

MEETING MINUTES

VERNONIA SCHOOL DISTRICT BOARD of DIRECTORS Regular Meeting – August 13, 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, Board Chair. MEETING CALLED TO ORDER
- Board Present:** Amy Cieloha, Joanie Jones, Tony Holmes, Greg Kintz and Alicia Mahoney. BOARD PRESENT
Board Absent: Lisa Curry and Chris McManus. BOARD ABSENT
Staff Present: Darla Waite-Larkin, Superintendent; Pam Voss, Business Manager; Barb Carr, Administrative Assistant; Debbie Johnston, Maintenance Supervisor; and Brett Costley and Lee Costanzo, Licensed Staff. STAFF PRESENT
- Visitors Present:** Scott Laird VISITORS PRESENT
- 1.1** The Pledge of Allegiance was recited. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE
- 2.0 AGENDA REVIEW:** Greg Kintz reviewed the agenda. Added items included: 4.2.1 Authorized Signature Request, 5.1.1 Policy Review 1st Reading -policy KNA and 7.3 Action to approve the Authorized Signature Approval request. Amy Cieloha moved to approve the agenda as amended. Alicia Mahoney seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously. AGENDA REVIEW
- 3.0 PUBLIC COMMENT:** A request was made to adjust the heading of this item on the agenda. There were no public comments. PUBLIC COMMENT
- 4.0 BUSINESS REPORTS:**
- 4.1 Superintendent Report:** Darla Waite-Larkin's report was provided to the Board prior to the meeting. She highlighted the following: SUPERINTENDENT REPORT
- She recently attended and enjoyed the COSA conference.
 - The custodian and maintenance crew have been working extremely hard with a tremendous group of students working through the student summer work crew.
 - Summer Meals program continues to run until August 21st. The ESD has been out twice to hand out free books during the summer meals lunch time.
 - The Summer Learning credit recovery and enrichment programs went well. She thought perhaps participation would decline as the summer went on but the students have stayed engaged.
 - She spoke briefly about the Student Services Director position. She still is not comfortable hiring for this position until she feels confident in our budget. The district has not yet received the full amount of timber revenue from the State. She also stated that with her strong special education background, she has confidence that she has the ability to direct the program that supports students and teachers. This topic will continue to be revisited and she encouraged board members to reach out if they like to discuss her position and get more information.
 - After discussion and further inspections, the district will move forward with installing a second holding tank at Mist Elementary to ensure water capacity remains adequate. The second tank is 1000 gallons will go next to the existing tank. They decided not to replace the toilets at this time. The septic tank was pumped. The inspections led to comments that as old as that building is, it is in really good shape.
- A question was raised about the pressure tank that pushes water from the well to the tank. Debbie Johnston shared that Precision Pump inspected the lines with a pressure gauge and they felt confident that everything is working properly. She also shared that a urinal was replaced, fields have been mowed, gutters have been cleaned, and they have pressure washed needed areas. The teachers requested that the screens be removed from the windows for now.

4.2 Financial Report: Pam Voss provided a financial memo but not a report this month. There is not a lot to report at this time of year. She's been learning our systems and going through the transition with Marie Knight. The first payroll went well with no errors. She is starting to work on the audit, which happens in the middle of October. She's been supporting Summer Learning and the Summer Meals Program.

FINANCIAL REPORT

Pam shared that she will continue to put together reports as Marie had. She asked the board if there were other areas they'd like to receive information. Alicia Mahoney stated she'd like to see more information about funds coming in and going out within the Student Body books. Greg Kintz would like to know what is expected in revenue streams each month.

4.2.1 Authorized Signature Request: Pam Voss shared that per District policy it is a requirement of the Board to approve her as an authorized signer for the District.

4.3 Maintenance Report: Debbie Johnston's report was provided to the Board prior to the meeting.

MAINTENANCE REPORT

Alicia Mahoney stated that she appreciates everything Debbie has done since taking over the Maintenance Supervisor role on July 1st. She has taken it head on and is really digging in.

Greg Kintz mentioned needing to have defensible space around the Mist school building. The fire department says we should not have bark chips or logs next to the building. Also, the building vent openings should be very small to keep sparks from going through.

5.0 BOARD REPORTS/ BOARD DEVELOPMENT:

5.1 Committee Reports:

COMMITTEE UPDATES

5.1.1 Policy Committee: Darla Waite-Larkin shared she is working with the committee members to schedule a time to meet. In the meantime, policy KNA came to us that needs to be approved by Sept. 30. This policy references immigration visits to the school. It is being presented as a first reading at this meeting and will be approved at the September meeting. The board was asked to send any comments on this policy to the committee.

Greg Kintz shared that he promised the unions during negotiations that they would review policy GCAB.

5.1.2 Safety Committee: No meeting in July or August.

5.1.3 Scholarship Committee: Barb Carr shared to Alicia Mahoney that her company donation check has not yet been received.

6.0 OTHER INFORMATION and DISCUSSION

6.1 Superintendent Evaluation Process and Timeline for 2026-27: The board discussed the possibility of involving students and staff in the evaluation process. Offering a survey for feedback was suggested. It was also noted that Grundmeyer Leader Services (GLS) offered assistance with this during the Superintendent search process.

SUPT. EVAL. SCHEDULE

At the Board retreat on September 23rd, Mrs. Waite-Larkin would like to work with the Board on setting her goals. The Board agreed with this. She has invited Mike Scott to attend the retreat. She has also shared with him Board-Superintendent Operating Agreement for his review and discussion at the Retreat.

Mrs. Waite-Larkin and Principal Eagleson and Principal Underwood have been discussing what does having the "logger experience" look, feel and sound like. She is looking forward to discussing this at the retreat as well.

6.2 OSEA and VEA Bargained Contracts: It was shared that new laws dictated a lot of language updates. Teachers have a two-year contract with a one-year financial opener. Classified has a three-year contract. Brett Costley, VEA President, thanked the board that were on the negotiation team.

OSEA & VEA
BARGAINED
CONTRACTS DISCUSSED

Alicia Mahoney expressed her concern over the added language in article 7.5- Personal Life of Employees. She feels that this language could put the district in a liable position. Brett Costley confirmed that language does not prevent the district from being able to discipline or

terminate someone based on what they post or comment on social media. The district must have just cause and not discipline or terminate based solely on parent complaints.

Amy Cieloha asked if community members can fill open extra duty positions, such as class advisors. Yes, as long as the position has been offered internally and no one expresses interest.

7.0 ACTION ITEMS

- 7.1 20276-27 Superintendent Evaluation Schedule:** Discussion was held to amend this document later if anything changes. Alicia Mahoney moved to approve the 2026-27 Superintendent Evaluation schedule as presented. Tony Holmes seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously with those in attendance. 2026-27 SUPT. EVALUATION SCHEDULE APPROVED
- 7.2 OSEA and VEA Contract Approval:** Joanie Jones moved to approve the 2026-2029 OSEA and the 2026-2028 VEA collective bargaining agreements as presented. Amy Cieloha seconded the motion. Alicia Mahoney abstained from voting. No reason for the abstention was provided. All others voted yes. Motion passed. OSEA and VEA BARGAINING AGREEMENTS APPROVED
- 7.3 Authorized Signature Approval:** Amy Cieloha moved to approve Pam Voss, Business Manager, as an authorized signer for the District effective this date. Alicia Mahoney seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously with those in attendance. VOSS AUTHORIZED AS SIGNER FOR THE DISTRICT

- 8.0 MONITORING BOARD PERFORMANCE:** Greg Kintz shared that he hasn't received a schedule for OSBA's Fall Regional meetings yet. OSBA's Legislative Policy Committee (LPC) has a new person helping them out with 2027 legislative session. There are still openings on OSBA's Rural Schools Caucus. If interested, please reach out to Greg. The OSBA Annual convention information should be coming out soon. MONITORING BOARD PERFORMANCE

Alicia Mahoney shared that she will miss the meeting on September 10, 2026.

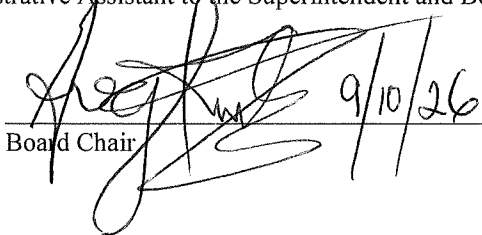
- 9.0 CONSENT AGENDA:** CONSENT AGENDA
- 9.1 Minutes of 07/09/2026 Regular Meeting.**
- Alicia Mahoney moved to approve the consent agenda as presented. Amy Cieloha seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously with those in attendance. CONSENT AGENDA APPROVED

- 10.0 OTHER ISSUES:** OTHER ISSUES
- 10.1** Next Agenda Setting Meeting will be held virtually on 9/2/26 at 3:30 pm. Alicia Mahoney will join Greg Kintz and Darla Waite-Larkin.

- 11.0 UPCOMING DATES:** UPCOMING DATES
- August 24, 2026 – Teachers return
August 25, 2026 – All Staff Breakfast 7:30 a.m.
August 26, 2026 – 7:30 a.m. look ahead at the year message by Darla. Donuts.
August 27, 2026 – Meet the Family Night 5:00 – 7:00 p.m.
August 31, 2026 – First Day of School all students grades K-12
September 10, 2026 – School Board Meeting – 6:00 p.m.
September 23, 2026 – School Board Retreat – 4:00 – 7:00 p.m.

- 12.0 MEETING ADJOURNED** at 7:19 p.m. ADJOURNED

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


Board Chair 9/10/26


District Clerk