

MEETING MINUTES

VERNONIA SCHOOL DISTRICT BOARD of DIRECTORS Regular Meeting – November 14, 2024 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 Susan Wagner. MEETING CALLED TO ORDER
- Board Present:** Javoss McGuire, Tony Holmes, Susan Wagner, Greg Kintz, Joanie Jones, Amy Cieloha, and Stacey Pelster who joined virtually. BOARD PRESENT
- Board Absent:** BOARD ABSENT
- Staff Present:** Jim Helmen, Superintendent; Nate Underwood, Middle & High School Principal; Michelle Eagleson, Elementary Principal; Susanne Myers, Special Education Director; Marie Knight, Business Manager; Barb Carr, Administrative Assistant, and Kendra Schlegel, Licensed Staff. STAFF PRESENT
- Visitors Present:** Scott Laird, Charlotte Schlegel and Madi Curry. VISITORS PRESENT
- 1.1** The Pledge of Allegiance was recited. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE
- 2.0 AGENDA REVIEW:** The following adjustments to the agenda were requested: AGENDA REVIEW
- Add the following items:
- 6.2 OSBA Conference Discussion
 - 7.1 Athletic CoOp with Banks School District for Swimming
 - 8.2 Action to approve the Athletic CoOp with Banks School District as presented
- Adjust:
- 8.1 Separate OSBA Resolutions #1, #2, and #3 into 3 motions 8.1a, 8.1b, and 8.1c
- Amy Cieloha moved to approve the agenda as amended. Javoss McGuire seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.
- 3.0 PUBLIC COMMENT:** None PUBLIC COMMENT
- 4.0 SHOWING CASING of SCHOOLS**
- 4.1 ADMINSTRATOR REPORTS:** The Board received all Administrator Reports prior to the meeting. ADMINISTRATOR REPORTS
- Nate Underwood introduced VHS Leadership Student, Charolotte Schlegel who reported on the recent conference she and other leadership students attended. According to Charlotte, a lot of ideas were gleaned and will be implemented at VHS to enhance student participation and boost morale. Suggested activities include incentives for dress-up days and special cheers for the student section at home athletic events. Susan Wagner asked Charlotte to talk with her fellow students to see if there would be any interest in participating with the School Board and be involved with Board work.
- Comments were shared about the positivity surrounding the recent ODE visit to the elementary school. Michelle Eagleson gave a recap of the visit and shared how pleased the ODE Literacy Team was with our reading and writing instruction.
- Jim Helmen shared that last year the middle school was identified as a Focus School with a 5 year plan to improve and be removed from the Focus School list. The growth achieved in one year was so high they were immediately removed off the list.
- Susan Wagner shared a comment about the Senior class enjoying being together during homecoming. She appreciates the time and engaging opportunities being offered.
- The addition of Ukeru training, noted on the Special Education report, was briefly discussed. It is a behavior response training that doesn't use any type of restraint. Susanne Myers will conduct training to a targeted group of staff.

5.0 BUSINESS REPORTS:

5.1 Superintendent Report: The Superintendent’s Report was provided to the Board prior to the meeting. SUPERINTENDENT REPORT

Jim Helmen gave a brief update on the District’s Integrated Guidance. It is a requirement from ODE that every 2 years the District reports on how we are using funds received from the High School Success Act and the Student Investment Account. A component of the reporting requirement involves obtaining input from our parents. A survey has been created and is available until January. The final work is not due until April, 2025. Currently 105 surveys have been completed providing feedback about what is working well and opportunities for improvement. This information will be used to determine the District’s priorities for the next two years. Mr. Helmen will provide a complete presentation to the Board when the work is complete.

Mr. Helmen shared that the Vernonia Schools K-12 Building will be hosting an equity summit this Saturday from 9:00 – 5:00. Statewide participants will be attending the summit. The NWRESD asked if any District would be willing to host and Vernonia offered.

5.2 Financial Report: The Financial Report was shared with the Board prior to the meeting. There were no questions on this report. FINANCIAL REPORT

5.3 Maintenance Report: Mark Brown’s report was provided to the Board prior to the meeting. There were no questions on this report. MAINTENANCE REPORT

5.4 Transportation Report: Curles School Bus Services annual report for 2023-24 was provided to the Board prior to the meeting. Jim Helmen shared that the District is making sure all students are held accountable for their behavior. Jen Cooper, District Psychologist, provided training to all staff to help deal with behaviors. The Drivers are feeling supported. TRANSPORTATION REPORT

6.0 BOARD REPORTS/ BOARD DEVELOPMENT:

6.1 COMMITTEE REPORTS COMMITTEE REPORTS

6.1.1 Safety Committee – Susan Wagner updated the board on the recent Safety Committee meeting. Training will take place soon on what might come up in an OSHA inspection. The training is provided by the District’s insurance broker who has stated that OSHA is targeting school districts for inspections. This training allows the District to be proactive prior to an inspection on things we could be tagged for by OSHA.

6.1.2 Policy Committee – They will have their first meeting next week to review the recent packet from OSBA on policy updates.

6.1.3 Scholarship Committee – Nothing reported

6.2 Board Member Items: Amy Cieloha, Greg Kintz and Susan Wagner attended the annual OSBA Conference last week. BOARD MEMBER ITEMS

Amy Cieloha shared that she always takes away things to incorporate in our District and enjoys the conference. She highlighted three statements that stood out to her: OSBA ANNUAL CONFERENCE RECAP

1. God is an equal distributor of talent
2. Performance has little to do with ability but engagement
3. Anyone and everyone

Greg Kintz shared that he enjoys the sessions around CTE. He finds it interesting to see what larger districts are doing. He also finds some presented information as reinforcing when he sees how we are connecting with students through engagement. He also learned about the Well Rounded Access Program (WRAP) which is an engagement plan to increase access to well-rounded courses.

Susan Wagner attended all day training on Thursday at the pre-conference. She learned how other district are addressing issues and heard a lot of sharing of ideas. She attended some amazing sessions about students feeling safe in their environment and that all students are represented.

Jim Helmen also attended the conference and enjoyed spending time with board members. It’s great time to connect on a personal level.

6.3 OSBA Resolutions: Greg Kintz, as an OSBA Board member, spoke to the three resolutions on the agenda for the Board’s consideration. He has addressed the resolutions at the past couple of months providing the Board with a sense of what was coming.

OSBA RESOLUTIONS

#2025-01 – Amend the OSBA Dues Schedule: OSBA dues haven’t changed since 1998. They have been living off the endowments but this is no longer a viable and sustainable option. He personally feels it’s tough to make the jump over a short period of time (5 years). Small districts do rely on OSBA for more information than larger districts. Stacey Pelster expressed her concern about the 10% on average CPI increase each year and what will happen at the end of the 5 year plan.

#2025-02 – Amend OSBA Bylaws Relating to Composition of the Board of Directors. This adds the addition of a PRIDE caucus to the OSBA Board. Currently there are 23 members on the OSBA Board which according to Greg is getting hard to manage. Caucuses were created to create diversity on the board and have a mixture of representation. It has been discussed to put a moratorium on any new caucuses after this one. Stacey Pelster expressed that special and particular representation is now being given to a “focus group” and she has concern. Javoss McGuire agreed with Stacey’s comment. Amy Cieloha stated she feels the focus is moving away from Districts. Greg Kintz further stated he was afraid that after the first caucus was created it would open the doors for others and he personally has an objection to more. Joanie Jones agreed with comments thus far. Susan Wagner stated that it is incumbent for boards to show up for all students. It is important to have more at the table representing those underserved. This group of students feel marginalized or underrepresented.

#2025-03 – Amend the OSBA 2023 Bylaws. The current Bylaws have had outdated language and statute changes made.

7.0 OTHER INFORMATION and DISCUSSION

7.1 Co Op – Jim Helmen stated that a request has been received for a VHS student to participate on the Banks High School swim team.

ATHLETIC COOP RECEIVED

8.0 ACTION ITEMS:

8.1 OSBA Resolution:

OSBA RESOLUTION

a. **#2025-01 – Amend the OSBA Dues Schedule:** Stacey Pelster moved to conduct a hand vote of resolution #2025-01 to support or oppose. Javoss McGuire seconded the motion. Those in support of the resolution as written: zero votes. Those opposed to the resolution as written: unanimous.

#2025-01 NOT SUPPORTED

b. **#2025-02 – Amend OSBA Bylaws Relating to Composition of the Board of Directors:** Javoss McGuire moved to reject resolution #2025-02. Amy Cieloha seconded the motion. Voting in favor of the motion: Joani Jones, Amy Cieloha, Greg Kintz, Javoss McGuire, Tony Holmes, and Stacey Pelster. Voting against the motion: Susan Wagner. Motion passed 6-1.

OSBA RESOLUTION #2025-02 NOT SUPPORTED

1. **#2025-03– Amend the OSBA 2023 Bylaws:** Amy Cieloha moved to support the resolution #2025-03 to amend the OSBA 2023 Bylaws. Joanie Jones seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

OSBA RESOLUTION #2025-03 SUPPORTED

8.2 Athletic CoOp Agreement: Javoss McGuire moved to approve the Athletic CoOp Agreement with Banks School District for girls’ swimming as presented. Greg Kintz seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

ATHLETIC COOP AGREEMENT WITH BANKS APPROVED

9.0 MONITORING BOARD PERFORMANCE: Susan Wagner appreciated the ability to share honest opinions and have a civil discussion on the meeting agenda topics.

MONITORING BOARD PERFORMANCE

Greg Kintz shared a handout outlining OSBA’s new Leadership Institute categories with standards and transfer credit.

Jim Helmen shared a letter that he sent out to families regarding issues in neighboring districts highlighting our policies and procedures that we have in place surrounding student safety and reporting requirements. His attempt in sending out the letter is to lesson anxiety.

10.0 CONSENT AGENDA:

CONSENT AGENDA

10.1 Minutes of 10/17/2024 Regular Meeting

Amy Cieloha moved to approve the consent agenda as presented. Javoss McGuire seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

CONSENT AGENDA APPROVED

11.0 OTHER ISSUES:

OTHER ISSUES

11.1 Next Agenda Setting Meeting: Javoss McGuire will join Jim Helmen and Susan Wagner at next month's agenda setting meeting to be held virtually, Wednesday, December 4th at 5:00 p.m..

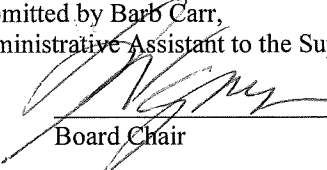
NEXT AGENDA SETTING MEETING

Susan Wagner shared that she may not be able to attend the December meeting. If possible will join remotely.

13.0 MEETING ADJOURNED at 7:57 p.m.

ADJOURNED

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



Board Chair



District Clerk