MEETING MINUTES

VERNONIA SCHOOL DISTRICT BOARD of DIRECTORS
Regular Meeting – September 10, 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: Tony Holmes, Chris McManus, Amy Cieloha, Lisa Curry and Greg Kintz. Joanie Jones arrived at 6:02 p.m. — BOARD PRESENT

Board Absent: Alicia Mahoney — BOARD ABSENT

Staff Present: Darla Waite-Larkin, Superintendent; Pam Voss, Business Manager; Barb Carr, Administrative Assistant; Debbie Johnston, Maintenance Supervisor; and Brett Costley, Sara Goodman and Charise Ash, 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: Lisa Curry moved to approve the agenda as presented. Amy Cieloha seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously with those in attendance. — AGENDA REVIEW

3.0 PUBLIC COMMENT: None. — PUBLIC COMMENT

4.0 SHOWCASING OF SCHOOLS:

4.1 Administrator Reports: Darla Waite-Larkin has asked principals to create parent newsletters and use these for their board reports. There were no questions from the Board. Amy Cieloha commented that she was glad to receive a copy of the master schedule. — ADMINISTRATOR REPORTS

5.0 BUSINESS REPORTS:

5.1 Superintendent Report: Darla Waite-Larkin's report was provided to the Board prior to the meeting. Enrollment was highlighted as well as staffing changes at the elementary schools. She further shared that she has been holding meetings with her special education team. The virtual speech and language therapist as well as the school psychologist will be leaving as on- site staff in these positions will be starting soon. Bringing them back in-house is the best option for our students and staff. She reviewed all contracts and financial impacts before making this decision. — SUPERINTENDENT REPORT

Darla Waite-Larkin shared that she feels very supported as she continues to transition into her role as superintendent.

5.2 Financial Report: Pam Voss provided a high-level overview report since there has only been 2 months in this fiscal year. She is still expecting the state school fund revenue to come in. Cash is tight at the moment until we get farther into the year. The District has slowed down on any bigger purchases until money comes in. Revenue that comes to us from property taxes and state school fund comes monthly. The 2025-26 ending fund balance was small which proves to be a bit challenging starting a new year, while waiting for funding to arrive. — FINANCIAL REPORT

Darla Waite-Larkin shared that after visiting with Pam, a few surprises were discovered. There isn't a clear path as to why previous decisions were made and they have worked with both unions on some of the issues. Working together with the unions has gone well.

Amy Cieloha asked about student body accounts. Pam shared that she is still having trouble getting access to the Student Body accounts. She can and will generate any reports the Board wants.

5.3 Maintenance Report: Debbie Johnston's report was provided to the Board prior to the meeting. Darla Waite-Larkin shared that there are bees in the ground in the front landscape — MAINTENANCE REPORT

areas which is why there is caution tape around them. Greg Kintz stated that he and his wife and Joanie Jones recently spent time working at Mist on the outside defensible space.

6.0 BOARD REPORTS/ BOARD DEVELOPMENT:

COMMITTEE UPDATES

6.1 Committee Reports:

6.1.1 Policy Committee: Greg Kintz shared that last month there was a first reading on policy KNA and KNA-AR. It is on tonight's agenda for approval. The committee is currently reviewing policy GCAB for next month's meeting.

6.1.2 Safety Committee: Chris McManus provided an update to the Board on the work of the safety committee. A safety drill schedule and goals of the committee have been reviewed. They also wish to focus on bringing an elementary perspective to the committee. Safety walk-throughs with committee members assigned to areas is in the works. More evacuation maps are needed and they held discussion on installing a gate on the gravel road by the CTE area. Mr. Costanzo is obtaining a quote for materials. There is unfinished work in the metal shop and Chris is going to assist with this on the October 9th inservice day. Darla Waite-Larkin spoke about the second egress from staff room. This door, which is a back access to the District Office space, will be unlocked during the day when staff are present

6.1.3 Scholarship Committee: Nothing to report.

7.0 OTHER INFORMATION and DISCUSSION

7.1 Staff Resignation and New Hire: The MS/HS Counselor previously hired was recalled back to her position at Portland Public Schools. Ree Ann Leslie has been hired in the position.

8.0 ACTION ITEMS

POLICY APPROVED

8.1 Policy Approval: Amy Cieloha moved to approve policy KNA and KNA-AR version 1 and 2 as presented. Tony Holmes seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously with those in attendance.

WELTER RESIGNS
LESLIE HIRED

8.2 Staff Resignation & New Hire: Chris McManus moved to accept the resignation of MS/HS Counselor, Abby Welter and the Administration's recommendation to hire Ree Ann Leslie, MS/HS Counselor effective 8/25/26. Joanie Jones seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously with those in attendance.

9.0 MONITORING BOARD PERFORMANCE:

MONITORING BOARD PERFORMANCE

Greg Kintz mentioned the OSBA conference in November. He will be attending the preconference as well as the conference.

10.0 CONSENT AGENDA:

CONSENT AGENDA

10.1 Minutes of 08/13/2026 Regular Meeting.

Amy Cieloha moved to approve the consent agenda as presented. Chris McManus seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously with those in attendance.

CONSENT AGENDA APPROVED

11.0 OTHER ISSUES:

OTHER ISSUES

11.1 Next Agenda Setting Meeting will be held virtually on Wed. 09/30/26 at 3:30 Amy Cieloha will join Greg Kintz and Darla Waite-Larkin.

12.0 UPCOMING DATES:

UPCOMING DATES

September 23, 2026 – School Board Retreat – 4:00 – 7:00 p.m.
October 8, 2026 – School Board Meeting @ Mist Elementary – 6:00 p.m.

13.0 MEETING ADJOURNED at 6:41 p.m.

ADJOURNED

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

Board Chair

District Clerk