

VERNONIA SCHOOL DISTRICT 47J
1201 TEXAS AVENUE
VERNONIA OR 97064

BOARD OF DIRECTORS REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

December 12, 2019

- 1.0 CALL TO ORDER:** A Regular Meeting of the Directors of Administrative School District 47J, Columbia County, Oregon was called to order at 6:03 p.m. by Greg Kintz. MEETING CALLED TO ORDER
- Board Present:** Greg Kintz, Steve Whiteman, Stacey Pelster, Jeana Gump, Susan Wagner, and Brittanie Roberts BOARD PRESENT
- Board Absent:** Melissa Zavales BOARD ABSENT
- Staff Present:** Aaron Miller, Superintendent; Michelle Eagleson, Elementary Principal; Nate Underwood, Middle/High School Principal; Rachel Wilcoxon, K-12 Vice Principal; Marie Knight, Business Manager; and Abbie Hanson, School Resource Officer STAFF PRESENT
- Visitors present:** Scott Laird, Sherrie Ford, and Jana Swedo VISITORS PRESENT
- 1.1** The Pledge of Allegiance was recited. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE
- 2.0 AGENDA REVIEW:** The agenda was amended to move item 5.4 to 5.1 and shift remaining items in the section down. Susan Wagner moved to accept the agenda as amended. Jeana Gump seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously with those in attendance. AGENDA REVIEW
- 3.0 SHOWCASING OF SCHOOLS:** SHOWCASING OF SCHOOLS
- 3.1 Student Reports:** STUDENT REPORT
- No student reports given.
- 3.2 Principal Reports:** PRINCIPAL REPORTS
- Mr. Underwood, provided his Chalk Talk article. He added that he recently met with Brittanie Roberts regarding adjusting the Human Sexuality board policy. They discussed implementing a Curriculum Committee again. Brittanie wants to be on the committee and he is open to other board members joining the committee. Stacey Pelster expressed interest.
He shared that his opinion in increasing the required volunteer hours for graduation is appropriate if done correctly and in a way that will be meaningful to the students.
 - Ms. Wilcoxon, handed out report of problem behaviors by grade level beginning with the start of the school year. Restraint and seclusion incidents are now included in physical aggression reporting.
 - Ms. Eagleson shared that the elementary attendance rate was at 94% for the second month in a row. She verbally reviewed her report that was included in the board packet.
- **3.2.1 Instructional Hours Report:** Mr. Miller shared that instructional hours for Vernonia Elementary School are exceeding the State minimum requirement. At Mist Elementary, they are meeting the requirements although they have less instructional hours. This is due to travel time for students to and from Mist. INSTRUCTIONAL HOURS REPORT
- 4.0 PUBLIC COMMENT ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS:** There were no public comments PUBLIC COMMENT
- 5.0 BUSINESS REPORTS:**

- 5.1 Spencer Health & Wellness Clinic Report:** Sherry Ford, Director of Columbia Health Services, and manager of the Spencer Health and Wellness (SHaW) Clinic in Vernonia Schools outlined programs provided by Columbia Health Services and distributed information about Columbia Health Services staff and services. She also provide data from the state report in 2018-2019. They are looking to increase the number of patients served.
- Mental health is provided through a state grant for the Vernonia School District. An extra half day of services if provided through the Columbia County Superintendents. Clinic employees are spending time in classrooms giving health lessons. Sheri expressed interest in having a representative on the newly formed curriculum committee if possible. The Clinic has an oversight committee and would welcome staff or board members to participate.
- 5.2 Superintendent Report:** Aaron Miller highlighted his report with the following:
- SRO Report:
School Resource Officer (SRO), Abby Hansen reported that she has met with building principals and staff that work with student attendance. They are looking at each student with attendance issues to determine needs. Counselors and other staff are working with families to attempt to get students to school. Truancy is sent to Officer Hanson only when no other efforts have been successful.
- Officer Hanson further went on to share that student-aged children are trying prescription drugs unfortunately leading to other problems. Columbia County has a canine that can find drugs and with approval of the District she would like to bring the drug dog in and do some random drug sweeps at the school. Officer Hanson shared her concern about student safety around drug use.
- Mr. Miller stated that he and the Board would need to approve having the drug dog on campus and make sure it is part of policy.
- Oregon Promise: Greg Kintz will contact OSBA to find out what is needed to apply to participate in this program.
- Enrollment is holding steady at 570 K-12.
- Staffing Update:
Kristen Godinho has been hired as an Instructional Assistant. Currently the District is in the process of hiring for two more Instructional Assistants. One is a replacement due to a resignation and the other is a new position.
- Interviews to hire a 5th grade teacher will occur next week. This is due to the recent resignation of Dancia Sammons.
- Mr. Miller stated he will be ready to announce his exit plan at the next board meeting. Steve Whiteman asked if he is interested in retiring with PERS and working back? Mr. Miller emphasized a policy needs to be created as the District may not want to hire back all who retire.
- Student Success Act (SSA) & Student Investment Account (SIA): Mr. Miller is working to gather community input and distributed a timeline for the process. The SSA team should include 2 board members. Steve Whiteman is already involved and Brittanie Roberts volunteered to participate as well. Brittanie and Jeana Gump commented that they would both like to meet with Mr. Miller to get more information about SSA.
- 5.2.1 Bond Update:** Mr. Miller updated the board on the following projects:
Metal Shop Project – nearing completion. There have been a few change orders increasing construction costs to electrical installation, ventilation and equipment, as well as sealing the cement work.
Art Classroom: MS/HS Art Teacher, Ms. Carr-Kiprotich has been working with the architects on design needs for the new art room. This project should be headed out to bid in January.

SHaW CLINIC REPORT

SUPERINTENDENT REPORT

SRO REPORT

OREGON PROMISE PROGRAM

ENROLLMENT NUMBER

STAFF UPDATE

STUDENT SUCCESS ACT and STUDENT INVESTMNET ACT

BOND PROJECTS UPDATE

- 5.3 **Financial Report:** Marie Knight presented the financial report. Enrollment numbers are holding steady and the ending fund balance is consistent with previous month's projections. FINANCIAL REPORT
- 5.4 **Maintenance Report:** The board reviewed the report. Mr. Whiteman asked if there are any long term plans to improve the path for students going to shop classes. Mr. Miller indicated that the District is looking into installing a cement stairway path to connect the shop area with the main campus. Timeline for completion of this is dependent on cost. MAINTENANCE REPORT
- 6.0 **BOARD REPORTS/BOARD DEVELOPMENT:** BOARD REPORTS / BOARD DEVELOPMENT
- 6.1 **Board Member Reflection:** Nothing provided.
- 7.0 **OTHER INFORMATION and DISCUSSION**
- 7.1 **Policy IGAI – Human Sexuality:** This will be discussed at the January meeting and any potential updates will be on the agenda for approval/disapproval. POLICY IGAI – HUMAN SEXUALITY DISCUSSION SET FOR JANUARY MEETING
- 7.2 **Graduation Requirement – Volunteer Hours:** Ms. Wilcoxon shared that in her opinion the students who want to do community service go above and beyond the 40 hour requirement. The students who do not want to do community service struggle to get 40 hours in and end up looking at volunteering as a chore. VOLUNTEER HOURS REQUIREMENT DISCUSSED
- She further stated that if the required hours increased the need to have a program and provide opportunities at school is important. The program would need to remove barriers for students who live farther out or have family barriers. She concluded by stating that she feels strongly against increasing the volunteer hours requirement without making a meaningful and accessible opportunity.
- 7.3 **Resignation & New Hire:** Dancia Sammons, 5th grade teacher at Vernonia Elementary has resigned. Currently the process to hire a replacement is underway. RESIGNATION & NEW HIRE DISCUSSED
- 8.0 **ACTION ITEMS**
- 8.1 **Resignation:** Steve Whiteman moved to accept the resignation of 5th Grade Teacher Dancia Sammons effective December 6, 2019. Stacey Pelster seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously with those in attendance. SAMMONS RESIGNATION ACCEPTED
- 8.2 **New Hire:** This item will occur at the January meeting.
- 9.0 **MONITORING BOARD PERFORMANCE:** Greg Kintz will contact Steve Kelly at OSBA about the Oregon Promise program. BOARD PERFORMANCE
- 10.0 **CONSENT AGENDA:** CONSENT AGENDA MINUTES APPROVED
- 10.1 **Minutes of 11/13/19 Regular Meeting**
- Stacey Pelster moved to approve the consent agenda as presented. Jeana Gump seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously with those in attendance. CONSENT AGENDA APPROVED
- 14.0 **Other Issues:** None OTHER ISSUES
- 15.0 **MEETING ADJOURNED** at 7:22 p.m. ADJOURNED

Submitted by Marie Knight,
Business Manager

Board Chair

District Clerk