

# MEETING MINUTES

## VERNONIA SCHOOL DISTRICT BOARD of DIRECTORS Regular Meeting – August 08, 2024 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 6:00 p.m. by Susan Wagner. MEETING CALLED TO ORDER
- Board Present:** Susan Wagner, Amy Cieloha, Greg Kintz, Stacey Pelster, and Javoss McGuire (Virtual) BOARD PRESENT
- Board Absent:** Joanie Jones and position #7 which is currently vacant BOARD ABSENT
- Staff Present:** Jim Helmen, Superintendent; Michelle Eagleson, Elementary Principal; Susanne Myers, Special Education Director; Marie Knight, Business Manager; Barb Carr, Administrative Assistant; and Camrin Eyrrick, Classified Staff (virtual). STAFF PRESENT
- Visitors Present:** Scott Laird VISITORS PRESENT
- 1.1** The Pledge of Allegiance was recited. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE
- 2.0 AGENDA REVIEW:** Stacey Pelster moved to approve the agenda as presented. Amy Cieloha seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously with those in attendance. AGENDA REVIEW
- 3.0 PUBLIC COMMENT ON AGENDA and NON-AGENDA ITEMS:** None. PUBLIC COMMENT
- 4.0 BUSINESS REPORTS:**
- 4.1 Superintendent Report:** Jim Helmen’s report was provided to the Board prior to the meeting. SUPERINTENDENT REPORT
- Last week Administrative staff presented at the COSA Conference with Renaissance Learning. Last year, Vernonia School District’s reading growth was one of the highest in the State and our Administrators were asked to present with Renaissance Learning. They will present again to other schools at the Multnomah E.S.D. in November.
- Amy Cieloha asked about online registration. Mr. Helmen explained that the online process is replacing the hard copy packet that is normally mailed home to all families over the summer. During registration days for the middle and high school, computers will be available for those that need help. The question in the online registration process regarding the requested use of pronouns was discussed.
- Susan Wagner commented that she likes the District focus this year of “*Not Me, We*”.
- 5.1.1 2024-25 Superintendent Goals:** Mr. Helmen’s goals were shared with the board prior to the meeting. His goals are tied to the District’s Continuous Improvement Plan. Each goal is intended to be able to check a box on systems in place. There were no comments on the goals. Susan Wagner shared that she is continuing to hear great things about Mr. Helmen and the District as well as the work that the Board is doing. SUPT. GOALS
- 5.1.2 Staffing Update:** There are a couple hires on the agenda. Nick Console, new VMS Science Teacher and Denise Rowland, new K-5 Behavior Specialist. Three positions are still open - VHS Math, VMS/VHS Health and PE, and the new Secondary Tier 3 teacher. Mr. Helmen shared that he received a letter of resignation from VMS Health and PE teacher Ian Rogers. He offered an exit interview but received no response. STAFFING UPDATE
- 4.2 Financial Report:** Marie Knight provided a financial memo but not a report this month. There will be an update on Student Body Accounts at the September board meeting. There were no questions or comments from the Board. FINANCIAL REPORT
- 4.3 Maintenance Report:** Mark Brown’s report was provided to the Board prior to the meeting. Jim Helmen provided an update on the Logger Concession Stand. Mark Brown met with the MAINTENANCE REPORT

Stadium Committee and obtained a list of all contractors on the project. He has met with some of these individuals and will provide another follow-up when this is done. Work on the door has been completed.

**5.0 BOARD REPORTS/ BOARD DEVELOPMENT:**

**5.1 Committee Reports:**

**5.1.1 Policy Committee:** Members Javoss McGuire, Greg Kintz and Joanie Jones will meet the 3<sup>rd</sup> Monday of each month.

**5.1.2 Safety Committee:** Nothing reported

**5.1.3 Scholarship Committee:** Nothing reported.

COMMITTEE UPDATE

**5.2 Board Member Items:** Greg Kintz shared that he is looking forward to the presentation tomorrow on Engagement at the OSBA summer conference.

BOARD MEMBER ITEMS

**6.0 OTHER INFORMATION and DISCUSSION**

**6.1 Superintendent and Board Operating Agreement:** There were no changes made to the existing document with the exception of updating dates. It will be sent out for signature.

SUPT. – BOARD OPERATING AGRMT.

**6.2 Superintendent Evaluation Process and Timeline for 2024-25:** A draft document with updated dates was shared with the board.

SUPT EVALUATION PROCESS and TIMELINE REVIEWED

Discussion was held regarding the Board’s self-evaluation. It was decided that this will be discussed at the August 29<sup>th</sup> workshop. A condensed option was suggested. The remainder of the workshop will be dedicated to interviewing applicants for the vacant board position.

BOARD SELF-EVALUATION VISITED

**6.3 Athletic Co-op w/Jewell:** Jewell School District has submitted a Co-Op Agreement with Vernonia to OSAA for the 2024 football season.

ATHLETIC COOP DISCUSSED

**7.0 ACTION ITEMS**

**7.1 Superintendent Goals 2024-25:** Stacey Pelster moved to approve Superintendent Jim Helmen’s goals for 2024-25 as presented. Greg Kintz seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously with those in attendance.

SUPT. GOALS APPROVED

**7.2 Superintendent and Board Operating Agreement:** Amy Cieloha moved to approve the Superintendent and Board Operating Agreement for 2024-25 as presented with updates as discussed. Stacey Pelster seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously with those in attendance.

SUPT & BOARD OPERATING AGREEMENT APPROVED

**7.3 Superintendent Evaluation Process and Timeline for 2024-25:** Stacey Pelster moved to approve the Superintendent evaluation process and timeline for 2024-25 as discussed. Amy Cieloha seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously with those in attendance.

SUPT EVALUATION PROCESS & TIMELINE APPROVED

**7.4 Staff Resignation:** Amy Cieloha moved to accept the resignation of Ian Rogers, VMS Health/PE Teacher effective July 29, 2024. Stacey Pelster seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously with those in attendance.

IAN ROGERS RESIGNS

**7.5 New Hires:** Greg Kintz moved to approve the Superintendent’s recommendation to hire Nicholas Console, VMS Science Teacher and Denise Rowland, VES K-5 Behavior Specialist. Stacey Pelster seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously with those in attendance.

CONSOLE & ROWLAND HIRED

**7.6 Athletic Co-Op Agreement with Jewell:** Amy Cieloha moved to approve the Athletic Co-op Agreement with Jewell as presented. Greg Kintz seconded the motion. Amy stated that she is thankful the board is willing to do what is right for kids and make this work. Motion passed unanimously with those in attendance.

ATHLETIC CO-OP WITH JEWELL APPROVED

**8.0 MONITORING BOARD PERFORMANCE:** None

**9.0 CONSENT AGENDA:**

CONSENT AGENDA

**9.1 Minutes of 07/11/2024 Regular Meeting.**

Amy Cieloha moved to approve the consent agenda as presented. Stacey Pelster seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously with those in attendance.

CONSENT AGENDA APPROVED

**10.0 OTHER ISSUES:**

OTHER ISSUES

**10.1** Next Agenda Setting Meeting will be held 9/4/24 at 5:00 pm. Stacey Pelster will join Susan Wagner and Jim Helmen.

**10.2** Board members are invited to help serve at the August 29<sup>th</sup> Meet the Families Night. Let Barb Carr know if you are available.

**11.0 UPCOMING DATES:**

August 27, 2024 – Staff Welcome Back Breakfast 7:45 a.m.

August 29, 2024 – Meet the Family Night 5:00 – 7:00 p.m.

August 29, 2024 – School Board Workshop – 7:00 p.m.

September 12, 2024 – School Board Meeting – 6:00 p.m.

**12.0 MEETING ADJOURNED** at 7:00 p.m.

ADJOURNED

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

  
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Board Chair

  
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District Clerk

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