

MEETING MINUTES

VERNONIA SCHOOL DISTRICT BOARD of DIRECTORS Regular Meeting – September 14, 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 6:02 p.m. by Scott Rickard. MEETING CALLED TO ORDER
- Board Present:** Scott Rickard, Susan Wagner, Amy Cieloha, Joanie Jones, Javoss McGuire, and Greg Kintz BOARD PRESENT
- Board Absent:** Stacey Pelster BOARD ABSENT
- Staff Present:** Jim Helmen, Superintendent; Marie Knight, Business Manager; Barb Carr, Administrative Assistant, and Juliet Safier and Rachel Brown, Licensed Staff. STAFF PRESENT
- Visitors Present:** Scott Laird and Tony Holmes VISITORS PRESENT
- 1.1** The Pledge of Allegiance was recited. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE
- 2.0 AGENDA REVIEW:** Joanie Jones moved to approve the agenda as amended. Amy Cieloha seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously with those in attendance. AGENDA REVIEW
- 3.0 PUBLIC COMMENT:** Juliet Safier, Vernonia Education Association (VEA) President, wanted to address any worries that the VEA is not supporting new teachers. They are purposeful in their interaction, mentorship, friendship, and are supporting and assisting new teachers as needed. She assured the Board that it is the intent of the Union and the District to support all staff. PUBLIC COMMENT
- 4.0 ADMINISTRATOR REPORTS:** The Board received all Administrator Reports prior to the meeting. It was noted that dates of VHS Homecoming have moved to October 15 -20, 2023. ADMINISTRATOR REPORTS
- 5.0 BUSINESS REPORTS:**
- 5.1 Superintendent Report:** The Superintendent’s Report was provided to the Board prior to the meeting. SUPERINTENDENT REPORT
- Scott Rickard asked if there is a hard date when the embargo ends for test scores. No, there is not a hard date. Once the data is released the District will have a week to review. Nothing has been released yet.
- Amy Cieloha asked for an update on the Check and Connect program. Jim Helmen explained that the District applied for a 2-year grant, providing \$250,000 per year. 75% of the grant funds goes to incentives for kids and pay for mentors. Last year 100 students were served by 15 mentors. This year the District anticipates the same number of kids in the age range of 14-20. These students are struggling with attendance or are credit deficient and not on track to graduate. Dr. Jen Cooper, School Psychologist and SEL Director is heading up the Check and Connect Program this year.
- 5.2 Financial Report:** Marie Knight shared that it is early in the year and the financial report is based on a lot of estimates. She continues to move forward with staffing and purchasing based on the budget. Hard copies of the budget document were made available to the Board. There were no questions from the 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
- 6.0 BOARD REPORTS/ BOARD DEVELOPMENT:**
- 6.1 COMMITTEE REPORTS** COMMITTEE REPORTS
- 6.1.1 Safety Committee** – Susan Wagner reported that the committee is working to set their goals, and holding discussions on what they want to do by next school year. The committee is also considering going to a different model on how classes are together and line up during evacuation drills.

Scott Rickard asked for potential priorities in regards to student safety? Jim Helmen responded and shared that having security cameras at Mist was important. One camera has been installed at this time and he now has line of site with Mist. Two more cameras coming and will be installed once all the bugs are worked out with the first one. Our local Law Enforcement will have video access to the cameras. Greg Kintz asked if Mist will have access: yes. The Vernonia Family Academy (VFA) is next. The District is also looking at installing gates on the gravel loop by the VFA house.

A full staff evacuation drill was held this week. Instruction on processes and procedures was given to students. Next drill will focus on how fast we can get students out of the building.

Columbia County Sheriff's department will come out in October to conduct shooter training for classified staff.

A question was asked if the District will go to full metal detectors. At this time, probably not. We have wands that can be used if necessary and we can take away backbacks if needed.

6.1.2 Policy Committee – Jim Helmen shared that nothing is ready at this time. He would like to get started in October.

6.1.3 Scholarship Committee – A thank you note was received from the 2nd scholarship recipient.

6.2 OSBA Board of Directors Nomination. Greg Kintz is running for a vacancy on the OSBA Board of Directors position #14 and needs to be nominated by our Board.

OSBA BOARD OF DIRECTORS NOMINATION

Greg shared that he started on Vernonia School Board in 2007 and in 2009 started on the OSBA Board. Current OSBA Board of Directors term limits states a member can only serve 5 terms but anyone seated in 2018 is unlimited. He can serve as many as he wishes. Terms are 2 years. He serves with the platform of giving a voice to small schools.

Jim Helmen shared that an OSBA journalist attended our last community event thanks to the connection and influence Greg has with OSBA. It allowed Vernonia statewide exposure.

7.0 OTHER INFORMATION and DISCUSSION

7.1 Staff Resignation: Jim Helmen that shared Frank Falkowski 5th grade and Colin Gilbert middle school social studies have submitted their letters of resignation. The District has honored their resignation without moving forward with any sanctions with TSPC because of less than 60 days until the start of school.

STAFF RESIGNATIONS

7.2 New Hires: VES 4th Grade, Amanda Stonier; VES 3rd Grade Heidamarie Rice; and Middle School Social Studies Satori Albee.

NEW HIRES

7.3 MOU Athletic Director Salary: Jim Helmen shared that the teacher's union is in support of the MOU which adjusts the extra duty pay for the athletic director position. Previously there was a set pay rate, which was equivalent to 3 seasons of a head coach. Because the district hired 2 people to fill the vacancy of athletic director, the pay has been adjusted to a flat rate of \$10,000 per year, per person. This MOU also includes a 5% and 6% increase of the next two years respectively. Jim is asking the Board to support the adjustment to the licensed bargaining agreement.

MOU ATHLETIC DIRECTOR SALARY

7.4 Surplus Item: Jim Helmen shared that there are two different items on the list but only one requires action by the Board. Policy DN dictates that anything with a value of over \$100 needs to be declared surplus and advertised to the public. The cheerleading stunting mats were purchased in 2014 for \$700.00. They take up a lot of storage space and are not currently being used. If approved for surplus the District will advertise and accept bids. Minimum bid will be \$400.

SURPLUS ITEM SHARED

The second item on the list is used girls' basketball jerseys. They will be given away at no charge or donated to a youth group that expresses an interest in them.

Amy Cieloha expressed her concern over getting rid of the mats and the potential for having a cheerleading program in the future. Scott Rickard suggested reviewing the policy and potentially adjusting the \$100 amount.

8.0 ACTION ITEMS

- 8.1 Staff Resignation:** Greg Kintz moved to approve resignations from Frank Falkowski, VES 5th Grade effective August 24, 2023 and Colin Gilbert, VMS Social Studies effective August 25, 2023. Joanie Jones seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously with those in attendance. FALKOWSKI & GILBERT RESIGN
- 8.2 New Hires:** Javoss McGuire moved to approve the Superintendent’s recommendation to hire Amanda Stonier, VES 4th Grade; Heidamarie Rice, VES 3rd Grade; and Satori Albee, VMS Social Studies. Amy Cieloha seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously with those in attendance. STONIER, RICE and ALBEE HIRED
- 8.3 OSBA Board of Directors Nomination:** Amy Cieloha moved to nominate Greg Kintz to the OSBA Board of Directors, North Coast Region, Position #14. Joanie Jones seconded the motion. Susan Wagner stated that seeing Greg in action at an OSBA event is worth seeing. Scott Rickard thanked Greg in serving for many years. The continuity with OSBA and our board is gold. Greg Kintz abstained from voting. Motion passed unanimously with remaining board in attendance. KINTZ NOMINATED to OSBA BOARD OF DIRECTORS N COAST REGION
- 8.4 MOU Athletic Director Salary:** Joanie Jones moved to approve the MOU for Athletic Director Salary as discussed. Greg Kintz seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously with those in attendance. MOU for ATHLETIC DIRECTOR SALARY APPROVED
- 8.5 Surplus Item:** Greg Kintz moved to declare the cheerleading mats as presented as surplus and 12 reversible girls’ basketball uniforms as items to be offered to donation as discussed. Javoss McGuire seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously with those in attendance. CHEERLEADING MATS DECLARED SURPLUS

9.0 MONITORING BOARD PERFORMANCE: Nothing discussed.

10.0 CONSENT AGENDA:

- 10.1 Minutes of 08/10/2023 Regular Meeting and the 08/17/2023 Special Meeting** CONSENT AGENDA
- Amy Cieloha moved to approve the consent agenda as amended (adjustment to the name in the 8.4 motion from the 8/10/23 minutes). Javoss McGuire seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously with those in attendance. CONSENT AGENDA APPROVED

11.0 OTHER ISSUES:

Jim Helmen shared that it was discussed a couple meetings ago about looking into the Distirct’s legal representation. It is the Superintendent’s decision to make a determination on the District’s representation. He agreed to look at other options before the next board meeting. He is not sure he will find better representation but he is willing to look. He will report back to the Board on his findings. There is no need to go out for an RFP. He will present his final recommendation at the next meeting. OSBA will be consulted as well.

Mist Open House was held last night. Jim Helmen thanked Joanie Jones for attending. It was a very positive night with a good turnout. Parents asked great questions and continue to build trust which is the goal. Joanie Jones thanked all the staff that attended. Susan Wagner commented that the notice to attend the event was too short.

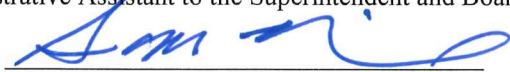
Greg Kintz commented on the reporter who attended our community event and wrote the article on Vernonia. He was impressed with our gathering. Amy Cieloha shared that he was in disbelief with the number of people in attendance. Jim Helmen shared that families were there and staff were there loving on their children. The culture is changing.

Another event is being planned for November.

13.0 MEETING ADJOURNED at 7:07 p.m.

ADJOURNED

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



Board Chair

09-14-2023



District Clerk

