

MEETING MINUTES

VERNONIA SCHOOL DISTRICT BOARD of DIRECTORS Regular Meeting – June 11, 2026 Vernonia Schools, 1000 Missouri Ave., Vernonia, OR 97064

- 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 Greg Kintz. MEETING CALLED TO ORDER
- Board Present:** Lisa Curry, Joanie Jones, Greg Kintz, Amy Cieloha, and Tony Holmes
Board Absent: Alicia Mahoney and the vacant position
Staff Present: Jim Helmen, Superintendent; Nate Underwood, Middle & High School Principal; Michelle Eagleson, Elementary Principal; Marie Knight, Business Manager; Barb Carr, Administrative Assistant; Brett Costley, Justin Ward, and Kendra Schlegel, Licensed Staff; and Teresa Williams, and Camrin Eyrrick, Classified Staff. BOARD PRESENT
BOARD ABSENT
STAFF PRESENT
- Visitors Present:** Scott Laird, Thomas Jones, Jim Eckland, Cathy Eckland, Darlene McLeod, Angela Bettencourt, Darla Waite-Larkin, Tim Larkin, Sherri Ford, Jason Busch, Colton DeWitt, and A.J. Michaud VISITORS PRESENT
- 1.1** The Pledge of Allegiance was recited. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE
- 2.0 AGENDA REVIEW:** Lisa Curry moved to approve the agenda as presented. Amy Cieloha seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously with those in attendance. AGENDA REVIEW
- 3.0 RECESS to BUDGET HEARING.** The meeting recessed into the Budget Hearing at 6:02 p.m. Lisa Curry, Budget Committee Chair, opened the hearing. There were no public comments. Greg Kintz thanked all those involved in the budget process. The Public Hearing closed at 6:04 p.m. BUDGET HEARING
- 4.0 RETURN TO BOARD MEETING** at 6:04 p.m.
- 5.0 PUBLIC COMMENT:** Scott Laird spoke on behalf of the Stadium Committee which has worked since 2020 and since inception has raised almost \$1 million dollars. They built the snack shack. There are numerous dedicated individuals on this committee. He encouraged the Board to approve the MOU. PUBLIC COMMENT
- 6.0 SHOWING CASING of SCHOOLS**
- 6.1 Administrative Reports:** Administrator reports were provided to the Board prior to the meeting. ADMINISTRATOR REPORTS
- Nate Underwood referred to a previous meeting comment regarding Senate Bill 664, which requires high schools to teach about the Holocaust. He took this information back to the History department and they will address the oversight.
- Tony Holmes shared that the elementary assembly on the last day of school was great. High School Graduation was well done and Mist Open House was well attended.
- 6.1.2 Spring Sports Report:** Teresa Williams and Justin Ward reported on the Spring sports season and the success they had. They have been working with students to understand how grades and academics connect with sports. One area they feel has been lacking is strength training. They held an assembly recently to start talking with students now and shared a schedule of when the gym and weight room will be available over the summer. A variety of coaches have signed up to supervise these areas over the summer. Amy Cieloha mentioned again the unclear guidelines of OSAA requirements for eligibility. SPRING SPORTS REPORT
- 7.0 BUSINESS REPORTS:**

7.1 Superintendent Report: The Superintendent Report was provided to the Board prior to the meeting.	SUPERINTENDENT REPORT
Jim Helmen asked Sherri Ford to speak about the possibility of a New School Based Health Center. Sherri stated that she and her team are looking at options while working with constraints around the grant. A new health center would be open to our students only and not accessible by the public. Current mental health services in the school are provided by CCMH and this will continue. Services to be provided will be determined by the planning committee. They are currently looking into a space within the building. Sherri has applied for a planning grant which would go through June of 2027. Another grant can be applied for and renewed up to 5 year for operational funds.	
Stadium Committee members in attendance were introduced.	
Staff retirements were recognized for Marie Knight, Mark Brown, Peter Weisel, Sena Wilmoth and Theresa Gray.	
Charise Ash and Angel Ortiz will be transferring out to teach at Mist Elementary. The gym floor and water issues at Mist will be addressed over the summer. There needs to first be an inspection before adding new toilets. They want to determine the scope of the issue. Michelle Eagleson and Kendra Schlegel have an electronic application process that will be used for selecting students to attend at Mist. Current families will be grandfathered.	
Summer Meals begins June 22nd. Summer Learning begins July 6th.	
7.1.1 Superintendent Year in Review Presentation: Jim Helmen presented his Year in Review by highlighting the District's growth in attendance and English language arts and math proficiency scores.	YEAR IN REIVEW PRESENTATION
7.1.2 Staffing Update: A call back after the reductions in force last Fall has occurred. Dawn Rhoads Jay will teach 4th grade next year at Vernonia Elementary.	STAFFING UPDATE
7.2 Financial Report: The Financial Report was provided to the Board prior to the meeting. Marie Knight shared that the estimated ending fund balance is \$165,000 which matches what was budgeted.	FINANCIAL REPORT
7.2.1 Resolution 2026-05: Adopting the Budget. Marie reviewed the resolution that the board will adopt later in the meeting for the 2026-27 budget.	FINANCIAL
7.2.2 Resolution 2026-06: Transfer Appropriations within funds of the 2025-2026 budget. Marie explained that the support services funding needs more for ESD services that are being paid for this year. The appropriation is in the current year 2025-26 budget.	RESOLUTIONS PRESENTED
7.3 Maintenance Report: The Maintenance Report was provided to the Board prior to the meeting. There were no questions.	MAINTENANCE REPORT
8.0 BOARD REPORTS/ BOARD DEVELOPMENT:	
8.1 COMMITTEE REPORTS	COMMITTEE REPORTS
8.1.1 Safety Committee – Amy Cieloha shared that there is some concern over driving down the hill from the shops.	SAFETY
8.1.2 Scholarship Committee – Greg Kintz shared that Luke Simmons was the recipient of the \$1,000 Trades scholarship and Addison Coburn was the recipient of the \$1,000 College scholarship. The scholarship fund balance is \$500. The Board will need to fundraise to continue awarding scholarships.	SCHOLARSHIP
8.1.3 Policy Committee – Policy DCAB deals with staff expression of rights in the classroom. Phrase “disruption” doesn’t work and the unions have asked that this policy be reviewed. A question was asked if there is a dress code for staff. According to Jim Helmen, no there is not.	POLICY
9.0 OTHER INFORMATION and DISCUSSION	OTHER INFORMATION
9.1 Policy Updates: The following policies were presented for a second reading.	POLICY UPDATES – 2nd READING
9.1.1 BFCA – Administrative Regulations (AR)	
9.1.2 BFE – Administration in the Absence of Policy	
9.1.3 BHE – Board Member Liability Insurance	

- 9.1.4 EDC/KGF – Authorized Use of District Equipment and Materials
- 9.1.5 KG – Community Use of District Facilities (ver.2)
- 9.1.6 KG-AR – Community Use of District Facilities
- 9.1.7 KH – Public Gifts to the District
- 9.1.8 KN – Relations with Law Enforcement Agencies
- 9.1.9 KN-AR – Relations with Law Enforcement Agencies

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| 9.2 | Booster Club Stadium Build Presentation: Jason Busch, Booster Club President, shared that the committee, since 2020 has been working towards a covered stadium for football field and track. It's a grass roots effort and he is hoping to sit in stands before his daughter graduates. | BOOSTER CLUB
STADIUM BUILD
PRESENTATION |
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AJ Michaud, RA Gray Construction shared that he felt a wood frame would be more appropriate than metal. Once the MOU is approved, he will move into the design phase next month, then permitting. Construction will start after the 2026 football season with footings. It should be finished and ready for the 2027 track season. They will be on site working from the end of October through February.

Lisa Curry, Boosters Treasurer went through financials. The contract price to build the covered stadium is \$671,575. She believes they have secured some in-kind work to lessen the cost of electrical. They currently have \$619,341 in their checking account but has a guaranteed donation of around \$25,000 coming in August. Jim Eckland, former VHS alumni, has been instrumental in raising funds.

It was further noted that the Boosters built skate park in town. They had a MOU from that project which contained rules and responsibilities for the Boosters, being financially responsible, and ensuring that licensing insurance is accurate.

10.0 ACTION ITEMS:

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| 10.1 | Policy Approval: Joanie Jones moved to approve policy updates presented as a second reading in item 9.1 Lisa Curry seconded the motion. There was no further discussion. Motion passed unanimously with those in attendance. | POLICY UPDATES
APPROVED |
| 10.2 | Booster Club / VSD Stadium Build Memorandum of Understanding. Amy Cieloha moved to approve the Booster Club / VSD Stadium Build memorandum of understanding as presented and discussed. Tony Holmes seconded the motion. Lisa Curry abstained from voting. All other members of the board voted in favor of the motion. Motion passed. | BOOSTERS / VSD
STADIUM BUILD M.O.U
APPROVED |
| 10.3 | Resolution #2026-05 – Adopting the Budget, Making Appropriations, Imposing and Categorizing the Tax. Lisa Curry moved to approve resolution #2026-05 approving the Vernonia School District budget for the 2026-27 school year as follows:
General Fund: \$10,345,000
Special Revenue Fund: \$3,420,970
Debt Service Fund: \$1,210,000
Capital Projects Fund: \$0
Total, All Funds: \$14,984,970
as presented with a tax rate of \$5.0121 per \$1,000 of assessed value to be assessed in support of the General Fund and in the amount of \$1,210,000 for debt service for general obligation bonds. Tony Holmes seconded the motion. There was no further discussion. Motion passed unanimously with those in attendance. | RESOLUTION 2026-05
ADOPTING THE BUDGET
APPROVED |
| 10.4 | Resolution 2026-06 –Transfer Appropriations within funds of the 2025-26 budget. Joanie Jones moved to approve resolution #2026-06 to transfer appropriations within funds of the 2025-26 budget. Lisa Curry seconded the motion. There was no further discussion. Motion passed unanimously with those in attendance. | RESOLUTION 2026-06
TRANSFERING FUNDS
APPROVED |
| 10.4 | Staff Hire: Lisa Curry moved to approve the Superintendent's recommendation to recall Dawn Rhoads-Jay as a 4 th Grade Teacher. Joanie Jones seconded the motion. There was no further discussion. Motion passed unanimously with those in attendance. | RHOADS-JAY RECALLED |

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| 11.0 | MONITORING BOARD PERFORMANCE: Greg Kintz shared that will be attending the OSBA Summer Conference in Eugene. | BOARD PERFORMANCE |
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12.0 CONSENT AGENDA:

12.1 Minutes of 05/11/2026 Special Meeting, the 05/14/2026 Regular Meeting, and the 05/19/2026 Scholarship Committee Meeting.

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

CONSENT AGENDA

CONSENT AGENDA
APPROVED

13.0 OTHER ISSUES:

13.1 The next agenda setting meeting will be with Greg Kintz and Tony Holmes on Thursday, July 2nd at 5:30 p.m. The meeting is held virtually.

The Board interviewed the 3rd candidate for the vacant school board position at this time. The applicant had a work conflict and was not able to attend the special meeting prior to this meeting.

Greg Kintz gave a card of thanks to Jim Helmen thanking him for 4 years of service, increased testing scores, attendance and relations with community.

Marie Knight was thanked and recognized for her retirement.

OTHER ISSUES

AGENDA SETTING MTG.

BOARD VACANCY
INTERVIEW

CARD OF THANKS TO
OUTGOING
SUPERINTENDENT &
RECOGNITION TO
RETIRING BUSINESS
MANAGER.

14.0 MEETING ADJOURNED at 8:21 p.m.

Submitted by Barb Carr, Administrative Assistant

Board Chair

ADJOURNED

District Clerk