

MEETING MINUTES

VERNONIA SCHOOL DISTRICT BOARD of DIRECTORS Special Meeting – March 4, 2026 Vernonia Schools, 1000 Missouri Avenue, Vernonia

- 1. CALL TO ORDER:** A Special Meeting of the Board of Directors of Vernonia School District 47J, Columbia County, Oregon was called to order at 5:33 p.m. by Greg Kintz. MEETING CALLED TO ORDER
- 1.1** The Flag Salute was recited.
- Board Present:** Lisa Curry, Alicia Mahoney, Amy Cieloha, Greg Kintz, Joanie Jones, and Javoss McGuire BOARD PRESENT
- Board Absent:** Tony Holmes BOARD ABSENT
- Staff Present:** Barb Carr, Administrative Assistant; Nate Underwood, Middle and High School Principal; Jennifer Schram, Juliet Safier, Lee Costanzo, and Brett Costley, Licensed Staff; and Jana Titus and Karen Roberts, Classified Staff. STAFF PRESENT
- Visitors Present:** Trent Grundmeyer, Dave Kline, Bryan Starr, Aaron Bayer, Scott Laird, and Tonya Cairo. VISITORS PRESENT
- 2.0 AGENDA REVIEW:** Alicia Mahoney moved to approve the agenda as presented. Lisa Curry seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously with those in attendance. AGENDA REVIEW
- 3.0 DISCUSSION**
- 3.1 Superintendent Search Agency Proposal Review:** SUPT SEARCH AGENCY DISCUSSION & PRESENTATION
Trent Grundmeyer, Dave Kline, Bryan Starr and Aaron Bayer with Grundmeyer Leader Services (GLS) presented their services as a Superintendent Search Agency.
Highlights included:
- Proposed hiring timeline
 - Identifying desired qualifications
 - Recruiting diverse and qualified candidates
 - Candidate screening
 - Formal interview process
 - Finalist feedback charts
 - Finalist profiles, background check, and due diligence
- The Oregon School Boards Association (OSBA) submitted a written proposal for consideration. The Board reviewed their written proposal. There was not anyone present from OSBA in the audience.
- Discussion was held on the proposals received from GLS and OSBA. The search fees were reviewed, compared and discussed. It was noted that additional expenses for travel and lodging would be incurred by the district when bringing finalists to Vernonia for interviews.
- Comments in support of the GLS proposal included:
1. The added option of a first year facilitated 360 Evaluation on the new superintendent
 2. If unsuccessful in filling the position with a permanent hire, an interim would be found. The following year GLS would again conduct a search at only their costs.
 3. The candidate summary provided after all research is conducted by GLS was appealing.
 4. Less of a time commitment by the Board conducting background checks and reference checking
- 4.0 ACTION**
- 4.1 Hire Superintendent Search Agency.** Lisa Curry moved to enter into a contract with Grundmeyer Leader Services (GLS) for the purposes of conducting a search for a new superintendent. Amy Cieloha seconded the motion. No further discussion. Motion passed unanimously with those in attendance. SUPT SEARCH AGENCY HIRED

5.0 RECESS to EXECUTIVE SESSION Under O.R.S. 192.660 (2) (i) “To review and evaluate the performance of the chief executive officer or any other public officer, employee or staff member...” at 6:32 p.m.

RECESS TO
EXECUTIVE
SESSION

The Board reviewed Superintendent Helmen’s 2025-26 evaluation.

6.0 RETURN TO SPECIAL MEETING at 7:28 p.m.

RETURN TO
SPECIAL MEETING

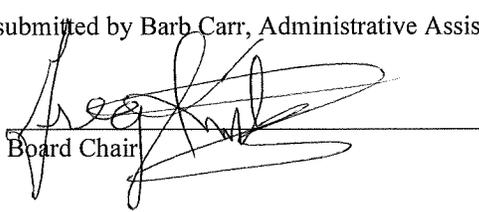
7.0 OTHER ISSUES: Alicia Mahoney moved to give Greg Kintz authority to speak on behalf of the Board with Superintendent Helmen to give direction to separate the Special Education Director and Superintendent positions for budgeting purposes. Lisa Curry seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously with those in attendance.

KINTZ GIVEN
AUTHORITY TO
DIRECT SUPT

8.0 ADJOURN: The Special Meeting adjourned at 7:36 p.m.

ADJOURNED

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



Board Chair



District Clerk