

MEETING MINUTES

VERNONIA SCHOOL DISTRICT BOARD of DIRECTORS Regular Meeting – October 14, 2021

- 1.0 CALL TO ORDER:** A Regular Meeting of the of Directors of Administrative School District 47J, Columbia County, Oregon was called to order at 6:09 p.m. by Stacey Pelster. MEETING CALLED TO ORDER
- Board Present:** Stacey Pelster (virtual), Javoss McGuire, Susan Wagner, Scott Rickard, Amy Cieloha (by phone), Joanie Jones, and Greg Kintz BOARD PRESENT
- Board Absent:** None BOARD ABSENT
- Staff Present:** Aaron Miller, Superintendent; Nate Underwood, MS/HS Principal; Michelle Eagleson, Elementary Principal; Rachel Wilson, K-12 Vice Principal; Marie Knight, Business Manager; Barb Carr, Administrative Assistant; Celeste Avy, Robin Manning, Juliet Safier, Kendra Schlegel and Sena Wilmoth, Licensed staff; and Camrin Eyrrick, Allisa Hartman and Richard Traver, Classified Staff. STAFF PRESENT
- Visitors Present:** Scott Laird VISITORS PRESENT
- 1.1** The Pledge of Allegiance was recited. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE
- 2.0 AGENDA REVIEW:** Aaron Miller shared that he is postponing Business Report #5.4 SIA Annual Report until November. Added item #7.5 Staff Resignation under Other Information and Discussion and the corresponding Action Item #8.5. AGENDA REVIEW
- Greg Kintz moved to approve the agenda as amended. Joanie Jones seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.
- 3.0 SHOWCASING OF SCHOOLS:** SHOWCASING OF SCHOOLS
- 3.1 Principals' Reports:** ELEMENTARY SCHOOL PRINCIPAL REPORT
- Michelle Eagleson reported that enrollment at the elementary level is currently 169 at VES and 24 at Mist. Elementary staff has been busy getting students used to routines and expectations. Kindergarten now has two teachers and smaller class sizes at VES. All K-5 students have been tested for reading and Mrs. Schlegel will share those results, next. CORE review meetings are underway and after analyzation of reading data, common agreements around instructional practices have been determined. This will aid to implement the drive in reading instruction. Elementary staff have also been involved in their Professional Learning Communities (PLC) discussing the most important standards to address for reading and math. All teachers have been working with their students to access Google Classroom when they have need to be absent from school. VES Kindergarten students went on the annual Salmon Watch field trip today learning a lot outdoors. Mist internet upgrade is done and working well.
- Kendra Schlegel shared that all VES, Mist and about 75% of VFA students have been tested. The District as a whole saw 39% of students tested significantly below grade level, 13% were slightly below grade level and 48% were at grade level or above. This is a big shift from the data collected in the Fall of 2020. Our students tested better this Fall, with not a lot of student learning loss over the summer. Teachers have reviewed the data and have made agreements and plans on how they can support all students, specifically in the area of phonics, choral responses, and enhanced core reading. A question was asked for clarification on choral response. This is when a question is asked and all students respond collectively. READING DATA SHARED
- Nate Underwood reported that it is great to have students on site and learning daily in the classroom. The first quarter this year is shorter due to the delayed start and will end on Nov. 5th. Middle and high school staff are working in their PLC groups and additionally working on their track teams. Teachers that work with Freshman are working on keeping them on track to MIDDLE / HIGH SCHOOL PRINCIPAL REPORT

graduate. 9th Grade is a key grade for indicating successful graduation rates. This was a very successful focus prior to COVID. Due to the success at the 9th grade level, staff have taken this concept and incorporated 8th and 10th grade track teams. In the event of student absences or possible quarantine situations, Google Classroom is available to all students. If a total comprehensive distance learning model returns, the Google Classroom is ready to go. Next week students will participate in a modified Homecoming schedule. Coronation will take place at the Football game halftime next Friday. Ms. Bae has started a Tri-Music National Honor society and 12 students have been selected and recognized. The Germany trip next Spring Break is still a go, with 9-10 students wanting to go, continuing to meet and starting to fundraise. The Breaking Down the Walls assembly/workshop was a huge success. This was put on by Mr. Krahn's Project Based Learning class. Middle and high school students spent a day getting to know fellow students better. The athletic program is doing a great job following all the mask protocols.

Rachel Wilson shared that normalcy has returned with students starting to exhibit behavior that needs coaching. She stated it feels good to be talking with students one on one again. Next month she will have data to share on discipline.

K-12 VICE PRINCIPAL REPORT

4.0 PUBLIC COMMENT ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS: None

PUBLIC COMMENT

5.0 BUSINESS REPORTS:

5.1 Superintendent Report: Aaron Miller updated the Board on the following:

SUPERINTENDENT REPORT

- Salmon Watch field trip was a great success. Having students outside is always a plus. Thanks to Dr. Thomas, who owns property on Rock Creek, this annual learning field trip has occurred for 13 years. Last year it didn't happen and was missed. Students saw some planted salmon and some that had spawned out naturally in Rock Creek.
- Mist Internet Starlink connection is working well. All students are able to be connected to the Internet at the same time and the teachers are happy with it. Conversations are happening with neighboring Districts to try and get more direct service. There may be an opportunity to install a tower for the school and community of Mist.
- Weekly virtual meetings with parents on Tuesdays are continuing. To date three meetings have been held. The first meeting 15 people attended. At the 2nd and 3rd meeting only one parent attended. They are asking good questions. These will continue through the end of October.
- After the Board workshop with Steve Kelley, it appears any board committees require public notice of meetings and minutes. There are several committees that don't warrant all the work to post and take minutes. Therefore, these will be changing to a Superintendent Advisory committee. These will be shared that there is availability to be on the advisory committee and then Board members will send their interest to Supt. Miller. He will notify the Board at the next meeting who is on a committee.
- Currently our 4th grade students are out for the remainder of this week on quarantine. No student was identified as COVID positive, but as a precaution, with over 1/3 having similar symptoms, the District made the decision to quarantine. Currently no reports have been received from parents that there are other students (siblings in other grades) with symptoms. The precautionary measures will hopefully keep the school from a full quarantine situation.
- Enrollment is up to 570 students K-12 including approximately 122 students at Vernonia Family Academy. The District enrollment of 570 is approximately 40 students more than last year. This will be monitored as the year continues.
- Final Bond numbers have been determined. \$30,279.78 remain in this fund and will be contributed to and be utilized with other funds raised by the Stadium Campaign. With the District's contribution to their efforts they will have enough to be able to install the infrastructure to get ready for future construction of a covered stadium, restrooms, and concession area.

ANNUAL SALMON WATCH FIELD TRIP

MIST INTERNET CONNECTION UPGRADED

PARENT VIRTUAL MTGS CONTINUE

BOARD COMMITTEES NOW TO BE SUPT. ADVISORY COMMITTEES

4th GRADE STUDENTS QUARANTINED

ENROLLMENT UP FOR 2021-22

FINAL BOND REVENUE TO GO TO STADIUM CAMPAIGN

A question from the Board was asked. Will a COVID policy be developed making things more clearly outlined for parents. According to Mr. Miller, delineating protocols is difficult as so many factors come into play with situations when determining if a student needs to be

quarantined. He and School Nurse Heidi Brown work directly with Columbia County Health and make any determination based on individual situations. The District continues to share all pertinent information.

Scott Laird asked if Mr. Miller would be reporting on Staff vaccination status with the upcoming October 18th deadline approaching. Mr. Miller shared that as of this point all staff are either fully vaccinated or have a valid medical or religious exception or have resigned. We do have one staff member that is pending and is taken care of within the guidelines. Monday will come and the District is not expecting any issues. Standard coverage with available substitutes continues to be a challenge. The District may experience impacts due to lack of available substitutes

STAFF VACCINATION
STAFF UPDATE

5.2 Financial Report: Marie Knight reported that it is still early in the fiscal year with only one payroll processed. After next payroll process all salaries will be encumbered for the year. Currently the ending fund balance is approximately \$337,000. She is almost done with the District's audit for the school year 2020-21. The exit interview with the Auditors was held yesterday and the final audit will be presented to the Board at the December meeting.

FINANCIAL REPORT

5.3 Maintenance Report: Mark Brown's report was reviewed by the Board. There were no questions regarding his report.

MAINTENANCE REPORT

5.4 SIA Annual Report: This item was removed during the Agenda Review. It is postponed until November.

SIA ANNUAL REPORT

6.0 BOARD REPORTS/ BOARD DEVELOPMENT:

6.1 Committee Reports: Susan Wagner shared that she has attended two Safety Committee meetings. Mr. Ward has been doing a great job taking over as Chair. There are thoughtful and intentional conversations taking place on day-to-day as well as long term safety concerns.

BOARD MEMBER
REPORTS

6.2 OSBA Board Self-Assessment: Stacey Pelster reminded the Board that the deadline to complete the Board Self-Assessment survey was yesterday. Steve Kelley will compile the results and share at this Saturday's workshop.

BOARD SELF
ASSESSMENT SURVEY

6.3 School Tour Workshop: Stacey Pelster asked to revisit this and get something scheduled soon. Barb Carr will send out a Doodle Poll. Board members were asked to respond quickly. It was noted that the 1st and 3rd Mondays as well as Oct. 21st and 22nd would not be good options to include in the Doodle poll.

DISCUSSION HELD TO
RESCHEDULE THE
WORKSHOP / SCHOOL
TOUR

7.0 OTHER INFORMATION and DISCUSSION

7.1 New Hire: Aaron Miller shared that the District has hired a second Kindergarten Teacher, Kyndra Wall.

WALL RECOMMENDED
FOR HIRE

7.2 Administration Memorandum of Agreement: Aaron Miller shared that the proposed agreement was reached between the Superintendent and the negotiation team of the Board. The recommendation is to approve the M.O.A.

ADMINISTRATIVE
MEMORANDUM OF
AGREEMENT
DISCUSSED

Greg Kintz asked how the proposed increase compares to the increases of both union contracts. Mr. Miller shared that the Administrative group has been working without an increase the last couple of years when both union contracts have moved forward. The proposed M.O.A. addresses this.

Amy Cieloha asked if the proposed M.O.A. addresses individuals or the whole group. Mr. Miller explained that the M.O.A. is a collective agreement with the group. The addition of the Social Emotional Health and Well Being Director has been added. This position has been in place for 3 years. It is being added to this M.O.A. as the old agreement has expired and this is the first opportunity to negotiate for the group.

Joanie Jones asked who were the Board members that negotiated with the Superintendent? Susan Wagner, Stacey Pelster and Javoss McGuire.

Scott Rickard noted the new component of the agreement addressing short term disability which is mandatory. Mr. Miller noted this is the same language that has been added to all other

agreements. There are no financial impacts to the District for having this but offers benefits to the employee. It is mandatory and employees pay for it in their monthly paychecks. The District, at the end of the year, will reimburse the employees the amount they paid in premiums. Because it is mandatory there is no waiting period.

Amy Cieloha asked if the contract would guarantee what the District would have to pay if all these positions were active. Aaron Miller explained that he anticipates continuing to have all positions filled. All salaries included in the proposal fit into the District budget.

- 7.3 Superintendent Goals for 2021-22:** Aaron Miller shared his two 2021-22 Superintendent Goals that align with the District Priorities. He came up with his goals by looking at the District Priorities as well as looking at the needs of students and staff as well as reviewing initiatives that are necessary to keep the District moving forward. The learning barriers that kids have when they come to school due to traumatic events is huge. SUPERINTENDENT GOALS SHARED

Goal #1 – Increase Student Achievement and Teacher Effectiveness:

- Participating in and overseeing the full implementation of consistent, District-wide Professional Learning Community (PLC) practices and processes.
- Gathering student, staff, community and Board input to update the District’s Strategic Plan and Student Success Act spending priorities.

Goal #2 – Ensure Equity for ALL students

- Continuing to place Social/Emotional Learning (SEL) and support for students as the highest priority for staff development.
- Continuing to support and enhance the SEL Director’s work in embedding SEL practices into all aspects of education in the District.

Discussion was held about the Board developing a third goal. Susan Wagner expressed concern about addressing this quickly and as a cold call and suggested perhaps adding to the upcoming workshop. Aaron Miller echoed that concern. It’s a big undertaking and shouldn’t be determined with a quick discussion.

Scott Rickard asked that this item be added to the upcoming workshop agenda. This Board was in agreement.

- 7.4 Superintendent Contract:** Stacey Pelster shared that the Board negotiation team recommends the contract as presented. The Superintendent contract is a rolling three year contract however this proposal is for two years. The cell phone stipend was increased and the short term disability clause previously discussed with the Administrative M.O.A. was also added. SUPERINTENDENT CONTRACT DISCUSSED

Greg Kintz asked for the explanation on the length of the contract term. It decreased from three years to two as Mr. Miller is planning to announce his retirement. He will likely work one of the two years in the contract.

- 7.5 Staff Resignation:** Aaron Miller shared that 3rd grade teacher Kiara Single submitted a 60 day notice of resignation, effective December 7, 2021. RESIGNATION SHARED

8.0 ACTION ITEMS

- 8.1 New Hire:** Amy Cieloha moved to approve the Superintendent’s recommendation to hire Kyndra Wall, Kindergarten teacher. Javoss McGuire seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously. WALL HIRED
- 8.2 Administration Memorandum of Agreement:** Scott Rickard moved to approve the 2021-2024 Administrative Memorandum of Agreement as presented and discussed. Javoss McGuire seconded the motion. Yes votes: Stacey Pelster, Susan Wagner Joanie Jones, Greg Kintz, Javoss McGuire, and Scott Rickard. No votes: Amy Cieloha. Motion passed. ADMINISTRATIVE M.O.A. APPROVED
- 8.3 Superintendent Goals for 2021-22:** Javoss McGuire moved to approve the Superintendent Goals for 2021-22 as discussed. Amy Cieloha seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously. SUPT. GOALS FOR 2021-22 APPROVED
- 8.4 Superintendent Contract:** Javoss McGuire moved to approve the Superintendent’s contract SUPERINTENDENT 2021-

as presented and discussed. Scott Rickard seconded the motion. Yes votes: Stacey Pelster, Susan Wagner, Joanie Jones, Javoss McGuire and Scott Rickard. No votes: Greg Kintz and Amy Cieloha. Motion passed. 2023 CONTRACT APPROVED

8.5 Staff Resignation: Susan Wagner moved to accept the resignation of Kiara Single effective Dec. 7th. Javoss McGuire seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously. SINGLE RESIGNATION ACCEPTED

10.0 MONITORING BOARD PERFORMANCE: This Saturday a workshop will be held as the 2nd training session in the short DEMSP program. 9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. virtually. MONITORING BOARD PERFORMANCE

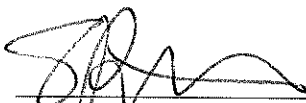
11.0 CONSENT AGENDA:
12.1 Minutes of 09/09/21 Regular Meeting, 09/11/21 and 09/22/21 Workshop, and 09/16/21 Special Meeting CONSENT AGENDA MINUTES APPROVED

Amy Cieloha moved to approve the consent agenda as presented. Scott Rickard seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously. CONSENT AGENDA APPROVED

Other Board Issues: None

12.0 MEETING ADJOURNED at 7:28 pm. ADJOURNED

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



Board Chair



District Clerk

