

MEETING MINUTES

VERNONIA SCHOOL DISTRICT BOARD of DIRECTORS Regular Meeting – December 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:** Stacey Pelster, Amy Cieloha, Scott Rickard, Joanie Jones, Susan Wagner, Javoss McGuire, and Greg Kintz BOARD PRESENT
- Board Absent:** None BOARD ABSENT
- Staff Present:** Jim Helmen, Superintendent; Nate Underwood, Middle/High School Principal; Michelle Eagleson, Elementary Principal (virtual); Susanne Myers, Special Education Director; Marie Knight, Business Manager; Barb Carr, Administrative Assistant; and Kendra Schlegel and Juliet Safier (virtual) Licensed Staff. STAFF PRESENT
- Visitors Present:** Tony Holmes, Scott Laird and Crystal (last name unknown) (virtual). VISITORS PRESENT
- 1.1** The Pledge of Allegiance was recited. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE
- 2.0 AGENDA REVIEW:** Amy Cieloha moved to approve the agenda as presented. Stacey Pelster seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously. AGENDA REVIEW
- 3.0 PUBLIC COMMENT:** Tony Holmes expressed concern from families who felt poorly that their children were not recognized at the Engagement Night. PUBLIC COMMENT
- 4.0 SHOWING CASING of SCHOOLS**
- 4.1 Administrative Reports:** Administrator reports were provided to the Board prior to the meeting. ADMINISTRATOR REPORTS
- Amy Cieloha inquired if the recent elementary staff trainings included both licensed and classified staff. The training on the ODE evaluation process is for certified staff only. All staff received behavior and engagement training.
- Scott Rickard indicated his approval of seeing the attendance rates. Jim Helmen shared that he has asked his administrators to include in their reports data relating to behavior, instruction, and other specific data directly tied to the District priorities.
- Stacey Pelster asked if the attendance rates include VFA students? Yes.
- 4.1.1 Fall Sports Report:** The Board reviewed the report prior to the meeting. Scott Rickard asked if VMS football is 9-man? Yes. FALL SPORTS REPORT
- 5.0 BUSINESS REPORTS:**
- 5.1 Superintendent Report:** The Superintendent report was provided to the Board prior to the meeting. SUPERINTENDENT REPORT
- Jim Helmen stated that he tries to align his board report to his Superintendent goals. The work that he is doing is getting the District closer to the 70-70-90 goal. The Superintendent goals are designed to ensure that the human, financial and capital resources are efficiently and effectively allocated based upon the priorities established by the District.
- Jim shared with the Board the District Continuous Improvement Plan (CIP). The CIP document is a 5-year plan outlining what the District is doing and how we are going to reach our goals. CIP PLAN SHARED
- Goal #1: Instruction**
- Increase academic achievement and growth in English Language Arts
 - Increase academic achievement and growth in Math

- Implement the 5 Pillar Exceptional Teacher Evaluation System
- Increase the availability of mentoring and instructional coaching throughout the District

Goal #2 – Student Engagement

- Attendance; students attend at least 92% of school days
- Freshmen will earn six credits their Freshmen year
- Reduce off-task behavior incidents that impact engagement and achievement

Goal #3 – Inclusive and Equitable Programs

Goal #4 – Wellness –Social Emotional Learning (SEL)

- Increase student mental health supports

Discussion was held on attendance and behavior data and the changes in rates from the 2022-23 year to the first quarter of 2023-24. Last year attendance barriers were identified and getting kids here has improved. Incentives are working. Mr. Helmen complimented his administrative team on the attendance incentives they are doing. Some recent activities include:

- Opening the gym before school for students to come and play basketball. Opening the music room early was suggested.
- Logger Power Hour is a place to work on grades but if grades are good students can play ping-pong or basketball
- Donuts or popcorn for regular attendance

Chronic absenteeism is not daily attendance but this stat is determined by looking at how many kids missed more than 17 days over the course of the school year. Data teams are looking at this data on a regular basis and discussing how to remove the barriers causing students to be chronically absent.

Behavior is a barrier to kids learning in the classroom. This includes both those students that are having issues as well as other students impacted by the behavior. Strategies to lessen behavior include:

- Positive Behavior Intervention System (PBIS) for all K-12 grades
- 123 Magic program for K-8 grades
- Drug and Alcohol education and prevention programming K-12
- Student Mentor Program – Logger Buddies
- Aren't contact protocols for staff related to behavior incidences in the classroom

The new 5 Pillar evaluation system was needed to align with our 70/70/90 goal. Administrators are conducting regular classroom walkthroughs. Staff are working hard and we are seeing the outcomes. Scott Rickard asked how the District determines what is driving the outcomes? According to Mr. Helmen, data is looked at every week and we are using that data to drive the direction.

Greg Kintz asked about the "Highly Qualified" designation for teachers and staff. He is not certain what the criteria is for them to be considered highly qualified. Mr. Helmen shared that the 2 easiest ways for a classified staff member to be highly qualified is for them to have an Associates Degree or pass the Workkeys test within 90 days of hire. Susanne Myers monitors this for the District. Extended time has been offered to some that might struggle with the assessment. Mr. Helmen offered to present on this at the next meeting.

DISCUSSION ON ATTENDANCE and BEHAVIOR DATA RATES

NEW TEACHER EVALUATION SYSTEM DISCUSSED

HIGHLY QUALIFIED DESIGNATION DISCUSSED

5.2 Financial Report: Marie Knight shared that ODE published the State School Fund (SSF) estimate today. Our SSF estimated amount is flat which is good news. 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. Greg Kintz asked if cheer mats sold. Yes. The old basketball jerseys were given away.

MAINTENANCE REPORT

6.0 BOARD REPORTS/ BOARD DEVELOPMENT:

6.1 COMMITTEE REPORTS

COMMITTEE REPORTS

6.1.1 Safety Committee – no update provided

6.1.2 Policy Committee – the committee has reviewed more policies and will be placed on the

agenda next month for a 1st reading

6.1.3 Scholarship Committee – no update provided

7.0 OTHER INFORMATION and DISCUSSION

7.1 OSAA Coop Agreement with Rainier School District: Four Vernonia students initially expressed interest in joining the swim team with Rainier. The agreement is for both boys' and girls' teams. OSAA COOP AGREEMENT DISCUSSED

8.0 ACTION ITEMS:

8.1 OSAA Cooperative Agreement: Stacey Pelster moved to approve the OSAA Athletic Cooperative agreement with Rainier for the 2023-24 Boys' and Girls' swimming as discussed. Amy Cieloha seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously. OSAA COOP AGREEMENT WITH RAINIER APPROVED

9.0 MONITORING BOARD PERFORMANCE: Susan Wagner mentioned talking over each other and asked all to be thoughtful about only one person speaking at a time. BOARD PERFORMANCE

10.0 CONSENT AGENDA: CONSENT AGENDA

10.1 Minutes of 11/09/2023 Regular Meeting

Greg Kintz moved to approve the consent agenda as presented. Javoss McGuire seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously. CONSENT AGENDA APPROVED

11.0 OTHER ISSUES: Next agenda setting meeting will be Scott Rickard and Joanie Jones. OTHER ISSUES

Greg Kintz shared that the OSBA meeting in December was very tumultuous. In the middle of a recent meeting the Executive Director got up and walked out. The Assistant Director is taking over as interim. Next week a meeting will take place with outside counsel to help get things back on track. A new director will have to be hired. He also shared that the outcome of the resolution creating a Rural Schools Caucus will be determined soon.

Susan Wagner shared that she, Amy and Greg attended the annual OSBA Conference in November. The keynote speaker, Dr. Adolf Brown, was remarkable. Greg Kintz stated that there was great attendance at the regional round table.

Amy Cieloha appreciates the opportunity to go to the conference and enjoyed sitting through the session on "Student Voice" as well as learning about the early childhood program in the St. Helens District.

Jim Helmen shared he appreciated getting to spend time with board members in a different environment.

12.0 MEETING ADJOURNED at 7:17 p.m. ADJOURNED

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

Scott Rickard
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Board Chair

DocuSigned by:
Jim Helmen
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District Clerk