

MEETING MINUTES

VERNONIA SCHOOL DISTRICT BOARD of DIRECTORS Workshop Meeting – January 29, 2022 Vernonia Schools Library, 1000 Missouri Avenue, Vernonia

CALL TO ORDER: A Workshop of the Board of Directors of Vernonia School District 47J, Columbia County, Oregon was called to order at 9:06 a.m. by Stacey Pelster

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER

Board Present: Susan Wagner (virtual), Stacey Pelster, Joanie Jones, Amy Cieloha, Javoss McGuire. Greg Kintz arrived at 9:12 a.m.

BOARD PRESENT

Board Absent: Scott Rickard

BOARD ABSENT

Staff Present: Aaron Miller, Superintendent; Barb Carr, Administrative Assistant; and Members of the District Leadership Team (DLT): Nate Underwood, Michelle Eagleson, Kendra Schlegel, Justin Ward, Debbie Taylor, and Susanne Myers,

STAFF PRESENT

Visitors Present: Janet Avila-Medina, OSBA

VISITORS

1. **Welcome Back:** Janet Avila-Medina introduced herself as did those attending.

2. **Session #2 Brief Recap/Check-In:** Janet Avila-Medina gave an overview for the purpose of DEMSP training program which is to work collaboratively on a Board project to improve student achievement.

SESSION #2 RECAP

Collaborative governance utilizes effective partnerships to learn and lead together. Trust and respect is present with a shared focus on student learning.

Janet reviewed the Superintendent Evaluation Process which has been modified due to the Superintendent retiring. She stressed the importance of creating the Superintendent / Board Operating Agreement by July 1st. Janet recommends creating this now to have in place for when the new Superintendent starts but the Board could opt to wait and do the work with the new Superintendent.

The DEMSP Half Program is a total of 4 sessions. This is session #3.

3. **Session #3: Board Project with District Leadership Team:** District priorities have been created. There are a total of three priorities.

SESSION #3

Priority #1 – *Through focused, differentiated learning opportunities all students will show continuous growth toward their personalized learning goals to be prepared for their future career paths.*

Priority #1 Focus Area – *Improve Academic Proficiency Levels for All Students*

Strategic Planning Process Overview is currently in process.

The Board Project is to implement a monitoring plan for District Priorities. Today, the focus of the work to be done includes:

- Performance indicators – what is the data/information you agree to look at
- Progress timeline – when will the data be available
- Expected results – what should be seen as progress

District Priority:

1. How will the District achieve this priority?
2. What work is the District currently doing to achieve this priority?
3. What work, programs, data is missing?
4. What progress does the Board want to continue seeing?

Aaron Miller talked about ABC Data – Attendance, Behavior, and Coursework data.

The group reviewed the SWIS (School-Wide Information System) report. It was noted that the data is a bit skewed as students have been in and out of distance learning. Overall our behavior issues are very minor and well below national averages.

Michelle Eagleson talked about data on reading and math scores at Vernonia and Mist Elementary. She explained that her Staff looks at the data and discusses how to address issues. Their goal is to have 80% of students performing at Grade level. Work is being done to develop having this data available for middle school so that student performance can be linear during the time when students transition from elementary to middle school.

Stacey Pelster requested comparison data of students that are struggling academically and are also having behavioral and attendance issues.

Further discussion on behavior data occurred.

Amy Cieloha stated that she does not like the number of referrals reported at the Kindergarten level. How is this being handled? Is this making the student feel bad or the parent feel like a failure when their student gets so many referrals? Aaron Miller shared that the referral just tracks the behavior, it is not punitive to the student.

Debbie Taylor asked if we are tracking positive student interactions? She feels this data would be valuable to be able to see the positive results. It is being tracked through behavior plans or IEPs, however this data does not show in SWIS, and therefore not part of the SWIS behavioral data reports.

Janet Avila-Medina stated that the conversation is going well between the Board and DLT. Members of the DLT are the experts and know the areas thoroughly. She also mentioned the added layers of stress on parents during the pandemic. Janet recapped that the Board wants to look at referrals and positive responses. Aaron Miller shared that he could share data on kids already on behavior plans that have had positive results. Being able to report positive outcomes as a result of a minor referral that go into the SWIS system could be done by next year. It would take revising our current referral system, adjust the referral form, and train all staff on this piece so that data across the board is reported consistently. Without consistency, the data reported would not hold much value.

Joanie Jones asked if the Positive Behavior Interventions and Supports (PBIS) system addresses results? Nate Underwood shared the middle and high school has implemented the Social Emotional Learning (SEL) component just like at the elementary level. PBIS is a school wide system according to Justin Ward, and the middle and high school could get back to handing out reward tickets, as a positive response to good behavior, which has not been happening since the pandemic.

Positive feedback creates a culture. Mr. Underwood shared that the older kids, as a reward, want free time or food. They do hold Renaissance assemblies which rewards students for academic achievements and good attendance.

It was noted that finding how to engage students is a big deal. It is also mindful to recognize the kids that are doing well. They often are not recognized.

Debbie Taylor shared the success they are having in the Vernonia Family Academy by increasing the communication and relationship with parents. By working with parents more she sees the direct impact and improved relationship. Communication is a regular thing they do; make connection, check in, see how things are going at home.

Parents / volunteers have been away from the building due to the pandemic. How do we get this back? Offer events to invite parents to school. Kendra Schlegel shared that when they have held the kindergarten registration parents have come in to the school to celebrate their incoming kindergarten student. She plans to hold these types of event again when allowed.

A program suggestion was shared that involves the community. It is called "Adopt a Senior". Senior students are each paired with a member of the community that provides them with a monthly random gift and then attends their graduation. It was quite successful.

Janet Avila-Medina provided a summarized outline of Priority 1:

Performance Indicator:	Progress Timeline:	Expected Results:
PBIS and ABC Data	Quarterly	Growth and Trends
Revamped Referral System (positive & negative referrals)	One year	See results, hear success stories
Mentorship Program tied to Attendance & Performance		

Priority #2 – *Innovative and broad career path options for all students are provided through learning opportunities such as vocational, STEAM, field trips, curriculum and other interactive and personalized learning experiences.*

Priority #2 Focus Area – *Innovative Career Pathways*

Performance Indicator:	Progress Timeline:	Expected Results:
Program/Extracurricular Activities (availability, participation & completion data at all grade levels); Dual Credit Data	Quarterly	Availability, participation & completion data at grade levels
Longitudinal Data about Career Pathways	3-5 year tool	What are the pathways students selected who enrolled into the different programs

Discussion was held on having students on a specific career related track. There was concern of limiting students to one track when often times student interest changes.

What data would the Board like to see?

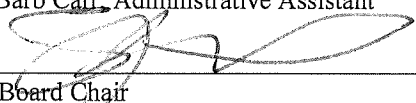
- What are the career pathways students have selected when they've enrolled in different programs?
- Student survey – opportunity questions on the survey could be used to show data.

4. **Next Meeting:** A Doodle Poll will be sent out to assist in the scheduling of the next DEMSP training session with the DLT.

ADJOURNED: Workshop adjourned at 11:57 a.m.

ADJOURNED

Submitted by Barb Carr, Administrative Assistant



 Board Chair



 District Clerk

