MEETING MINUTES

VERNONIA SCHOOL DISTRICT BOARD of DIRECTORS
Regular Meeting – October 8, 2026
Mist Elementary School, 69163 Hwy, 47, Mist

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: Greg Kintz, Joanie Jones, Alicia Mahoney, Tony Holmes, and Chris McManus. Amy Cieloha arrived at 6:02 p.m. — BOARD PRESENT

Board Absent: Lisa Curry, — BOARD ABSENT

Staff Present: Darla Waite-Larkin, Superintendent; Pam Voss, Business Manager; Barb Carr, Administrative Assistant; Cherise Harbour, Fiscal 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: There was a typo in action item 8.2 and was adjusted to 8.1. Joanie Jones moved to approve the agenda as amended. Alicia Mahoney seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously with those in attendance. — AGENDA REVIEW

3.0 PUBLIC COMMENT: Scott Laird asked for an update on the planning of the district's upcoming Engagement Night. Scott Laird commended Darla Waite-Larkin on her report and also complimented PamVoss on the financial information she provides as well. — PUBLIC COMMENT

4.0 SHOWCASING OF SCHOOLS:

4.1 Administrator Reports: Administrator reports were provided to the Board prior to the meeting. — ADMINISTRATOR REPORTS

Alicia Mahoney inquired about speech services. Darla Waite-Larkin shared that the speech program is currently in transition from a virtual to on-site speech and language pathologist. There will also be an on-site speech assistant (SLPA). It was confirmed that all students eligible are receiving services. Research shows that in-person services are the most effective for students.

Amy Cieloha shared that at a recent home event the athletic department was not collecting gate fees. If this is a new protocol it needs to be advertised to the community. Darla Waite-Larkin stated the athletic directors have stopped the collection of gate fees this year in the hopes of encouraging people to attend the events. She has met with them to discuss the pros and cons of this decision.

Greg Kintz asked for confirmation that guests are not allowed at dances without an approved guest pass. This was confirmed.

5.0 BUSINESS REPORTS:

5.1 Superintendent Report: Darla Waite-Larkin's report was provided to the Board prior to the meeting. — SUPERINTENDENT REPORT

Darla Waite-Larkin shared her vision of the Logger Experience. She is working with staff and incorporating this in everything they do. She is providing a survey to parents to get their input into just what the Logger Experience should look like to them. — LOGGER EXPERIENCE

It was shared that Shelley Cota at Curls School Bus Services has a new District email address (shennessy@vernoniak12.org) which will make it easier for staff to communicate with Curls. — NEW EMAIL FOR CURLS SCHOOL BUS SERVICES

Division 22 Standards, mandated by the State of Oregon, are the minimum standards that a District must provide to ensure students receive a quality education. Last year the district was out of compliance in the standard that addressed adoption of ELA curriculum. The curriculum adoption was done to satisfy this standard. Currently the Vernonia School District is in compliance with all standards. This information will be sent to ODE and shared to the public via the district's website by November 1st. DIVISION 22 STANDARDS

District staff are engaging in math professional development with the NWRESD. ESD staff will come out once a month to work with teachers. MATH PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT w/ESD

Annual safety care training is offered to administrators, teachers and instructional assistants. Every month a few will receive the training from an ESD employee. SAFETY CARE TRAINING

Celebration! Vernonia School District has exceeded the state test score average on the English Language Arts (ELA) assessments in grades 3, 4, 7, 8 and 11 as well as the Science assessment in grade 11. The District will be recognized at the ESD board meeting in Scappoose on October 14th. CELEBRATION! VSD ABOVE STATE AVERAGE IN ELA TEST SCORES

5.2 Financial Report: Pam Voss provided reports to the Board. She is still fine tuning her reports to pin point exactly what the board would prefer seeing in the financial data. FINANCIAL REPORT

Revenue: Currently the district has received $1.39 million which is about 13% of our budgeted revenue. State School Fund (SSF) should arrive mid-month.
Expenditures: The district has had $1.27 million in expenditures. $5 million has been encumbered.

Budget Status: The general fund has $10.6 million in revenue. Currently $4.6 million is uncommitted. The 2024-2025 year ended very low. The final ending balance from last year won't be determined until after the audit.

Alicia Mahoney asked Pam Voss if she's noticed any differences from last year. According to Pam, some grants did not come in with as much money as previously thought. She noted she is being very conservative right now.

The YTP grant will not be received next summer. There is one more claim to submit and this will be the final funding from this grant. Pam Voss is currently looking into Quick Books regarding the concession funds previously raised by YTP students. She would like to move out of quick books to a program that integrates with our current financial software. She is also planning on developing a flow chart for the secretary, principal, and business manager when dealing with student body accounting practices.

The business office is also reviewing fundraising procedures and protocols.

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

Lisa Curry, submitted a question prior to the meeting. She wanted to know who was spoken to on the stadium committee about the practice field goal posts. Debbie Johnston spoke with Gordon Jarman and Justin Ward.

Amy Cieloah mentioned the ongoing issue of a broken step on the aluminum grandstands. She feels this is a safety hazard and would like to see it addressed. It was also noted that due to potential injury, signage should be placed on the practice equipment to keep kids from playing on it.

It was noted that next year the band will be in the grandstands with the spectators making it easier to hear them play.

A comment was made that the grounds look very nice. Thank you to the Maintenance Team.

6.0 BOARD REPORTS/ BOARD DEVELOPMENT:

6.1 Committee Reports: COMMITTEE UPDATES

6.1.1 Policy Committee: Policy GCAB – Personal Electronic Devices and Social Media – Staff, is

being presented as a 1st reading. The noted change is in red. Policies JA/JAA Student Policy Objectives, JEDB – Student Dismissal Precautions, JGB – Detention of Students, and JHDA – Psychological Testing of Students, are being presented as both a 1st and 2nd reading. This group of policies have no suggested updates from OSBA. The board is being asked to adopt to have a current review date.

Amy Cieloha feels our current policies on harassment and bullying do not mesh with what is currently in our student code of conduct. Darla Waite-Larkin indicated that she feels the code of conduct should be updated.

6.1.2 Safety Committee: Nothing to report.

6.1.3 Scholarship Committee: Nothing to report. Greg Kintz shared information about the tax benefit people can take, by giving $1700 to scholarships out of their personal tax liability. He further noted that Oregon has opted out of this program and to be aware the money will not go to Oregon students.

7.0 OTHER INFORMATION and DISCUSSION

7.1 Division 22 Standards: Discussed previously in item 5.1.

8.0 ACTION ITEMS

8.1 Policy Approval: Alicia Mahoney moved to approve policy JA/JAA – Student Policy Objectives, JEDB – Student Dismissal Precautions, JGB – Detention of Students, and JHDA – Psychological Testing of Students, as presented. Amy Cieloha seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously with those in attendance. — POLICIES APPROVED

9.0 MONITORING BOARD PERFORMANCE: Please let Greg Kintz know if anyone is going to the OSBA regional meeting. The ESD needs to receive RSVPs. — MONITORING BOARD PERFORMANCE

10.0 CONSENT AGENDA: — CONSENT AGENDA

10.1 Minutes of 09/10/26 Regular Meeting and the 09/23/2026 Workshop.

Amy Cieloha moved to approve the consent agenda as presented. Tony Holmes 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. 11/04/26 at 3:30. Tony Holmes will join Greg Kintz and Darla Waite-Larkin.

It was noted that we are working to get a board group set up so all board members will get any automated messages. Alicia Mahoney asked that the After School Program communicate their schedule during conferences.

12.0 UPCOMING DATES: — UPCOMING DATES

Oct. 19, 2026 – School Board Work Session – 4:00 – 6:00 p.m.
Nov. 10, 2026 – School Board Meeting – 6:00 p.m. (NOTE: This is a TUESDAY)
Nov. 12-14, 2026 – OSBA Annual Convention
Nov. 18, 2026 – Community Engagement Night
Nov. 25-27, 2026 – Thanksgiving Break
Dec. 10, 2026 – School Board Meeting 6:00 p.m.

13.0 MEETING ADJOURNED at 7:14 p.m. — ADJOURNED

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

Board Chair

District Clerk