

VERNONIA SCHOOL DISTRICT 47J
1201 TEXAS AVENUE
VERNONIA OR 97064

BOARD OF DIRECTORS REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

April 11, 2019

1.0 CALL TO ORDER: A Regular Meeting of the of 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: Greg Kintz, Susan Wagner, Steve Whiteman, and Stacey Pelster. Melissa Zavales arrived at 6:01 p.m. BOARD PRESENT

Board Absent: Brittanie Roberts and the vacant position. BOARD ABSENT

Staff Present: Aaron Miller, Superintendent; Nate Underwood, Middle/High School Principal; Michelle Eagleson, K-5 Vice Principal; Rachel Wilcoxon, K-12 Vice Principal; Gordon Jarman, District Athletic Director; Marie Knight, Business Manager; Barb Carr, Administrative Assistant; Officer Hanson, S.R.O.; Joanie Jones and Juliet Safier, Licensed Staff; and Beth Kintz and Julie Ramsey, Classified Staff. STAFF PRESENT

Visitors Present: Bill DeJager, MaryLou Busch, Doris Buchholz, Katie Busch, Tom Jones, Shirley Kyser, Barbara Smith, Angela Bettencourt, and Clayton Kero. VISITORS PRESENT

1.1 The Pledge of Allegiance was recited. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

2.0 AGENDA There were no changes to the agenda. Susan Wagner moved to approve 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

Student Reports: There were no student reports.

Principal Reports:

Michelle Eagleson reported to the Board:

- Today the fundraiser Run for the Arts was held. Thank you to the volunteers that helped.
- Caring Culture – implementing mindfulness activities such as calming lines, Mind Up and Second Step curriculums. STUDENT REPORTS
- Attendance – 35 students were recently recognized for perfect attendance. Only 6 students have missed one half of a day. PRINCIPAL REPORTS
- Spelling Bee – Koa Leininger and Stetson Taylor will be representing VES at the County level.
- Kindergarten Open House – held April 5th, 15 potential kindergarten students & families attended. They visited the classroom and toured the school.
- Miscellaneous classroom highlights were shared.

Nate Underwood reported to the Board:

- Student testing - Elementary is currently underway. Middle School starts next week, High School starts the middle of May. Fifty high school students recently took the ACT test. This test also satisfies essential skills.
- Wellness Conference: 11 staff members attended the Wellness Conference in Bend over Spring Break.
- 8th Grade Trip: Staff members Stacy Adams and Ashley Ward will be heading to D.C. with some of our 8th graders this Saturday.
- Prom – May 4th at Camp 18
- Junior Class students recently attended a Career Expo and will go through mock interviews next week.

Rachel Wilcoxon shared with the Board that the middle/high school opportunity room opened this week. Staff is pleased with how it is going.

VMS/VHS
OPPORTUNITY ROOM
OPENED THIS WEEK

Gordon Jarman provided a written Winter Sports report and highlighted the following:

- VHS Wrestling had 11 wrestlers go to State.
- VHS Girls' Basketball ranked 15th out of the 16 teams that went to the State Tournament in Pendleton. The team finished 6th.
- VMS Wrestling and Girls' Basketball did well.
- First home track meet on our new track is scheduled for May 2nd.

WINTER SPORTS
REPORT

4.0 PUBLIC COMMENT ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS:

PUBLIC COMMENT

Juliet Safier, President of the VEA, spoke to the Board on behalf of the association to discuss the May 8th statewide teacher walk-out in protest to the lack of education funding by the State of Oregon. VEA agrees and supports the intent but will not be participating in the full day walk-out. The VEA realizes that a walk-out does not send an effective message. The VEA is asking all schools in the District to hold a short age appropriate assembly with discussions led by administration on the morning of the 8th. At this time all licensed staff not supervising students are asked to exit the building and meet other staff, parents, community members, etc. in support of funding education to the levels it deserves.

Angela Bettencourt spoke to the chaos in the front parking lot after school. People are parking in the drop off lane. She also expressed concern that the busses block the view of the parking lot and the drop off lane which makes it difficult for parents to see their children and vice versa. Mr. Miller shared that the District is aware of this and to help remedy the line of sight issue, they have moved one bus forward to leave an opening for visual communication between parents and students. He stated that if parents are not in the drop off lane but in the actual parking lot, they must come to the front of the school to assist their children to their vehicle. The District will not send students out to them. It is a safety issue. If a parent is in the drop off/pick up lane, students will be sent down the sidewalk to them.

Mr. Miller also stated the District is working with our Safety Patrol students to give preference to the cars coming in and leaving the school to avoid the congestion. They have currently been giving preference to the walkers which has been holding up traffic.

5.0 BUSINESS REPORTS:

SUPERINTENDENT
REPORT

5.1 Superintendent Report:

- The school resource officer (SRO) Abbie Hanson was introduced. She is currently working with truancy issues, bonding with children, and working with any criminal issues on or off campus that involve students. She has read books with elementary students and was a participant in a criminal justice class at the HS creating a crime scene for them. She is also filling the void of not having a female counselor on staff.
- The next Superintendent / Community Chat will be Wednesday, April 17th at 9:00 a.m. at the Mist Birkenfeld Fire Department. After that, April 24th 6:00 – 7:00 p.m. in the Commons.
- The District is still in need of budget committee members. Three vacancies remain.
- Expanding enrollment at Mist: a meeting was held last night and 5 parents attended. The goal is to obtain 20 additional students and add a second teacher out at Mist. With two teachers there would be a K-2 Classroom and a 3-5 Classroom. Not only would this generate additional funding for the District it would lighten class loads in Vernonia. The additional students must fall in the correct grade level to make the two classrooms equitable in the number of students. Behavior issues could limit acceptance and extreme IEP issues are not available at Mist. Both of these areas are considerations for application. Local Mist students have first rights and each year this number will be determined before space is opened to Vernonia students. Mr. Miller will provide a final determination at the next board meeting on whether or not the expanded enrollment plan will occur.

A questions was asked from the audience as to how much funding the district would

receive if additional students were transferred out to Mist. Mr. Miller was not sure, it all depends on factors that go in to the funding formula.

- The Vernonia At-Home School Program (Vernonia Family Academy): Mr. Miller continues to meet with parents to develop this program. He will make the final determination on this at the same time as the enrollment expansion at Mist. This is looking like it will take place next Fall.
- Several teaching positions are currently open: HS Welding (part time), Elementary, HS Foreign Language, MS/HS Band, MS SpEd, 6th grade, MS Language Arts/Social Studies, K-12 SpEd Behavior, Mist K-2 and the At-Home School program teacher. The finalization of the budget will determine which of these positions will move forward.
- Budget Committee meeting May 2nd at 6:00 p.m.

5.1.2 Bond Update: Aaron Miller updated the board on the status of bond projects.

BOND PROJECTS
UPDATE

- 4 Classroom Addition: went out for bid again, waiting for final proposals which are due on May 6th. Completion date moved to November / December 2019.
- Metal Shop – two bids came in for prequalification. They will be reviewing the bids next week.
- Mist – everything is on hold with budgets, however there is work going on in the kitchen. The Mist Birkenfeld Helping Circle is remodeling the kitchen with new cabinetry. The District is re-doing the flooring in preparation of the new cabinets. Final finish work will happen in the summer as well as items inside building such as painting, carpeting, and the ceiling in one room. There is also a need for new doors. Security items are on the list but due to funding he is not sure this will happen.

Mr. Miller was asked if the District will be updating the ceiling in the kitchen. According to Mr. Miller the District is not able to fix the ceiling at this time.

5.2 Financial Report: Marie Knight shared the financial report. Currently the projected ending fund balance over \$600K which will give an increase in the beginning fund balance of next year's budget. The proposed budget will be handed out at first budget committee meeting on May 2nd.

FINANCIAL REPORT

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

MAINTENANCE REPORT

6.0 BOARD REPORTS/ BOARD DEVELOPMENT:

BOARD REPORTS /
BOARD DEVELOPMENT

6.1 Board Workshop Discussion: Barb Carr shared that she will contact the two individuals to provide a training once she knows the availability of the Board.

6.2 Spring Election: Brittanie Roberts sent a message that she inadvertently missed the filing deadline but plans to mount a write-in campaign to seek reelection.

6.3 Vernonia Education Foundation: According to Melissa Zavales the VEF is still looking for members. The focus of the foundation is sports initiative, scholarship, classroom / teacher support. Currently however, they are working to offer a snack shack during home football games at the new field. They meet on the 2nd Tuesday at 6:00 p.m. in the main office conference room.

6.4 OSBA Summer Board Conference: Greg Kintz shared that he recently sent out the link to the summer board conference. OSAB is committed to keeping the cost of convention as low as possible. There will be a lot of classes that can be taken at the convention.

7.0 OTHER INFORMATION and DISCUSSION

7.1 2019-20 School Year Calendar: Nate Underwood reviewed the 4 calendar options and shared that the calendar committee recommends option D. Discussion was held on the options and school days. The 2018-19 calendar has 159 student and 178 staff days. The 2019-20

2019-20 CALENDAR
OPTIONS DISCUSSED

calendar option D increases this to 162 student and 182 staff days with a one hour late start each Wednesday for staff development.

Steve Whiteman disagreed with placement of the snow days. He would rather have them all added on to the end of the year. Juliet Safier, a member of the calendar committee, shared that the committee was not in favor of adding all the snow make-up days to the end of the year because our Seniors graduate early and they would miss out on all made-up days of instruction.

Melissa Zavales stated she would like to see calendar comparisons to other districts in writing.

Stacey Pelster was also concerned with the placement of snow days. She preferred they were all at the end of the year.

Aaron Miller shared that no matter how you switch around the days there are not more days than what is presented in the calendar. There is not enough money in the budget to add more days than what has been added already. Each day is approximately \$30,000. He also recommended that next year one Board Member be on the Calendar Committee.

Greg Kintz shared that OSBA and teachers across the State are all working to advocate for more revenue. If more revenue is received it would not be seen in Districts until the middle of next school year.

- 7.2 HB3063 Mandatory Vaccinations:** Stacey Pelster brought forth her opposition to the mandatory vaccination bill currently in front of the House of Representatives. The bill in legislature is written to remove the personal and religious exemptions for vaccination requirements which will have financial implications to the District.

As a point of Order Susan Wager shared her opposition to discussing the topic. She does not feel this is the role of the school board.

Melissa Zavales, as a member of the medical field, disagrees with the sources quoted by Ms. Pelster.

Greg Kintz shared that OSBA does not hold a position on this and the Vernonia School Board will not take a position.

8.0 ACTION ITEMS:

- 8.1 2019-20 School Year Calendar:** Melissa Zavales moved to approve the 2019-20 School Year Calendar Option D as presented. Susan Wagner seconded the motion. There was no further discussion. Yes votes: Greg Kintz, Melissa Zavales, Susan Wagner and Stacey Pelster. No votes: Steve Whiteman. Motion passed.

2019-20 SCHOOL YEAR
CALENDAR ADOPTED

- 9.0 MONITORING BOARD PERFORMANCE:** Nothing discussed.

10.0 CONSENT AGENDA:

- 10.1 Minutes of 03/14/19 Regular Meeting.**

CONSENT AGENDA
MINUTES APPROVED

Susan Wagner moved to approve the consent agenda as presented. Melissa, Zavales seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously with those in attendance.

CONSENT AGENDA
APPROVED

- 14.0 MEETING ADJOURNED at 8:17 p.m.**

ADJOURNED

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

Board Chair

District Clerk