

VERNONIA SCHOOL DISTRICT 47J
1201 TEXAS AVENUE
VERNONIA OR 97064

BOARD OF DIRECTORS REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

May 13, 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:** Greg Kintz, Jeana Gump, Joanie Jones, Stacey Pelster, Brittanie Roberts, Susan Wagner and Amy Cieloha. 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; Andrea Anderson, Rachel Brown, Malin Campbell, Kaitlyn Carr-Kiprotich, Gienah Cheney, Jamie Hamsa, Robin Manning, Susanne Myers, Juliet Safier, Kendra Schlegel, and Sena Wilmoth, Licensed Staff; and Summer Gonzales, Tabettha Groshong, Beth Kintz, Julie Ramsey, Karen Roberts, and Richard Traver, Classified Staff. STAFF PRESENT
- Visitors Present:** Carol Cochran, Carie Connelly, Amanda Graham, Kari Hansen, Shelley Hennessy, Scott Laird, Momi Leininger, H. Lewis, Allison McLeod, Cannon McLeod, Kellie Murray, Mia Potter, Shannon Romtvedt, Natalie Swart, and Kim Titus. The following accounts appeared in the electronic log but individual's names are unknown: cowboys4ever, lawmaker123, and communitygarden. Also unknown individuals attended by phone with the last 2 numbers of their phone number: 44, 18, 55, 57, and 77. VISITORS PRESENT
- 1.1** The Pledge of Allegiance was recited. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE
- 2.0 RECESS to BUDGET COMMITTEE MEETING** at 6:02 p.m. RECESS to BUDGET COMMITTEE MTG.
- 3.0 RECONVENE to REGULAR SESSION** at 6:11 p.m. RETURN to REGULAR SESSION
- 4.0 AGENDA REVIEW:** Greg Kintz shared that the Board is not prepared to do the Superintendent Evaluation at this time. The Executive Session should be removed from the agenda. AGENDA REVIEW
- Amy Cieloha asked about discussing returning Board meetings to in-person instead of virtually. Greg Kintz shared that this can be discussed under item 8.0 Board Reports / Board Development.
- Jeana Gump moved to accept agenda as amended. Motion seconded by Stacey Pelster. Yes votes: Greg Kintz, Jeana Gump, Joanie Jones, Stacey Pelster, Brittanie Roberts, and Susan Wagner. No votes: Amy Cieloha. Motion carries.
- 5.0 SHOWCASING of SCHOOLS** SHOWCASING OF SCHOOLS
- 5.1 Student Reports:** Middle School Students Momi Leininger, Cannon McLeod, Mia Potter talked about their experience through COVID. STUDENT REPORTS
- 5.2 Principal Reports:** PRINCIPAL REPORTS
- Nate Underwood highlighted his written report with the following:
- Nine high school students are earning a varsity letter for band and choir. Special thanks to Mrs. Bae for re-instituting this for our students.
 - Seven students recently completed the AP English exam.
 - Congratulations to Larissa Vandehey for achieving a silver medal in Listening, Viewing and Reading in German.
 - Graduation will be Friday June 4th at 7 p.m. Class of 2021 student signs will once

again be provided to graduate families for their yard displays as well as be on display during the graduation ceremony.

- 8th Grade Promotion will be Tuesday June 8 at 6 p.m. Details to come soon.

Mrs. Eagleson shared her highlights:

- Teacher Appreciation Week was last week. Staff were recognized throughout the week.
- This month has been busy with holding the first VES Students of the Month and Bus Students of the Month virtual assemblies for the 2020-21 year. They also recently held the first golden awards assembly.
- State testing was held yesterday and brought 3rd, 4th and 5th grade students onsite for testing. Students were focused and worked hard.
- Looking to the future at Mist Elementary, our enrolled this year dropped to 19 from 42 last year. The enrollment doesn't support keeping two teachers next year. After looking at numbers and considering how to keep it a small family school, they would like to restructure to a K-2 class with just one teacher for the 2021-22 year..

Stacey Pelster asked if the Vernonia Family Academy (VFA) is involved in the Students of the Month awards assembly. According to Mrs. Eagleson, the awards given are by the teachers at Vernonia Elementary School. She is not aware of what recognition program is offered by the VFA.

Greg Kintz commented that District has had to alter the amount of students per grade and alter teacher assignments based on student numbers many times in the past. Mist will continue to operate and the District can add a back a second teacher if enrollment numbers increase. Aaron Miller stated that the District has used up all those that were on the waiting list to attend Mist. He would prefer that Mist have a full K-5 program but in order for Mist to be feasible enrollment numbers need to be higher. Mr. Miller shared that if anyone is interested in having their child(ren) attend Mist to please let the school know.

Discussion was held on recruitment options between now and August to try and increase enrollment numbers to keep Mist Elementary School open as a K-5 option. Brittanie Roberts, Jeana Gump, and Amy Cieloha were in support of maintaining K-5.

Mrs. Eagleson held a community meeting to discuss the structure of Mist Elementary School next year. She will likely hold another. Joanie Jones felt another meeting is important to try and get more people to attend. Joanie also commented about including Mist in the Vernonia Elementary School awards and she would like to advocate on behalf of the 3rd-5th grade Mist students who want to continue attending Mist Elementary School.

Susan Wagner stated she understands there is work to be done to increase the enrollment numbers. Making the decision to only offer K-2 next year may not be the popular thing to do but at this time it is the responsible thing to do with the current enrollment numbers.

Mr. Miller indicated that a letter will go out next week inviting parents to request enrollment at Mist Elementary School. He will work with Mrs. Eagleson to get another community meeting scheduled. He reiterated that if anyone is not currently on the list to attend Mist Elementary School during the 2021-22 school year to please call the school office.

5.3 S.E.L. Director Update: Jamie Hamsa introduced herself and shared her background helping youth with therapeutic needs. As the Social Emotional Learning Director she has designed proposals for 5 grants. Currently one grant has been received for \$120,000, she is waiting to hear on two other submitted grants, and two grants are currently in process.

S.E.L. DIRECTOR
UPDATE

The grant received is the Re-engagement Grant pilot program which ends in June. Currently 13 staff are working with students. Students have improved their grades and their social /emotional and mental wellbeing, as well as their connection to school and resources, has

improved. She is in the final stages of evaluating the program to reapply for another grant when it comes available.

Jamie also shared that she is working to bring in a transactive gender project to support students feeling bullied and/or not feeling safe. She is also partnering with Tutor Me Education, which offers experience working with homeless youth and foster care students as well as trauma impacted students, by offering online 24 hour support to students.

Columbia County Mental Health (CCMH) hasn't been able to meet the needs of Vernonia students, therefore she has pitched in and provided clinical support as needed. This has raised awareness of the need to provide responsive tiered support for mental and social emotional support. There is a regional initiative between Vernonia, Clatskanie, and St. Helens school districts to reduce costs of these services.

6.0 PUBLIC COMMENT ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS: Andrea Anderson spoke on behalf of a group of families at Mist that are unhappy that the 3rd-5th classroom is not being offered next year. PUBLIC COMMENT

Shannon Romtvedt shared her disappointment that her son came home having been told by the teacher that he wasn't able to go to Mist next year.

Amanda Graham and Natalie Swart shared their desire to keep Mist open. Thomas Jones also expressed his support of Mist.

Discussion was held on annually offering a survey to Elementary parents. Mr. Miller shared that he is hoping this will be something that can start up next year when things return to normal.

A question was asked if families choose to send children to Mist, is transportation provided? According to Mr. Miller, yes.

7.0 BUSINESS REPORTS:

7.1 Superintendent Report: Aaron Miller added to his written report by sharing the following: SUPERINTENDENT REPORT

- Teachers were recognized during Teacher Appreciation Week. Teachers have been troopers through tough times this year and he expressed his thanks to all of them.
- Athletic Contests: The District will continue to err on the side of safety and require spectators at athletic contests to wear masks. There have been three different groups of students in quarantine but no spread has occurred at school. The measures in place now are working and will continue through end of year
- Hiring: Gienah Cheney has resigned as the District's Special Education Director. She will remain as the Elementary Special Education teacher. Susanne Myers, High School Special Education teacher will take over the Director role next year. There are two new hires at the high school. Sarah Clark, Social Studies, and Dylan Taylor, Math.
- The District anticipates posting vacancies in elementary and another special education posting soon.
- A statement from the Equity Team was read aloud.

Brittanie Roberts asked if there are quarantine protocols for students that have been fully vaccinated? Aaron Miller stated, as this hasn't come up yet, he will put the question to School Nurse, Heidi Brown and CCMH.

7.1.1 Bond Update: Aaron Miller shared that stairs up to the CTE area have had hand rails installed and they are complete. There are a couple pieces of athletic fencing and work on the cross country trail as well as final touch ups with billing. The bond projects are very close to being finished. As previously shared at numerous meetings, any remaining bond funds will be used to help with the infrastructure for the future stadium. The Stadium Campaign is actively raising funds for future construction. BOND UPDATE

<p>7.2 Financial Report: Marie Knight updated her report by providing estimates through the end of year. Currently the ending fund balance is \$513,000, which is a little higher than last month. After June is over this amount could still increase. Everything is on track as budgeted and she is feeling very comfortable with the ending fund balance. There were no questions.</p>	<p>FINANCIAL REPORT</p>
<p>7.3 Maintenance Report: Mark Brown's report was reviewed. There were no questions from the Board. It was noted that there needs to be some mowing at Mist next to the neighbor's property.</p>	<p>MAINTENANCE REPORT</p>
<p>8.0 BOARD REPORTS/ BOARD DEVELOPMENT: Jeana Gump asked if another board member can be part of setting the agenda besides the Superintendent and the Board Chair. Amy Cieloha stated she requested items be placed on the agenda and this didn't happen. Greg Kintz responded by stating that personnel issues will never be placed on the agenda as this is not board business. He is not required to put everything on the agenda. He asks himself is it board business or not.</p>	<p>BOARD REPORTS & BOARD DEVELOPMENT</p>
<p>A request to hold meetings in person came up again. Greg Kintz shared that he defers to the Superintendent as far as holding meetings inside the building as he is responsible for the safety of the students. Holding meetings at an alternate location is a possibility, however, he wants to make sure it is equitable for all to be able to attend.</p>	<p>SETTING AND ADDING ITEMS TO THE AGENDA</p>
<p>Aaron Miller stated that he has two concerns about returning Board meetings in person and on campus. 1) Allowing others to enter the building when the District, since March 2020, has not allowed any public facility use. This would contradict what the District is currently telling others. 2) If the Board meetings are held on site we would automatically have to open it up to other attendees and outside patrons, per public meeting law. He is not comfortable allowing outside patrons to come into the buildings while school is still in session. To seek guidance, he contacted the District's legal counsel to ask if outside patrons were allowed to attend meetings virtually while the Board members were in person, would this be a violation of public meeting law? Legal counsel said this scenario would be okay. Therefore, Aaron stated he would be okay with Board members coming into the building for a meeting, wearing masks, and maintaining social distance and allowing guests to attend virtually. The District will work to make this happen at the June Board meeting.</p>	<p>HOLDING MEETINGS IN-PERSON DISCUSSED</p>
<p>Miscellaneous comments from the Board included the need to have microphones, internet disconnect issues, and keeping immunodeficiency concerns in consideration.</p>	<p>BOARD MEMBER REQUESTS LIST OF ADMIN DUTIES</p>
<p>Joanie Jones requested a breakdown of administration and their duties. Aaron Miller indicated he would send this out next week. Vice Principal, Rachel Wilson, offered to report next month on her duties.</p>	
<p>9.0 OTHER INFORMATION and DISCUSSION</p>	
<p>9.1 M.O.U. Childcare with O.S.E.A: Aaron Miller shared that last month the O.S.E.A. Memorandum of Understanding regarding childcare was reviewed and an error in the language was discovered. The M.O.U. was updated and brought back this month for review and approval.</p>	<p>OSEA CHILDCARE M.O.U. REVIEWED</p>
<p>9.2 Staff Resignation: Aaron Miller shared the District has three teacher resignations. Natalia Burdulis and Jordan Ochoa, Elementary; and Kathryn Dalton, K-12 Structured Learning.</p>	<p>STAFF RESIGNATIONS</p>
<p>9.3 New Hires: The High School will see new faces next year. Sarah Clark in Social Studies, and Dylan Taylor, a VHS Alumni, in Math.</p>	<p>NEW HIRES</p>
<p>10.0 ACTION ITEMS</p>	
<p>10.1 OSEA Childcare M.O.U.: Jeana Gump moved to approve the M.O.U. for the OSEA on childcare as amended. Joanie Jones seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.</p>	<p>OSEA MOU on CHILD-CARE APPROVED</p>

- 10.2 Staff Resignation:** Brittanie Roberts moved to approve the resignations of Elementary Teachers Natalia Burdulis and Jordan Ochoa and K-12 Structured Learning Teacher Kathryn Dalton effective June 30, 2021. Jeana Gump seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously. BURDULIS, OCHOA and DALTON RESIGN
- 10.3 New Hires:** Joanie Jones moved to approve the Superintendent's recommendation to hire Sarah Clark, high school social sciences teacher and Dylan Taylor, high school math teacher for the 2021-22 school year. Stacey Pelster seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously. CLARK and TAYLOR HIRED FOR 2021-22
- 11.0 MONITORING BOARD PERFORMANCE:** Greg Kintz shared that the OSBA convention in November will not be returning to Portland after OSBA polled its members. The convention will move to the Salem Convention Center. More information will be coming out from OSBA. They would still offer the convention virtually if this is needed. MONITORING BOARD PERFORMANCE
- Greg Kintz reminded the Board that Session #6 of the OSBA DEMSP Scholarship training is this Saturday, May 15th from 9:00 -12:00 p.m. OSBA CONVENTION MOVES TO SALEM
- Brittanie Roberts asked about signing up for additional training with OSBA. Greg Kintz shared that he contacted Steve Kelley at OSBA, and his recommendation is to wait until this training session is complete and after the May election results are in, and new Board are in place after July 1st.
- 12.0 CONSENT AGENDA:**
- 11.1** Minutes of 04/03/21 Workshop and the 04/08/21 Regular Meeting. MINUTES APPROVED
- Stacey Pelster moved to approve the consent agenda as amended removing the 4/24/21 Workshop minutes. Jeana Gump seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously. CONSENT AGENDA APPROVED
- 13.0 RECESS to EXECUTIVE SESSION** under O.R.S. 196.660 (2) (i). This item was removed during item 4.0 Agenda Review RECESS to EXECUTIVE SESSION
- 14.0 OTHER ISSUES:**
- Joanie Jones stated her thanks to be able to watch softball and baseball. Jeana echoed the thanks for track. OTHER ISSUES
- Stacey Pelster commented that since middle school track was cut short because of quarantines, could the season be extended. Aaron Miller felt the season timeline established by OSAA is over but he will check with Mr. Jarman, Athletic Director.
- Susan Wagner thanked parents, teachers, and other staff that attended the meeting tonight and appreciates the ability to reach more people by virtual meetings.
- 15.0 MEETING ADJOURNED** at 8:54 p.m. ADJOURNED

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

Board Chair

District Clerk

