

# MEETING MINUTES

## VERNONIA SCHOOL DISTRICT BOARD of DIRECTORS Regular Meeting – December 11, 2025 Vernonia Schools Building, 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 6:01 p.m. by Greg Kintz, Board Chair. MEETING CALLED TO ORDER
- Board Present:** Greg Kintz, Joanie Jones, Amy Cieloha, Lisa Curry, Javoss McGuire, Tony Holmes and Alicia Mahoney. BOARD PRESENT
- Board Absent:** None. BOARD ABSENT
- Staff Present:** Jim Helmen, Superintendent; Nate Underwood, Middle High School Principal; Michelle Eagleson, Elementary Principal; Marie Knight, Business Manager; Mark Brown, Maintenance Supervisor; Barb Carr, Administrative Assistant; Brett Costley, Rachel Brown, Kendra Schlegel, Justin Ward, and Doug Bilodeau, Licensed Staff; and Teresa Williams, Tiffany Little, and Karen Roberts, Classified Staff. STAFF PRESENT
- Visitors Present:** Thomas Jones and 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. AGENDA REVIEW
- 3.0 PUBLIC COMMENT ON AGENDA and NON-AGENDA ITEMS:** None. PUBLIC COMMENT
- 4.0 SHOWCASING OF SCHOOLS**
- 4.1 Administrator Reports:** All Administrator reports were provided to the Board prior to the meeting. ADMINISTRATOR REPORTS
- Michelle Eagleson shared that the Vernonia and Mist Elementary Winter Holiday Concert will be held on December 16<sup>th</sup> beginning at 6:00 p.m. The event has been moved to the large gym for seating availability. Santa Claus will be available and there will be cookies for all.
- Nate Underwood shared that Mrs. Barrie and her students did a great job at the middle/high school band and choir concert held last week. Mrs. Barrie goes above and beyond by providing students leadership roles in band and choir such as officers, etc.
- Rachel Brown, social studies teacher at VHS has taken over the student trip to Germany this year. The trip has adjusted from when originally approved last Spring. It will now be 10 days and students will visit Budapest, Vienna and Prague as well as Munich. The change added a small amount to the total cost bringing the amount per student to \$4400. Travel dates are March 20 – 29, 2026.
- Brett Costley shared that his electrical engineering class has started programming small boards, with input and output that can be hooked up to sensors and motors.
- 4.2 Fall Sports Report:** The Fall Sports report was provided to the Board prior to the meeting. FALL SPORTS REPORT
- Teresa Williams and Justin Ward added comments about the VHS Clay Target team. In their recent competition, 6 students participated, with Nova Gleason finishing 3<sup>rd</sup> in female competition and Jonathon Swart finishing 5<sup>th</sup> in male competition.
- Justin Ward shared that they are working to advertise athletics more through social media. The number of kids participating is up in some sports and down in others. Football is seeing the most decline at both middle and high school levels. They are researching and looking into new helmets that reduce concussions. They are also working with the Vernonia Boosters to increase youth numbers.

Last summer 8 different clinic/training opportunities for athletes were held. Jim Helmen asked for some community input to help increase participation. Lisa Curry offered the suggestion of holding fundraisers where high school athletes put on a clinic to the youth. Fees to attend the clinic will help to fund the program. Amy Cieloha stated that notice of clinics needs to happen more timely. By the time she saw the announcement, some clinics had already taken place.

Justin Ward shared they are still looking for a Baseball head coach and is working with the Boosters on grant ideas to try and fix the baseball field. He is also discussing with the CTE program about possibly constructing an outdoor batting cage.

It was noted that the track will need to be resurfaced in the next couple of years and suggests setting aside money each year to ensure this can happen.

They are focusing on increasing attendance and spirit at home athletic events by holding theme nights. A chili feed is scheduled for January 9<sup>th</sup> and discussion of other ideas to raise the numbers of people attending events and supporting the students is taking place..

## 5.0 BUSINESS REPORTS:

**5.1 Superintendent Report:** The Superintendent report was provided to the Board prior to the meeting.

SUPERINTENDENT  
REPORT

Alicia Mahoney asked if we know yet how the reinstated Rural Funding will impact us? According to Mr. Helmen it is too soon to know.

Lisa Curry recently attended another District's board meeting. She wanted to recognize our staff for a great job. She can compare and see how our district is doing.

**Oregon Report Card Findings – District At-A-Glance and Individual School Outcomes:** Mr. Helmen shared a graph that compares our district to other districts in our region. Per the graph, Vernonia is outperforming many of the other districts in Grade 3 ELA, Grade 8 Math, On Track to Graduate, On-Time Graduation, and 5-year Graduation. The one area we are not outperforming as many districts is Regular Attenders. The District goal is still 70 / 70 / 90.

OREGON REPORT CARD  
FINDINGS SHARED

### **2024-25 Smarter Balance Report Card:**

Outcomes in the major areas of ELA, Math and Science and comparisons to previous years was reviewed. English Language Arts is showing steady growth. Math at the high school shows a decline due to not having a highly qualified math teacher the last few years. Science is starting to climb and better numbers in the next few years are anticipated.

2024-25 SMARTER  
BALANCE REPORT CARD  
SHARED

The last community engagement night question responses were reviewed. Families highlighted that support, love, and engagement in sports and the arts help their children feel successful at school. However, many see lack of discipline, phone distractions, and bullying as the major barriers to success.

**Districtwide Renaissance STAR Growth Report for Math and Reading:** This information is not standardized but assesses students against every other student taking the same test in the same grade level at the same time. In Reading Proficiency, the trend shows that the overall proficiency rose from 38.4% in Fall 2022-23 to 51% in Fall 2025-26. In Math Proficiency, the trend shows overall proficiency increased from 15.7% in Fall 2022-23 to 24.1% in Fall of 2025-26.

RENAISSANCE STAR  
GROWTH REPORT  
SHARED

**5.2 Financial Report:** Marie Knight provided her reports which provides more information and speaks to board member comments at the last meeting. Lisa Curry stated she felt the reports were extremely helpful.

FINANCIAL REPORT

Marie shared that annually the District is audited financially. This past Spring there was also a review of the Food Service Department. In the Fall, she went through a Food Service procurement review. She received the final letter this week and there were no areas out of compliance from O.D.E.

5.3	<b>Maintenance Report:</b> Mark Brown's report was provided to the Board prior to the meeting.	MAINTENANCE REPORT
	There was a question about vandalism on the last couple of reports. Does vandalism continue to happen or is the notation on the report an error? According to Mark Brown, the vandalism is ongoing and continues to happen. They are looking at moving the food bank shed closer to the school to eliminate the vandalism.	
	There has not been any recent issues with the Mist water since staff are checking to ensure toilets aren't running and continuing to turn the water off when they leave.	
6.0	<b>BOARD REPORTS/ BOARD DEVELOPMENT:</b>	
	<b>6.1 Committee Reports:</b>	COMMITTEE UPDATES
	<b>6.1.1 Policy Committee:</b> The committee did not meet this month.	POLICY COMMITTEE
	<b>6.1.2 Safety Committee:</b> Amy Cieloha shared that the Safety Committee is currently discussing the installation of hoses in the shop for the air compressor and the Mist request to have a lock down procedure.	SAFETY COMMITTEE
	<b>6.1.3 Scholarship Committee:</b> Amy Cieloha shared that Joanie Jones had talked with CTE instructor, Mr. Benassi regarding the Career Scholarship. His recommendation was to leave the GPA at 2.5 but in specific CTE courses that GPA should be higher, 3.00 - 4.00.	SCHOLARSHIP COMMITTEE
70	<b>OTHER INFORMATION and DISCUSSION</b>	
	<b>7.1 Policy 2<sup>nd</sup> Reading:</b> The following policies were presented for a second reading.	2 <sup>nd</sup> READING OF UPDATED POLICIES
	7.1.1 GCBDE/GDBDE – Military Leave of Absence	
	7.1.2 DJ-AR – Expenditure of District Funds for Meals, Refreshments and Gifts	
	7.1.3 IF – District Curriculum	
	7.1.4 GCBDE/GDBDE – Sick Leave – Personal Illness and Injury Leave	
	7.1.5 DBEA – Budget Committee (ver. 2)	
	7.1.6 BBFA – Board Member Ethics and Conflicts of Interest	
	7.1.7 IKF - Graduation Requirements	
	7.1.8 IGBHD – Program Exemptions	
	7.1.9 CEA – Educational Equity Advisory Committee	
	7.1.10 IGBAB/JO-AR – Education Records/Records of Student with Disabilities Management	
	<b>7.2 SIA Grant Presentation:</b> Annually the District must present the grant agreement publicly and share how funds will be used to support student success. Mr. Helmen provided the Project/Activity, and Focus/Purpose for both the Academic Readiness K-12 Goal and the CTE Programming goal.	SIA GRANT AGREEMENT PRESENTATION
	<b>7.3 Annual Report Card Presentation:</b> This was reported on previously during the Superintendent's Report in item 5.1.	ANNUAL REPORT CARD REVIEWED
	<b>7.4 STAR Renaissance Reading and Math Fall Report:</b> This was reported on previously during the Superintendent's Report in item 5.1.	STAR RENAISSANCE READING & MATH REPORT
8.0	<b>ACTION ITEMS</b>	
	<b>8.1 Policy Approval:</b> Joanie Jones moved to approve the policies presented in item 7.1. Alicia Mahoney seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.	POLICIES APPROVED
	<b>8.2 SIA Grant Agreement:</b> Javoss McGuire moved to approve the SIA Grant Agreement as presented. Amy Cieloha seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.	SIA GRANT AGREEMENT APPROVED
9.0	<b>MONITORING BOARD PERFORMANCE:</b> Nothing discussed.	MONITORING BOARD PERFORMANCE
10.0	<b>CONSENT AGENDA:</b>	CONSENT AGENDA
	<b>10.1</b> Minutes of 11/13/2025 Regular Meeting.	
	Alicia Mahoney moved to approve the consent agenda as presented. Javoss McGuire seconded the	CONSENT AGENDA

motion. Motion passed unanimously.

APPROVED

**11.0 OTHER ISSUES:**

OTHER ISSUES

Next Agenda Setting Meeting – Tuesday, Dec. 30<sup>th</sup> 5 pm. Alicia Mahoney volunteered.

The Board discussed possible dates for a Special Meeting to review complaints received. The meeting was set for Monday, December 15, 2025 at 5:00 p.m.

SPECIAL MEETING DATE  
SET

**12.0 UPCOMING DATES:**

UPCOMING DATES

December 15, 2025 – Staff Holiday Gathering 2:15 – 3:15

December 16, 2025 – Elementary Holiday Program 6:00 p.m.

December 19- Jan. 2, 2026 – Winter Break

**13.0 MEETING ADJOURNED at 7:40p.m.**

ADJOURNED

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

Board Chair

District Clerk