

MEETING MINUTES

VERNONIA SCHOOL DISTRICT BOARD of DIRECTORS Regular Meeting – August 11, 2022 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 6:01 p.m. by Susan Wagner. MEETING CALLED TO ORDER
- Board Present:** Susan Wagner, Greg Kintz, Scott Rickard, Amy Cieloha, and Joanie Jones. BOARD PRESENT
- Board Absent:** Stacey Pelster and Javoss McGuire BOARD ABSENT
- Staff Present:** Jim Helmen, Superintendent; Barb Carr, Administrative Assistant; Marie Knight, business Manager; Nate Underwood, MS/HS Principal; Michelle Eagleson, Elementary Principal; Rachel Wilson, K-12 Vice Principal; and Susanne Myers, Special Education Director. 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:** 7.1 2022-23 Calendar Adjustment and 7.2 New Hires were added under Other Information and Discussion. 8.2 Calendar Adjustment and 8.3 New Hires were added under Action Items. AGENDA REVIEW
- Amy Cieloha moved to approve the agenda as amended. Joanie Jones seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously with those in attendance.
- 3.0 PUBLIC COMMENT ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS:** None PUBLIC COMMENT
- 4.0 SHOWCASING OF SCHOOLS**
- 4.1** Principal Reports: Principal and Vice Principal Reports were provided to the Board. ADMINISTRATOR REPORTS
Questions and/or highlights were as follows:
- Nate Underwood shared that recent open positions at the high school, welding and band/choir, have been filled. Math teacher Dylan Taylor will take over the role of NHS Advisor.
- Amy Cieloha asked about math credit recovery over the summer and what that process looked like. Mr. Underwood shared that Ms. Murphy created math instruction on line for students. Students entering 9th grade needed to show progress in being prepared for high school. Students have also been identified in the 9th grade on track group to be monitored for continued progress. Most students are showing up and receiving help towards credit recovery.
- Susanne Myers, Special Education Director shared that the extended school year is starting next week for two weeks, summer enrichment activities are also happening. Greg Kintz commented that Beth Kintz is back part time to keep YTP going over the summer. He asked if the position has changed from the classified group. No it has not.
- Michelle Eagleson shared that there have been approximately 70 students have been in the building for summer enrichment. She has hired two teachers this week for 4th grade and hopes to confirm a new 2nd grade teacher soon. They are excited, and the perfect fit for our school.
- Jim Helmen recognized the Administrative team for working hard to prepare for the upcoming school year.
- 5.0 BUSINESS REPORTS:**
- 5.1 Superintendent Report:** Jim Helmen provided his Superintendent Report to the Board prior to the meeting. SUPERINTENDENT REPORT

Mr. Helmen was asked to explain further the options for policy review.
 Option #1 complete rewrite which takes 6-7 meetings with OSBA on site.
 Option #2 desk rewrite takes the same amount of time but without physical person on site
 Option #3 – Policy review committee reviews what we have and what is provided quarterly by OSBA. This option is the recommendation of Mr. Helmen. He will reach out to the board members on the Superintendent’s Advisory Committee on Policy - Amy Cieloha, Javoss McGuire, and Susan Wagner - to establish a time to meet.

Summer Meals increased last month from 25 to 145 daily meals served on average. The summer meal team is working great and has the help of outstanding student helpers.

The summer move of the District Office and some of the school offices was a big ordeal. In the end it is what is best for kids. There has been an impact to the school based health center but they have been willing and great to work with. Their space is now in the health room and will share with our school nurse. Mrs. Eagleson’s office is now located in the old reception area of the clinic. Ms. Wilson’s office is off the hallway by the cafeteria. Safety and line of site on kids is positive and improved.

Mr. Helmen hopes that by the next meeting he will have the District report card and data will align with our Continuous Improvement plan.

- 5.2 **Financial Report:** Marie Knight shared that the highlighted area is estimated and filled in with budgeted amounts. At the October meeting she will have a better idea with all staff set up and salaries encumbered. FINANCIAL REPORT

- 5.3 **Maintenance Report:** Mark Brown’s report was reviewed. Amy Cieloha asked again about the locks and if these have been repaired. There was a question about the item referencing damage to the water filling stations. Does this continue to occur or has this just carried forward on the report? Mr. Helmen will have a conversation with the maintenance supervisor. MAINTENANCE REPORT

- 5.4 **District Assessment Presentation:** Jim Helmen shared that student assessment is important to know what our baseline is and how to redirect or efforts if needed. He has done research on what are the assessments being done in higher performing schools. Susanne Myers, Special Education Director, did some further research, and the Administrative team settled on the program of *Star 360 Assessment*. DISTRICT ASSESSMENT PRESENTATION
 - What are Star 360 Assessments?
 - K-12 reading & math benchmarking assessments
 - Given 3 times per year – Fall, Winter and Spring
 - Computer Adaptive – number of questions and complexity changes based on individual student performance and progress
 - Each test takes 20 minutes on average to complete
 - What will be measured?
 - Star Reading – literature, informational text, language
 - Start Early Literacy (grades K-3) – print concepts, phonic awareness & word recognition, fluency and vocabulary
 - Star Math in both grades K-8 and 9-12
 - Highlights for our District will be:
 - Ability to see progress 3 times each year. Currently our 8th grade students are tested and then not tested again until 11th grade.
 - Program is user friendly and will be used for Vernonia, Mist, and VFA students.
 - Time for teacher to be able to review realistically every student.

This assessment program is \$26,000 initially with an annual cost of \$18,000 after the first year. There will be lots of work in the beginning but the benefit will be great. Growth will be seen from K-9th grade on the same standards.

6.0 BOARD REPORTS/ BOARD DEVELOPMENT: BOARD REPORTS

6.1 Committee Reports: No committee meetings.

6.2 OSBA Family Engagement Presentation: Board members Amy Cieloha, Greg Kintz and Susan Wagner attended the recently held OSBA Summer Conference. They gave a quick overview of

of the highlights.

- Susan Wagner brought home a great book *Engage Every Family*.
- How have things changed? Trying to think in a new way.
- Pointers on keeping public comments in control during board meetings
- Student involvement with diversified representation
- How to engage the disengaged families in the District
- Why would you choose our school?
- Looking at problems based on whether the issue is a kid or an adult problem
- Additional audience comment time for both agenda and non-agenda items

Susan Wagner stressed that these suggestions are not a way to add work to the administration but an encouragement to look at and do things differently. She thanked them for their work. She is feeling the positive energy and appreciates it.

Michelle Eagleson commented that she has started a community engagement group and will invite board members to join.

7.0 OTHER INFORMATION and DISCUSSION

- 7.1 **2022-23 Calendar Adjustment:** Jim Helmen shared that research shows the best time to educate elementary students is in the morning. To be intentional with the most opportune time and looking at our calendar, Mr. Helmen is proposing early release Mondays instead of the late start Wednesdays. Eliminating the staggered a.m. start times is also in his proposal. Some benefits to this recommendation include:
- Professional Development time on Monday afternoon gives everyone the ability to get the week started and look at the weekly expectations and strategies. If all students are released at the same time on Monday, staff can conduct professional development as one group.
 - Mondays are not interrupted by extra-curricular activities or athletic contests
 - Having all students start in the morning at the same time means one breakfast service and does not split staff supervision

2022-23 CALENDAR
ADJUSTMENT
DISCUSSED

The down side is change and the potential for our families to have day care issues. Overall the positive points outweigh the negative points.

The current daily schedule to Mist won't change much.

Offering afterschool daycare for elementary students was suggested by Amy Cieloha. Mr. Helmen stated that he is looking into options. There are a lot of regulations around day care situations.

Historically a Meet the Teacher Night has been held. Administrators discussed this and opted to change this to a Meet the Families Night. This will be held on Thursday, Sept. 1st. A BBQ dinner will be provided from 4:30-5:30 p.m. Classroom visits will take place from 5:30-6:30 p.m. The Board is invited and encouraged to attend.

- 7.2 **New Hires:** Notice of new hires was shared during Principal reports. NEW STAFF HIRES

8.0 ACTION ITEMS

- 8.1 **Star Reading / Math Assessment:** Joanie Jones moved to approve the purchase of the Star reading/Math Assessment as discussed. Amy Cieloha seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously with those in attendance. STAR READING/MATH ASSESSMENT PURCHASE APPROVED
- 8.2 **2022-23 Calendar Adjustment:** Amy Cieloha moved to approve the adjustments to the 2022-23 calendar as discussed. Greg Kintz seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously with those in attendance. 2022-23 CALENDAR ADJUSTED
- 8.3 **New Hires:** Scott Rickard moved to approve the superintendent's recommendation to hire Kyrsten Nothwang, 4th grade teacher, Kristen Johnston 4th grade teacher, Lee Costanzo, HS welding teacher and Megan Peterson MS/HS Band/Choir. Joanie Jones seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously with those in attendance. NEW HIRES

8.4 Policy Update Option: Amy Cieloha recommends policy review option #3 based on what was reviewed this evening. Scott Rickard seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously with those in attendance. POLICY OPTION #3 APPROVED

9.0 MONITORING BOARD PERFORMANCE: None

10.0 CONSENT AGENDA:

CONSENT AGENDA

10.1 Minutes of 17/14/22 Regular Meeting.

Amy Cieloha moved to approve the consent agenda as corrected (adding name to motion in item #7.5). Greg seconded the motion. All in attendance voted Yes, with the exception of Scott Rickard who abstained. Motion passed.

CONSENT AGENDA APPROVED


11.0 OTHER ISSUES: Agenda setting meeting for next month will be Stacey Pelster and Susan Wagner.

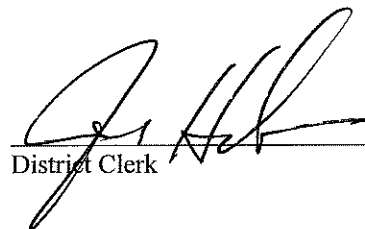
OTHER ISSUES

12.0 MEETING ADJOURNED at 8:00 p.m.

ADJOURNED

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


Board Chair


District Clerk