

MEETING MINUTES

VERNONIA SCHOOL DISTRICT BOARD of DIRECTORS Regular Meeting – August 10, 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 6:05 p.m. by Scott Rickard. MEETING CALLED TO ORDER
- Board Present:** Scott Rickard, Amy Cieloha, Joanie Jones, and Stacey Pelster. Javoss McGuire arrived at 6:08 p.m. BOARD PRESENT
- Board Absent:** Susan Wagner and Greg Kintz BOARD ABSENT
- Staff Present:** Jim Helmen, Superintendent; Marie Knight, Business Manager; Barb Carr, Administrative Assistant, Michelle Eagleson, Elementary Principal; Susanne Myers, Special Education Director; Kendra Schlegel, Licensed Staff; and Camrin Eyrrick, Classified Staff. STAFF PRESENT
- Karla Myatt, Rachel Brown, and Juliet Safier attended virtually.
- Visitors Present:** Scott Laird VISITORS PRESENT
- 1.1** The Pledge of Allegiance was recited. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE
- 2.0 AGENDA REVIEW:** The following additions to the agenda were shared: AGENDA REVIEW
- 7.0 Other Information and Discussion
- 7.5 Athletic Co-Op Agreement with Jewell
 - 7.6 VEA Collective Bargaining Agreement
- 8.0 Action Items
- 8.5 New Hire Action language amended to include recent new hires
 - 8.6 Athletic Co-OP Agreement Action – motion to approve
 - 8.7 VEA Collective Bargaining Agreement Action – motion to approve
- Scott Richard asked the Board if there were any objections to stated amendments. Seeing none, the vote was called for.
- Stacey Pelster moved to approve the agenda as amended. Amy Cieloha seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously with those in attendance.
- 4.0 PUBLIC COMMENT ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS:** Scott Laird shared his appreciation for the hard work to the appearance of the school campus. The parking lot painting, the bark dust, all enhance the curb appeal of the District. He is proud to be supporting this school. PUBLIC COMMENT
- 5.0 BUSINESS REPORTS:**
- 5.1 Superintendent Report:** Report was provided to the Board prior to the meeting. SUPERINTENDENT REPORT
- Amy Cieloha asked who is running the summer meal program? Summer Gonzales with the help of a couple former students, and is doing a great job.
- Jim Helman gave an update on grants.
- YDD Grant – the District has received this again. It is a very competitive grant and the District is fortunate to be able to help students for the next two years. This grant funds the Check and Connect program that helps to increase attendance and graduation.
 - Community Resilience TIC Grant – this grant will pay for all social emotion learning (SEL) for 3 years.
 - 21st Century Grant – the District is still waiting to hear on this grant. If received, it will fund after school programming for 5 years.

Stacey Pelster asked if there are other grants available that the District could apply for? Jim Helmen shared he is always looking for other grants that support the goals of the District.

Jim Helmen asked if there were any questions on the transportation agreement? Stacey Pelster asked if there are any impacts to the budget? The increase was anticipated during the budgeting process so it is included in the budget. Scott Rickard asked if the CPI goes negative will there be a reduction? No. This agreement is to keep us steady for the next 5 years. It benefits Curles School Bus Services as well. They can guarantee staff salaries for the next 5 years.

5.1.1 2023-24 Superintendent Goals: Jim Helmen shared his goals. The Board was allowed to remove, adjust, or add additional goals. Consensus of the Board was that the goals were thorough and achievable.

5.2 Financial Report: Marie Knight shared that there is no report this month. It is too early in the year. She shared an Oregon Audits Division letter that reminds board members of their responsibilities and highlights the importance of the work members due as part of a school board. 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

Jim Helmen shared that Mark Brown and his crew are unbelievable. They have been working hard to ensure everything is ready for when kids enter the building. The District made the decision to pay a company to come in and do primary cleaning over the summer. This has been a great benefit as it allowed the crew extra time to do overdue maintenance. The crew will be going out to Mist to repaint the playground equipment and repair the gym floor. The plan is to repaint the sign as well.

Javoss McGuire asked about the Tap grants mentioned in the report. Marie Knight shared that one is for assessment and one for the creation of a long-term facilities plan. The District has a huge HVAC system and the grants will help to get a plan in place for maintenance.

6.0 BOARD REPORTS/ BOARD DEVELOPMENT:

6.1 Committee Reports: COMMITTEE REPORTS
 6.1.1 Safety Committee – no report given
 6.1.2 Policy Committee – no report given
 6.1.3 Scholarship Committee – no report given

7.0 OTHER INFORMATION and DISCUSSION

7.1 Superintendent and Board Operating Agreement: The agreement was reviewed and minor typos were adjusted. All board members were in agreement with the document. SUPT./BOARD OPERATING AGREEMENT DISCUSSED

7.2 Superintendent Evaluation Process and Timeline for 2023-24: The process and timeline was shared and briefly reviewed. There were no questions or concerns. SUPT. EVALUATION PROCESS & TIMELINE DISCUSSED

7.3 Staff Resignations: Jim Helmen shared that 4th Grade teacher Kristen Johnston has submitted her resignation. There were no questions. STAFF RESIGNATION SHARED

7.4 New Hires: Michelle Eagleson spoke about her new hires and shared that she now has a full staff. Leslie Newell will join the staff as a 4th grade teacher and Tabetha Groshong has been hired as the K-2 teacher at Mist. NEW HIRES SHARED

Amy Cieloha asked about the hiring of the new teacher at Mist without any teaching experience. It was explained that both Michelle Eagleson and Kendra Schlegel will be at Mist once a week and the instructional assistant is now full time to provide increased assistance.

All teachers must be able to obtain licensure with TSPC. A teacher with a restricted license has 3 years to complete training for regular certification. Emergency licenses no longer require work towards a degree and are only good for one year.

7.5 Athletic Co-Op with Jewell: Jim Helmen shared that Justin Ward was contacted by the Jewell School District Athletic Director. Jewell does not enough players to field a Football team and would like to coop with Vernonia. They have 4 or 5 players coming from Jewell. Joanie Jones asked if Jewell’s coach will come as well? No, this is not a requirement of the Coop Agreement. Jewell players are responsible for their own transportation to Vernonia. ATHLETIC CO-OP WITH JEWELL SHARED

7.6 VEA 2023-26 Collective Bargaining Agreement: Jim Helmen provided a summary of the language changes and asked initially if there were any questions from the Board? Stacey Pelster asked about the 3 days of work place sick leave. It was explained that when there is a workman’s comp claim, staff must use 3 personal sick leave days for the 3 day waiting period. The District felt that they should cover those 3 days if the claim is a true workman’s comp covered claim. VEA COLLECTIVE BARGAINING AGREEMENT SHARED

Jim Helmen shared overall it was a great process. Both unions came to the table looking out for the entire union group. The 16% over 3 years in COLA increases gets the District closer to being competitive with surrounding districts. The first two steps were deleted off the salary schedule and not added to the end. This will ensure new teachers are being paid more. Other contract highlights include:

- Addition of two annual sick leave days. Total is now 12.
- Sick leave can now be used for personal or family member mental health
- Insurance cap increased \$50 each year of contract
- Language written for involuntary transfers to have conversations about the decision. The final decision is still up to the District
- Language adjusted to remove the requirement of a 10 minute a.m. and p.m. break. Language now states if a medical reason exists an ADA accommodation to support will be created.

8.0 ACTION ITEMS

8.1 Superintendent Goals: Stacey Pelster moved to approve Superintendent Jim Helmen’s goals for 2023-24 as presented. Javoss McGuire seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously with those in attendance. SUPT. HELMEN’S GOALS APPROVED FOR 23-24

8.2 Superintendent and Board Operating Agreement: Amy Cieloha moved to approve the Superintendent and Board Operating Agreement for 2023-24 as presented. Stacey Pelster seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously with those in attendance. SUPERINTENDENT / BOARD OPERATING AGREEMENT APPROVED

8.3 Superintendent Evaluation Process and Timeline for 2023-24: Javoss McGuire moved to approve the Superintendent evaluation process and timeline for 2023-24 as discussed. Joanie Jones seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously with those in attendance. SUPERINTENDENT EVALUATION PROCESS & TIMELINE APPROVED

8.4 Staff Resignation: Amy Cieloha moved to accept the resignation of Kristen Johnston 4th Grade Teacher effective July 26, 2023. Joanie Jones seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously with those in attendance. JOHNSTON RESIGNS

8.5 New Hires: Stacey Pelster moved to approve the Superintendent’s recommendation to hire Kaitlyn Eyrrick, Middle School Math Teacher, Dylan Hammond, High School Social Sciences Teacher; Tabetha Groshong, Mist K-2 Teacher, and Leslie Newell, VES 4th Grade Teacher. Javoss McGuire seconded the motion. Joanie Jones abstained from vote. All others voted yes. Motion passed. EYRRICK, HAMMOND, GROSHONG and NEWELL HIRED

8.6 Athletic Co-Op Agreement with Jewell: Joanie Jones moved to approve the Athletic Co-Op Agreement with Jewell as presented. Stacey Pelster seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously with those in attendance. ATHLETIC CO-OP AGREEMENT WITH JEWELL APPROVED

8.7 VEA Collective Bargaining Agreement: Javoss McGuire moved to approve the VEA 2023-26 Collective Bargaining Agreement as presented. Joanie Jones seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously with those in attendance. VEA AGREEMENT APPROVED

9.0 MONITORING BOARD PERFORMANCE:

It was noted that the Board’s August 31st workshop date conflicts with the District’s Meet the Family Night. The Board could hold a special meeting to review and approve the OSEA Classified Bargaining Agreement. Discussion was held on holding a virtual meeting. A date was set for Thursday August 17th 6pm for a virtual meeting.

SPECIAL MEETING
SCHEDULED

10.0 CONSENT AGENDA:

10.1 Minutes of 07/13/2023 Regular Meeting.

CONSENT AGENDA

Stacey Pelster moved to approve the consent agenda as presented. Joanie Jones seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously with those in attendance.

CONSENT AGENDA
APPROVED

12.0 OTHER ISSUES:

Jim Helmen formally invited all Board to the Welcome Back staff breakfast on August 29th and the Meet the Family Night on August 31st.

OTHER ISSUES

13.0 MEETING ADJOURNED at 7:19 p.m.

ADJOURNED

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



Board Chair



District Clerk