

VERNONIA SCHOOL DISTRICT 47J
1201 TEXAS AVENUE
VERNONIA OR 97064

BOARD OF DIRECTORS REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

August 13, 2020

- 1.0 CALL TO ORDER:** A Regular Meeting of the of Directors of Administrative School District 47J, Columbia County, Oregon was called to order virtually at 6:05 p.m. by Greg Kintz. MEETING CALLED TO ORDER
- Board Present:** Greg Kintz, Steve Whiteman, Jeana Gump, Joanie Jones, Susan Wagner, and Brittanie Roberts. BOARD PRESENT
- Board Absent:** Stacey Pelster BOARD ABSENT
- Staff Present:** Aaron Miller, Superintendent; Nate Underwood, Middle/High School Principal; Michelle Eagleson, Elementary Principal; Marie Knight, Business Manager; Barb Carr, Administrative Assistant; Robin Manning, Kaitlyn Carr-Kiprotich, Claire Youngberg, Kendra Schlegel, Gienah Cheney, Teresa Gore, Juliet Safier, and Byron Brown, Licensed Staff; and Jana Titus, Stacy Adams, Richard Traver, Camrin Eyrrick, Corey Parker, Beth Kintz, Randy Phipps, and Traci Wolf, Classified Staff. STAFF PRESENT
- Visitors Present:** Scott Laird and Gina Cropp VISITORS PRESENT
- 1.1** The Pledge of Allegiance was recited. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE
- 2.0 AGENDA REVIEW:** No adjustments. Susan Wagner moved to accept the agenda as presented. Steve Whiteman seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously with those in attendance. AGENDA REVIEW
- 3.0 SHOWCASING OF SCHOOLS:** SHOWCASING OF SCHOOLS
- Principal Reports:
- Nate Underwood highlighted his report.
- Seven staff members recently attended a virtual AVID training.
 - AP test results showed that 5 of the 7 students that took the exam passed. This percentage was higher than State and National average.
 - Policy IKC – Class Rankings was shared. Mr. Underwood requested that the Board explore weighted categories by looking at AP classes, test scores etc. to determine the selection of a Valedictorian. The Board agreed to look at this. Information will be given to the Policy Committee from Mr. Underwood.
- Michelle Eagleson highlighted her report:
- KinderCamp starts Monday for 20 students thanks to a \$10K grant received. There will be two sessions of 10 students each. Times will be 9:00-11:00 a.m. and 12:30-2:30 p.m. and will last for two weeks. This will give our youngest students the ability to meet the teacher prior to the start of distance learning.
- 4.0 PUBLIC COMMENT ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS:** Juliet Safier, President of VEA, shared that she was recently elected to serve on the Board of the OEA. She has spent countless hours in meetings regarding Distance Learning. She was disappointed in Superintendent Miller’s comment that the Vernonia School District did an average job last Spring educating students. Teacher worry is at an all-time high regarding the mental health and safety of students and mastering new teaching styles in a short amount of time. The Vernonia teaching staff is looking forward to seeing students again. PUBLIC COMMENT
- 5.0 BUSINESS REPORTS:**
- 5.1** Superintendent Report: Aaron Miller updated the Board on the following: SUPERINTENDENT REPORT
- Policy Committee: The policies being presented at this meeting are for a first reading. Please direct any comments to the Policy Committee. These policies updates will be approved at the Sept. meeting.
 - Communication with City on SDC’s: After a discussion with City Administrator, Josette Mitchell, the District has an avenue to receive System Development Charges

(SDC) however we would have two counties to go through - Columbia and Washington. Mr. Miller has been in contact with St. Helens SD as they have gone through the SDC process. He will meet next week with their Business Manager.

- Students in Classroom: A meeting with parents was held on Tuesday. It went well.
- Staff: An all-staff meeting is scheduled for tomorrow morning to share similar info. He has been trying to continue to communicate with staff but is trying to give them the time off they deserve.
- Budget: Legislature held a special session and a decision was made in favor of helping schools meet financial needs. The \$9.0 Billion State School Fund stays. Measure 98 money will also be fully funded. There will however be cuts to the new Student Investment Account. This cut means the District will only receive a 1/3 of \$515K originally expected. The money the District will receive from the Federal Cares Act will help in purchasing computers for students.
- Food Service: There will be changes to the F/R lunch program which will help out our families and allow an increase in eligibility. The District is still waiting to hear about guidance from the Federal Government regarding changes to meal guide lines for last Spring

5.1.2 Bond Update:

- Art Room: This project is moving along and looks fantastic. They are currently finishing up the exterior siding and sheet rock in the interior. A window was added and it changed the framing and altered the wood siding a bit which generated a small change order. This will be a nice addition to our K-12 building.
- Mist Elementary: The cement work (sidewalks and apron) is finished. Playground equipment is on order and should be here soon. Installation has been paid for. A walking track will also be installed around the perimeter and connected with sidewalks. This will be done before students arrive. Joanie Jones complimented and thanked the District for all the work.
- Vernonia Elementary: Playground equipment is on order. Installation will occur once it arrives. Dan Titus has resurfaced the playfield and smoothed out the main playground area. He also excavated above the swings on the hillside and added drainage that will transport ground water to the bioswale area. Hydro seeding will be put down. A new slide will be installed that follows the contour of the hillside and requires no climbing up a ladder.

A Lift is currently on site to assist with staining the wood on the building which is 8 years old. This is supported by a long-term maintenance fund to take care of our building. Sven Sandstrom is doing the work. The Maintenance Dept. is utilizing the lift to clean windows and install security cameras.

Cross Country path is completed. The Maintenance Dept. will trim trees along the path.

BOND PROJECTS
UPDATE PROVIDED

- 5.2 **Financial Report:** Marie Knight shared that there is no report this month as it's too early in the year. The District's annual audit is close to being finished for the 2019-20 year. It's looking as though the ending fund balance is up slightly from what was expected. This is due to the furlough days the District had at the end of 2019-20 year. A regular financial report will be available for the September meeting.

FINANCIAL REPORT

- 5.3 **Maintenance Report:** Mark Brown's report was reviewed by the Board. Joanie Jones asked whether or not there was a reminder in place to deal with the Mist Elementary well going dry this time of year.

MAINTENANCE
REPORT

- 6.0 **BOARD REPORTS/ BOARD DEVELOPMENT:** Greg Kintz shared that the survey has been completed for getting the work done for the OSBA Scholarship. Possible work session dates have been sent out to the Board. Greg Kintz asked for additional comments from the Board regarding work session dates. Brittanie Roberts suggested waiting until after Oct. 1st. Jeana Gump, Steve Whiteman, Joanie Jones and Susan Wagner agreed. Susan Wagner shared that she prefers weekends. Greg Kintz

BOARD REPORTS &
BOARD
DEVELOPMENT

indicated he will notify OSBA of the Board's desire to wait until after October 1st to begin the training.

7.0 OTHER INFORMATION and DISCUSSION

- 7.1 2020-21 Calendar Adjustment:** Aaron Miller shared a revised calendar. Changes include: 2020-21 CALENDAR ADJUSTMENT DISCUSSED
1. Add another week at beginning of year for Professional Development. Moves start of school to Monday, Sept. 21.
 2. Monday Sept 14 – Friday Sept 18 – will be prior to school parent conferences. Teachers will work with parents on what will be expected of them and how to communicate with teachers.
 3. This doesn't alter number of days staff are here. It does alter start time for working with students. There are 182 staff days and 165 student contact days in this calendar.
 4. Grading days have been removed as these will be incorporated at different times throughout.
 5. Three days from SIA money and one extra day from General Fund have been removed from the calendar.

A request was made by Juliet Safier to move all grading days to a Wednesday following a Tuesday end to the grading periods. Aaron Miller suggested that the Board approve this calendar which allows planning time prior to school. The grading days and when the end of the quarter falls can be discussed at the September meeting.

- 7.2 Policy Updates:** A packet of policies was presented for a first reading. 2nd reading and action for approval will be next month. A new round of policies for first reading will be coming in the next few weeks. POLICY UPDATES SHARED AS 1st READING

- 7.3 School Operational Blueprints:** Mr. Miller shared that school operational blueprints for the 2020-21 school year must be submitted to ODE for each of our 4 schools. These documents provide guidance on how the District will go forward with education during the COVID closure. The District will offer full Distance Learning to start the year utilizing 1:1 technology. The District has purchased Chrome books for each student and staff. The on-line program, Acellus, will be used as well as Canvas, a learning management system that helps coordinate grading and lesson assignments on line. Professional development is available for staff to become familiar with these programs. Wireless hotspots will be available to help families access the on-line materials. The District's plan is to ensure each and every family has what they need to access the academic support we are providing. SCHOOL OPERATIONAL BLUEPRINTS SHARED AND DISCUSSED

Copies of the operational blueprints were provided and reviewed by the Board. These will be submitted to ODE and the Oregon Health Authority.

The metrix being used to determine when students can return to campus is as follows: There must be less than 30 cases per 100K people for 3 weeks straight to allow K-3 students to be on campus. To allow all students on campus the number must be under 10 per 100K. These numbers are provided by the County and we need to consider not only Columbia County but Washington, Clatsop and Multnomah counties as well due to 10% of our staff residing in these neighboring counties.

The 2020-21 school year calendar will be reviewed each quarter. The next review will take place in November.

Jeana Gump questioned whether or not the District is doing what is best for students right now by pushing them through a system that is not functional. She also expressed her concerns with how the District will plan to bring back students in regards to instructional time. This must be looked at on a case by case basis and not as a blanket for all. Gienah Cheney, Special Services Director, responded that she and other Directors are continuing to meet and work on a plan of equity. All Directors within the NWRES D are concerned with this.

Joanie Jones asked if staff have reviewed and looked at the program Acellus? Mr. Miller shared that all teacher have access and are currently working through any technological issues. There has been comments that this program will replace teachers. This is not accurate. The District is going with this program in order to have something that works for everyone and is consistent for our students and families. The ESD has vetted the program. It's not perfect but it's the best we have available to us.

Sports practices were brought up by Jeana Gump. Although there is guidance that indicates practices can be held, due to the County Guidelines in place currently, Vernonia is not able to bring students on campus for athletic practices according to Mr. Miller.

A question was raised on what work the Instructional Assistants will be doing? Mr. Miller responded that this is an on-going topic of discussion with the administration about how our IA's can support our students and our teachers. They will definitely spend more time working with students on line than they previously have. Last year at the end of the year there were requirements to maintain staffing regardless of workload, however this requirement is not in effect this year.

Steve Whiteman asked if there is anything that the District is not able to provide to our students or teach this year? According to Mr. Miller, no nothing that we are not able to do at this point.

Mr. Miller asked the Board that as you continue to read and/or hear things in the community to please don't hesitate to contact him with any questions.

8.0 ACTION ITEMS

8.1 2020-21 Calendar Adjustment: Susan Wagner moved to approve the 2020-21 calendar adjustment as presented. Joanie Jones seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously with those in attendance.

2020-21 CALENAR
ADJUSTMENT
APPROVED

9.0 MONITORING BOARD PERFORMANCE: Nothing discussed.

MONITORING
BOARD
PERFORMANCE

11.0 CONSENT AGENDA:

11.1 Minutes of 07/09/20 Regular Meeting.

MINUTES APPROVED

Susan Wagner moved to approve the consent agenda as amended (corrected name of board member that moved and seconded the motion in item 7.1). Joanie Jones seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously with those in attendance.

CONSENT AGENDA
APPROVED

Other Issues:

12.0 MEETING ADJOURNED at 7:42 p.m.

ADJOURNED

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

Board Chair

District Clerk