernonia

- 1. CALL TO ORDER:** A Special Meeting of the Board of Directors of Vernonia School District 47J, Columbia County, Oregon was called to order at 5:08 p.m. by Greg Kintz. The Flag Salute was recited. MEETING CALLED TO ORDER
- Board Present:** Greg Kintz, Joanie Jones, Amy Cieloha, Lisa Curry, Alicia Mahoney, and Tony Holmes BOARD PRESENT
- Board Absent:** Javoss McGuire BOARD ABSENT
- Staff Present:** Barb Carr, Administrative Assistant STAFF PRESENT
- Visitors Present:** Elizabeth Polay and Scott Laird VISITORS PRESENT
- 2.0 RECESS to EXECUTIVE SESSION under O.R.S. 192.660 (2) (f)** “To consider records exempt by law from public inspection.”. The Board recessed to executive session at 5:09 p.m. RECESS TO EXECUTIVE SESSION
- The Board reviewed the findings of the independent investigator on public complaints received.
- 3.0 RECONVENE to SPECIAL MEETING:** The Board came out of executive session at 6:29 p.m. and returned to the Special Meeting at 6:31 p.m. Staff present included: Barb Carr, Administrative Assistant; Juliet Safier, Brett Costley, and Sara Goodman, Licensed Staff; and Camrin Eyrrick, Jana Titus, and Brianna Warren, Classified Staff. Guests Present: Scott Laird RECONVENE TO THE SPECIAL MEETING
- 4.0 ACTION ITEMS:**
- 4.1 Action Based on Executive Session Discussion:** Amy Cieloha moved for the Board to accept the findings of the independent investigator on the public complaints at the board level and delegate authority to the board chair to communicate the conclusion to the parties in writing as discussed in executive session. Lisa Curry seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously with those in attendance. BOARD ACCEPTS FINDINGS OF COMPLAINTS INVESTIGATION
- 4.2 Superintendent Resignation / Vacancy:** Superintendent Jim Helmen submitted his resignation to the Board. Lisa Curry moved to approve Superintendent Jim Helmen’s resignation effective June 30, 2026 and declare a vacancy. Joanie Jones seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously with those in attendance. SUPT. RESIGNATION ACCEPTED & VACANCY DECLARED
- 5.0 DISCUSSION**
- 5.1 Superintendent Search Agency:**
- Greg Kintz shared that the board will need to hire a search agency to fill the Superintendent vacancy. He did some preliminary research, speaking with two different options. After discussion it was decided that the Board will hold a Special Meeting on Wednesday, March 4<sup>th</sup> at 5:30 p.m. to hold discussion, review proposals and make a determination. SUPT SEARCH AGENCY DISCUSSED
- Alicia Mahoney moved to direct the Board Chair to research superintendent search agencies. Amy Cieloha seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously with those in attendance. BOARD CHAIR AUTHORIZED TO PROCEED
- 6.0 ADJOURN:** The Special Meeting adjourned at 6:57 p.m. ADJOURNED

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

Board Chair

District Clerk

02-19-2026