

VERNONIA SCHOOL DISTRICT 47J
1201 TEXAS AVENUE
VERNONIA OR 97064

BOARD OF DIRECTORS REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

April 8, 2021

- 1.0 CALL TO ORDER:** A Regular Meeting of the Board of Directors of Administrative School District 47J, Columbia County, Oregon was called to order virtually at 6:01 p.m. by Greg Kintz. **MEETING CALLED TO ORDER**
- Board Present:** Susan Wagner, Jeana Gump, Amy Cieloha, Joanie Jones, Stacey Pelster, and Greg Kintz. Brittanie Roberts arrived at 6:05 p.m. **BOARD PRESENT**
- Board Absent:** None **BOARD ABSENT**
- Staff Present:** Aaron Miller, Superintendent; Nate Underwood, Middle/High School Principal; Michelle Eagleson, Elementary Principal; Rachel Wilson, K-12 Vice Principal; Marie Knight, Business Manager; Barb Carr, Administrative Assistant; Rachel Brown, Gienah Cheney, Jamie Hamsa, Robin Manning, Juliet Safier, Kendra Schlegel, Debbie Taylor, Ashley Ward, Sena Wilmoth and Claire Youngberg, Licensed Staff; and Camrin Eyrrick, Julie Ramsey, Karen Roberts, Richard Traver, and Traci Wolf Classified Staff. **STAFF PRESENT**
- Visitors Present:** Scott Laird, Eric Larke, Dale Webb, Scott Laird, Javoss McGuire, and Carol Cochran. **VISITORS PRESENT**
- 1.1** The Pledge of Allegiance was recited. **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**
- 2.0 AGENDA REVIEW:** The Agenda was amended by adding the following: Business Reports item #5.2.1 Budget Committee Vacancy and Action item #8.7 Budget Committee Appointment. Susan Wagner moved to approve the agenda as amended. Stacey Pelster seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously. **AGENDA REVIEW**
- 3.0 SHOWCASING OF SCHOOLS:** **SHOWCASING OF SCHOOLS**
- Student Reports:** Jenna Romaine updated the Board on activities at VMS and VHS. **STUDENT REPORTS**
- Spring sports just started.
 - VMS 6th graders experienced a modified Outdoor School using both class time to deliver instruction on Tuesday and then hands on activities on Friday.
 - Leadership is planning Spirit Week next month at both VMS and VHS.
 - Abby's Closet Grant was received by VHS providing 100 free dresses to our school. Prom is scheduled for May 22, outdoors at Cedar Ridge.
- Principal Reports:** **PRINCIPAL REPORTS**
- Middle/High School:** Nate Underwood highlighted his report by sharing that today was the first day with all middle and high students on campus. It went well and all are excited to have students back in the building. There are additional students returning from Comprehensive Distance Learning (CDL) and previously attending the Vernonia Family Academy (VFA). There are also some current VFA students that are coming on campus to take elective classes. The student body executive council is back and holding meetings.
- Elementary:** Michelle Eagleson shared that for the beginning of the 4th quarter the elementary had 20 new students on campus for the first time. New routines are being worked on. The elementary weekly assemblies will resume tomorrow recognizing attendance and students of the month, etc. They have created a new award that focuses on social distancing and mask wearing. Some routines put into place because of the pandemic have had unexpected positive results. Having a designated time and scheduled restroom break for the entire class at the same time has proven to be less disruptive during the day. Recess zones are working well as is having escorts move students throughout the building. The arrival and dismissal routines are going great and ensures that all students are welcomed in the morning by multiple staff members.

Rachel Wilson, K-12 Vice Principal, shared she felt Elementary recess was going better and her thoughts were confirmed by Mrs. Eagleson. Students are limited to recess options and they seem to be enjoying it more. They are building friendships with their class. The Opportunity Room invites kids from Elementary to have scheduled time to work on skills

Middle/High School is also much smoother, students are moving throughout the halls well. She feels it is helpful with Social Emotional Learning (SEL) because we have a real predictable environment. .

3.0.1 VFA Report: Debbie Taylor presented on the Vernonia Family Academy. The program is in its second year. Currently they operate three area of focus.

1. The Homeschool Program. Teachers Debbie Taylor and Laura Blacker assist parents who are the instructors, providing them with daily and weekly support as needed. Currently 88 families with a total of 159 students K-12 are accessing education in this manner. The District connects with families in a conference setting four times each year. The curriculum used is selected by families from an approved District list. A Hybrid option allows middle and high school students to come on campus for AP and elective classes.

2. New this year 2nd Semester is the Comprehensive Distance Learning (CDL) option for students that wished to remain in CDL when students came back to campus. Courtney Ferguson is the teacher for this program and currently has 20 students in K-4th grade.

3. Alternative Education for high school students needing extra support is run by Justin Ward. He is currently working with 22 students.

Katreasa Brown provides assistance in the areas of attendance, requisitions, prepping documents, and supporting students in Mr. Ward's classes.

4.0 PUBLIC COMMENT ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS:

PUBLIC COMMENT

Eric Larke, Vernonia community member, commented on the discontinuance of the School Resource Officer (SRO) position. The program allowed the Vernonia Police Department the ability to maintain a full time officer position. He fears that if the District chooses to pull the 50% funding of this position the City and the Police Department will have to either fully fund or eliminate an officer position. He urges the District to not eliminate this position.

5.0 BUSINESS REPORTS:

5.1 Superintendent Report: Aaron Miller added to his written report by sharing the following:

SUPERINTENDENT REPORT

- The District is currently in contract negotiations with OSEA (classified union) and will begin negotiations with VEA (teachers union) soon.
- Today was the first day having all K-12 students back on campus. It was great to see all the kids. There are obviously still concerns therefore, protocols are still in place for social distancing and masks. There have been zero cases traced to the spread at school and our goal is for this to continue.
- It had been previously mentioned the opportunity to work with Starlink at Mist to use the District as a test site for providing a satellite Internet feed. Starlink pulled the plug on this and the offer won't materialize for the District. Zply Fiber is moving forward with installing lines along the highway.
- Budget work continues and the District is close to having a proposed budget document ready for the first Budget Committee meeting on April 22nd at 6:00 p.m.
- Professional Development activities are currently focused on our Professional Learning Communities (PLCs) which address how we look at what kids need to learn, how we assess standards, and what we do if they don't grasp the content the first time and the need to address again, or if they grasp the content and we need to extend their learning. The Oregon Rural Schools Network is partnering with us on this project and next year the District will have fully functional PLCs at all levels. A handbook is currently being worked on to put all this planning into action.
- Bond projects are close to being completed and wrapped up. New cement stairs that

BOND PROJECTS UPDATE

extend the campus up to the Career Technical Education (CTE) area (wood and metal shop) have been completed. As soon as the handrails arrive and are installed they can be used. A document highlighting all the great work the District was able to accomplish thanks to the support of the community in passing the Bond in 2017 is being developed.

A question was asked about the status of the Graduation Coach position. Mr. Miller explained that this position is moving to a licensed teaching position to be able to encompass teaching Career Related Learning. Comments were made about this position following students post high school and tracking the data.

5.2 Financial Report: Marie Knight shared that the ending fund balance is currently at approximately \$500,000. She is hoping for it to increase to \$600,000 at the end of the year and has placed this amount in the proposed budget as the beginning fund balance for the 2021-22 year. A question was asked about a March miscellaneous revenue entry of \$41,000. Marie explained that this was payment from Clatskanie School District as their portion of the salary for the Social Emotional Learning Coordinator that Vernonia and Clatskanie School District share.

FINANCIAL REPORT

Marie also noted that the upcoming first Budget Committee meeting on 4/22/21 will be held in the same online format as Board meetings. She will post details for access on the website as well as send out an email meeting invitation. At the first meeting the Budget will be presented, Mr. Miller will present the budget message and an overview of the document will be presented. The second Budget Committee meeting will be held on May 13th in conjunction with the regular Board meeting.

1st BUDGET COMMITTEE
MTG on 04/22/21 TO BE
HELD VIRTUALLY

5.2.1 Budget Committee Vacancy: Barb Carr explained that a late application arrived from Carol Cochran. The application was emailed to the Board for consideration of appointment to the Budget Committee.

BUDGET
COMMITTEE
VACANCY

5.3 Maintenance Report: Mark Brown's report was reviewed. There were no questions from the Board.

MAINTENANCE
REPORT

6.0 BOARD REPORTS/ BOARD DEVELOPMENT:

Greg Kintz shared that the Board is continuing its training with OSBA. The six session series of trainings will wrap up in May. Brittanie Roberts asked about doing a second round of training after this series is complete. Greg indicated he would reach out to OSBA about what this would involve and when it would be appropriate to do so.

BOARD REPORTS &
BOARD
DEVELOPMENT

Brittanie Roberts brought up again when meetings can go back to in person. As the District is not allowing anyone other than students on campus, no groups, etc. virtual meetings will continue through the end of this fiscal year (June). Columbia County numbers are raising dramatically at the current time. This can be revisited for the summer months and beginning of next school year. Mr. Miller shared he is not anxious to have the general public on campus. Being able to keep students in class and not risk that is priority at this time. Brittanie shared it is difficult for those with children to have meetings virtually.

Stacey Pelster commented perhaps having public meetings at an offsite location could be an option and feels it is time to get back together. Mr. Miller liked this idea better than the public coming into the building. Nate Underwood shared that staff meetings are still being held virtually even though all are back on campus. Joanie Jones would like to look at a hybrid option for those that wish to remain virtually or attend in person.

Susan Waggoner shared she would struggle with the ability to go to another place. She also stated being at significant risk if only allowing some to attend in person and not all. She is not in favor of having meetings in person yet. Jeana Gump is willing to meet in person when able and Amy Cieloha agreed with a hybrid model.

6.1 Superintendent Evaluation Timeline and Standards: In regards to the new timeline and plan to evaluate the Superintendent, Greg Kintz confirmed that the criteria for evaluation of the Superintendent are the Standards imbedded within OSBA's Superintendent Evaluation workbook.

SUPERINTENDENT
EVALUATION and
TIMELINE
DISCUSSED

The timeline and process needs to be adopted at this meeting and evaluation comments completed and submitted to Greg by May 1st. Mr. Miller will present his self-evaluation at the May meeting and Greg will have a draft of the Board Summative Evaluation to share. The final evaluation will be approved at the June meeting. Goal setting will take place in July. This is a quick turnaround of the evaluation process for this year. Next year the Board will get back on a regular schedule starting in April instead of May.

7.0 OTHER INFORMATION and DISCUSSION

7.1 2020-21 Instructional Calendar Revision: Aaron Miller shared that the District has cancelled two instructional days due to weather this year; Wednesday January 27 and Friday February 12th. He is proposing to add one day back at the end of the school year. This would adjust the last day for students from Thursday, June 10th to Friday, June 11th. Staff would finish the following Tuesday, June 15th.

2020-21
INSTRUCTIONAL
CALENDAR
REVISION

7.2 2021-22 Instructional Calendar: Last meeting the Calendar Committee shared two 2021-22 calendar options with the Board. Both options have been shared with staff and the final version being presented this evening for approval was the favorite choice of staff. This version adds four additional days over the 2020-21 calendar, three of which are teacher work days and one student instructional day. This version also has potential snow make-up days included.

2021-22
INSTRUCTIONAL
CALENDAR

Does this calendar satisfy the State's requirement for instructional hours? Yes, we have been hitting that number previously however the 2021-22 calendar takes us beyond what is required.

7.3 Staff Resignation: Aaron Miller shared that Andrea Anderson, K-2 teacher at Mist, has submitted her resignation.

STAFF RESIGNATION

7.4 MOU – OSEA - Childcare: Upon review of the MOU presented this evening, it was determined that the incorrect version was shared. Therefore the item will not be approved at this meeting and will appear on the May Board Meeting Agenda for approval.

MOU OSEA
CHILDCARE SHARED

7.5 MOU – OSEA – COVID Working Conditions: Aaron Miller shared that the Classified Union also came up with same language the District previously agreed to with the VEA regarding pay provisions. He recommends moving forward with this agreements.

MOU OSEA COVID
WORKING
CONDITIONS
SHARED

Greg Kintz stated that for the record, as a member of the District Negotiation Team, he recused himself from negotiation and participate in the OSEA MOU discussions due to having three close family members part of the OSEA.

8.0 ACTION ITEMS

8.1 2020-21 Instructional Calendar Revision – Snow Days: Stacy Pelster moved to approve the changes to the 2020-21 Instructional Calendar as presented. Amy Cieloha seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

2020-21 CALENDAR
AMENDED

8.2 2021-22 Instructional Calendar: Joanie Jones moved to approve the 2021-22 Instructional Calendar as presented. Jeana Gump seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

2021-22
INSTRUCTIONAL
CALENDAR
APPROVED

8.3 Staff Resignation: Jeana Gump moved to accept the resignation of Mist K-2 Teacher Andrea Anderson effective June 30, 2021. Stacey Pelster seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

ANDERSON RESIGNS

8.4 Superintendent Evaluation Timeline and Standards: Susan Wagner moved to approve the

SUPT. EVALUATION

Superintendent Evaluation Timeline and Standards as discussed and amended. Stacey Pelster seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

TIMELINE AND
STANDARDS
APPROVED

8.5 **MOU – OSEA - Childcare:** No action taken.

OSEA CHILDCARE
MOU POSTPONED

8.6 **MOU – OSEA – COVID 19 Pay Provisions:** Stacey Pelster moved to approve the MOU for the OSEA on COVID-19 Pay Provisions as discussed. Joanie Jones seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

OSEA PAY
PROVISIONS MOU
APPROVED

8.7 **Budget Committee Appointment:** Jeana Gump moved to appoint Carol Cochran to a three year term on the Budget Committee. Stacey Pelster seconded the motion. Susan Wagner thanked Ms. Cochran for her interest. Motion passed unanimously.

COCHRAN
APPOINTED TO THE
BUDGET
COMMITTEE

9.0 **MONITORING BOARD PERFORMANCE:** Greg Kintz stated he recently sent an email to Board members regarding Board ethics and Board operations. If anyone has questions about this to please review Board policies and/or contact a veteran Board member. As a resource, Steve Kelly with OSBA, is always available to lend a hand in explaining things to help the Board be better at what they do and to do it properly.

MONITORING
BOARD
PERFORMANCE

11.0 **CONSENT AGENDA:**

11.1 Minutes of 03-11-21 Regular Meeting

MINUTES APPROVED

Susan Wagner moved to approve the consent agenda as presented. Jeana Gump seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

CONSENT AGENDA
APPROVED

Other Issues:

Jeana Gump shared that the Boys' Cross Country team made it to State as did two individuals on the Girls' team.

OTHER ISSUES

Amy Cieloha proposed that the Board follow up with Mr. Larke who spoke at the beginning of the meeting. Greg Kintz felt that this is not a Board issue to address as it deals with personnel. Mr. Miller encouraged all Board members to contact him if they have any questions.

Brittanie Roberts asked if the topic of no longer funding the SRO position is appropriate to ask about in the Budget Committee meetings. Yes

Joanie Jones commented that Mist Grade School is family oriented and community oriented and she would like to see this continued going forward.

12.0 **MEETING ADJOURNED** at 7:47 p.m.

ADJOURNED

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

Board Chair

District Clerk

