

VERNONIA SCHOOL DISTRICT 47J
1201 TEXAS AVENUE
VERNONIA OR 97064

BOARD OF DIRECTORS REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

June 10, 2021

- 1.0 CALL TO ORDER:** A Regular Meeting of the Directors of Administrative School District 47J, Columbia County, Oregon was called to order at 6:05 p.m. by Greg Kintz. MEETING CALLED TO ORDER
- Board Present:** Greg Kintz, Susan Wagner, Jeana Gump, Joanie Jones, Stacey Pelster, and Brittanie Roberts. Amy Cieloha present via remote access. 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; Kendra Berryman, Laura Blacker, Rachel Brown, Courtney Ferguson, Teresa Gore, Jamie Hamsa, Olivia Keister, Jim Krahn, Robin Manning, Susanne Myers, Juliet Safier, Kendra Schlegel, Geoff Schwartz, Debbie Taylor, and Clair Youngberg, Licensed Staff; and Stacy Adams, Camrin Eyrrick, Summer Gonzales, Beth Kintz, Karen Roberts, Richard Traver, and Traci Wolf, Classified Staff. STAFF PRESENT
- Visitors Present:** Korina Buehrer, Delaney Draeger, Scott Laird, Victoria McAdams, Sarah McCollum, Javoss McGuire, Josette Mitchell, Brady Romtvedt, Shannon Romtvedt, and Janice McGuire. 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: AGENDA REVIEW
- 9.3** A request to create an OSAA Cooperative agreement with Banks School District for a co-op girls soccer team.
- 10.6** Motion to approve request to create an OSAA Cooperative agreement with Banks School District for a co-op girls soccer team.
- Susan Wagner moved to approve the agenda as amended. Jeana Gump seconded the motion. There was no discussion. Motion passed unanimously.
- 3.0 RECESS to BUDGET HEARING** at 6:09 p.m. BUDGET HEARING OPENS
- 3.1 Open Budget Hearing:** The Budget Hearing opened at 6:09 p.m. BUDGET REVIEW
- 3.2 Budget Review:** There was no discussion. PUBLIC COMMENT
- 3.3 Public Comment:** There were no public comments. BUDGET HEARING CLOSES
- 3.4 Close Hearing:** The Budget Hearing closed at 6:10 p.m.
- 4.0 RETURN to REGULAR SESSION:** Return to regular session at 6:10 p.m. RETURN to REGULAR SESSION
- 5.0 SHOWCASING OF SCHOOLS:** SHOWCASING OF SCHOOLS
- 5.1 Student Reports:** Jim Krahn, Project Based Learning class teacher, explained the Community 101 program and the grants distributed by them this year. Jim discussed the origins of the city reader board as a community idea 7 years ago. The group ended up getting four community groups to purchase the reader board together. It has been purchased and will be installed soon. STUDENT REPORTS

5.2 Principal Reports:

Elementary Principal Michelle Eagleson commented that her written report was submitted. She highlighted the following items:

- Celebrated June Student of the Month. Mist Elementary will participate in this starting next year.
- Mist School will serve K-5 during the 2021-22 year.
- Artist in residence Jessica Graft has been doing video art lessons with K-5 students.
- Kindergarten registration on May 20 was successful with 30 families participating. Thanks to all groups who worked on this event.

Amy Cieloha asked what the number of Kindergarten students will be at Mist. At this time the numbers are not yet final and Michelle is not sure.

Kendra Schlegel, Title I, reviewed elementary data in the Board's packet and gave some explanation. She stated that teachers have been working really hard to facilitate the growth in student reading scores.

K-12 Vice Principal, Rachel Wilson shared that overall discipline is down due to the way everyone is moving through the building with the COVID restrictions.

Middle/High School Principal Nate Underwood shared that since the last Board meeting the high school has had prom, basketball & wrestling seasons, academic awards, and graduation. He is proud of students, staff, and families for all of this.

He shared a data report which included VFA data in the high school portion but not the middle school portion. Student scores are not great. Last year a lot of time was spent on 9th Grade On Track. He is hoping numbers will look better by the end of the semester. Some contributing factors to middle school failing grades were that many of the failing students had attendance issues or were doing only comprehensive distance learning (CDL). 9th Grade On Track data shows that VHS is back up to 70%. Graduation rate for the 4-year cohort was 90%. All state testing was completed for those who did not opt out. ACT scores are noted on the report.

Jeana Gump shared that 6-7 medals were won by Vernonia High School students at the 2A State track meet and John Roady was awarded Coach of the Year. Nate Underwood added to the athletics discussion and encouraged all to attend basketball games. The teams are doing well. There are not as many wrestlers as usual, but they are also doing well.

Juliet Safier shared a new opportunity for current juniors who will be the first generation in their family to be college bound. Special activities in Salem at Willamette ESD are in the works. She will be contacting students who might be eligible.

Debbie Taylor, reported on Vernonia Family Academy (VFA). Conferences have been held over the last few weeks. The program ended the year with 88 families and 144 students. Some students plan to return to Vernonia Schools campus in the Fall, but many will remain as part of VFA. The program is also attracting some new families.

Stacy Pelster asked about monthly student awards for VFA. Debbie Taylor wants to discuss this with families in the Fall.

There were many comments of thanks to the Board for supporting multiple opportunities for student education pathways.

6.0 PUBLIC COMMENT ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS:**PUBLIC COMMENT**

Laura Blacker spoke about her time spent at VSD and an account of her history while employed. Amy Cieloha thanked Ms. Blacker for the work with her own children and suggested reviewing reasons staff are moving on. There was no further discussion.

Tom Jones, publicly acknowledge and thanked Mr. Miller and administration for the work done for Mist enrollment changes. He is disappointed in his community members who did not take advantage of the availability of attending Mist Elementary School. He will continue to be a strong advocate for the North part of the District. Aaron Miller thanked Tom for coming to talk to him in person.

Janice McGuire commented that she is thankful for the VFA. She encouraged the Board to continue to have interactions with community and to put focus on parent volunteers. She feels that volunteering is not part of the school culture and that connectivity with families is not as present as it could be.

Jeana Gump asked if a volunteer coordinator can be identified again. Aaron Miller has had people offer to do this but not follow through. Teachers were doing this before COVID. He is open to this again.

7.0 BUSINESS REPORTS:

- 7.1 Superintendent Report:** Aaron. Miller highlighted his report with the following: SUPERINTENDENT REPORT
Tomorrow is the last day for students, next Tuesday is last official day for staff. This has been a really trying year. Staff, parents, students have done a lot to make it through this time. Custodians, grounds, kitchen, office staff, parents, students, teachers all deserve a huge shout out for their flexibility and making a successful year out of this situation.
- Richard Traver reported on the work of the Equity Team. He presented a slide show, and introduced Equity Team members; Michelle Eagleson, Jamie Hamsa, Kendra Schlegel, Richard Traver, Susanne Myers, and Ashley Ward. The Board requested a copy of the slide show. Richard will send it to Barb Carr electronically. Board members asked if there will be any more Equity Team updates at future meetings and how information from the Equity Team is being shared with teachers, families, and/or students? Richard stated the plan is to invite community members and students to the group next year. All staff have been invited and can be included. Stacey Pelster commented that the presentation was simple and the Equity Team has had to do some make up due to community backlash. The board is interested to hear where process is headed from here and how broad the goals will be. Jeana Gump sees a need for and indicated interest in being on the Equity Team. EQUITY TEAM PRESENTATION AND DISCUSSION
- Per a prior Board request, Mr. Miller shared the Organizational Chart. It was offered to community members if they request a copy. The chart explains some of the leadership responsibilities of the District. Mr. Miller reviewed the chart and explained that the lists of responsibilities are not exhaustive. Board members should bring questions to future meetings or contact Mr. Miller. Community members can email Mr. Miller or get in touch with Barb Carr to request a copy. DISTRICT ORGANIZATIONAL CHART SHARED
- Joanie Jones commented on the Organization Chart. She had requested information about administration duties but was really looking for what is it about the superintendent and other leadership staff jobs that they enjoy the most. She would like the community, staff, and parents, to know more about the staff that would bring it to a personal level.
- Mr. Miller discussed the change in Special Education Director. Brittanie Roberts asked about the position change, and Mr. Miller explained that the District went through the internal hiring process to hire Ms. Susanne Myers for this role. STAFF UPDATES
- Last month's packet had the bond completion update document which gave a description of each project and photos to highlight the work. The document will be published on the website soon. BOND COMPLETION DOCUMENT AVAILABLE
- The District is on 3+ year of the Strategic Plan. Mr. Miller will involve the Board, community, parents, and students to work on the next 3-year plan. Work will begin in the Fall. STATÉGIC PLAN

Greg Kintz commented that from the conversation, he has noted two separate areas the Board is interested in; 1) an invitation to be part of the Equity Team, and 2) an invitation for this work to be part of our community.

- 7.2 **Financial Report:** Marie Knight presented the financial report and explained the two budget related resolutions on the agenda for approval. FINANCIAL REPORT
7.2.1 **Resolution #2021-04:** Resolution to adopt the budget for 2021-2022. No discussion. RESOLUTION #2021-04
7.2.2 **Resolution #2021-05:** Resolution for appropriation of funds in the 2021-2022 budget. This is needed due to actual revenue and expenses being different from what was budgeted. RESOLUTION #2021-05
7.3 **Maintenance Report:** Mark Brown's Maintenance Report was reviewed. There were no questions. MAINTENANCE REPORT

8.0 **BOARD REPORTS/BOARD DEVELOPMENT:** BOARD REPORTS / BOARD DEVELOPMENT

Discussion was held on the continuation of OSBA Training through the scholarship program (DEMSP). There was confusion amongst the Board about submitting an application for the training program before the June 1st deadline. Chair Greg Kintz stated that after talking with OSBA regarding the amount of work needed for current board training as well as onboarding new board members and superintendent hiring procedures, it was decided that this is not the right time to move forward with more training. Ongoing maintenance directly related to the DEMSP training just completed by the Board as well as upcoming Superintendent hiring will be a lot for the Board to do.

Stacey Pelster, Jeana Gump and Brittanie Roberts protested and felt Mr. Kintz should not have decided to unilaterally not move forward with additional training. Mr. Kintz stated he felt that the lack of good response from Board members was a factor in not moving forward with the application. Per his conversation with OSBA, the next steps for the Board are implementation of the previous work done. Mr. Miller shared that many of the next steps will be part of the Strategic Plan work.

Stacey Pelster stated her desire to keep going with Board development. Mr. Kintz stated that OSBA will facilitate next steps although he does not know what the cost will be for their involvement.

Susan Wagner stated that as board members we need to move forward with any work we need to do. It's helpful to have a facilitator but not necessary. She suggested tabling the decision for now and bring it back after board members have had a chance to think about what they want to do and allow Greg Kintz the opportunity to go to OSBA and ask about what support they can provide.

Stacy Pelster asked Greg to contact Steve Kelley with OSBA and ask if we can still submit the application. Also, find out what implementation looks like.

Joanie Jones requested that each Board member spend some time in the next couple of weeks and let Greg Kintz know what direction do you want to move forward. She suggested not waiting until the next meeting but have some thoughts in the next couple of weeks about this.

Joanie Jones asked Aaron Miller about getting staff to work on the Strategic Plan over the summer. He does not think this will work as we are having problems getting staff willing to commit for summer school opportunities.

Stacy Pelster asked Mr. Miller, and he agreed, to look at priorities and share what we already have in place and where we are lacking and need more work. Susan Wagner commented that the proper procedure for the Board asking staff to do something should be a Board consensus not the request of individuals. It would be the Board Chair's role to call for a consensus.

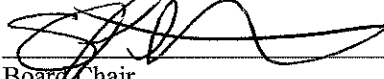
Greg Kintz called for consensus on Stacey's request; all board members agreed with the request of Mr. Miller.

- 8.1 **Presentation to Outgoing Board Member:** Out going Board member Brittanie Roberts was presented with a plaque and thanked and recognized for her service to the District. ROBERTS LEAVES BOARD


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| 8.2 | Election Abstract: Aaron Miller explained that the Board must accept the election results which were provided to the Board. | ELECTION ABSTRACT REVIEWED |
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| 9.0 | OTHER INFORMATION and DISCUSSION | |
| 9.1 | 2021-22 Out of State Travel Requests: Requests for out of state travel for next school year were shared. Both the 8 th Grade DC trip, the Senior Disneyland trip, and the HS Student trip to Germany will occur in the Spring of 2022. | OUT OF STATE TRAVEL REQUESTS DISCUSSED |
| 9.2 | Staff Resignations and Retirements: The District has two retirees this year, Matt Blair and Byron Brown. Resignations have been received from Laura Blacker and Kendra Berryman. | STAFF RESIGNATIONS & RETIREMENTS |
| 9.3 | Soccer Cooperative Agreement with Banks School District: VHS has one student that has been playing soccer in Banks and wants to continue. In a cooperative situation Banks must combine enrollment for both schools for ranking. The agreement is for one year only; based on one student's request but other students can benefit from the arrangement. | SOCCER COOPERATIVE AGREEMENT WITH BANKS SCHOOL DISTRICT PROPOSED |
| | <p>Any Cieloha asked if this opportunity is for boys as well? According to Mr. Miller this agreement is specific to girls' soccer only as a result of a specific student request. Any student athlete has the ability to make these types of requests.</p> <p>There was concern about the other sports and rankings. Mr. Miller clarified that this is for soccer only, not all sports.</p> | |
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| 10.0 | ACTION ITEMS | |
| 10.1 | <p>Resolution #2021-04 – Adopting the 2021-22 Budget, Making Appropriations, Imposing and Categorizing the Tax: Brittanie Roberts moved to adopt the Vernonia School District Budget for the 2021-22 year as follows: General Fund - \$8,120,168 Special Revenue Fund - \$3,009,399 Debt Service Fund - \$1,142,486 Capital Projects Fund - \$1,380,275 Total, All funds - \$13,652,328 As presented, with a tax rate of \$5.0121 per \$1,000 of assessed value to be assessed in support of the general Fund and in the amount of \$1,040,000 for debt service for general obligation bonds.</p> <p>Stacy Pelster seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.</p> | RESOLUTION #2021-04 ADOPTING THE 2021-22 BUDGET APPROVED |
| 10.2 | <p>Resolution #2021-05 – Transfer Appropriations within Funds: Susan Wagner moved to approve Resolution #2021-05 as presented. Jeana Gump seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.</p> | RESOLUTION #2021-05 APPROVED |
| 10.3 | <p>Election Abstract: Jeana Gump moved to accept the abstract from the May 18, 2021 election as presented. Stacy Pelster seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.</p> | MAY 18, 2021 ELECTION ABSTRACT ACCEPTED |
| 10.4 | <p>Out of State Travel: Susan Wagner moved to approve out of state travel for the 8th Grade DC trip, the Senior California trip, and the HS student trip to Germany in the Spring of 2022 as discussed. Stacy Pelster seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.</p> | 202-22 OUT OF STATE TRAVEL APPROVED |
| 10.5 | <p>Resignations / Retirements: Brittanie Roberts moved to accept the retirement of Matthew Blair and Byron Brown and the resignation of Kendra Berryman and Laura Blacker effective June 30, 2021. Stacy Pelster seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.</p> | RETIREMENTS & RESIGNATIONS ACCEPTED |

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| <p>10.6 Soccer Cooperative Agreement with Banks School District: Brittanie Roberts moved to approve the OSAA Cooperative Agreement with Banks School District. Amy Cieloha seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.</p> | <p>COOP AGREEMENT w/BANKS SOCCER APPROVED</p> |
| <p>11.0 MONITORING BOARD PERFORMANCE: There was nothing discussed.</p> | <p>BOARD PERFORMANCE</p> |
| <p>12.0 CONSENT AGENDA: 12.1 Minutes of 04/24/21 Workshop, 05/13/21 Regular Meeting and 05/15/21 Workshop.</p> <p>Stacy Pelster moved to approve the consent agenda as presented. Brittanie Roberts seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.</p> | <p>CONSENT AGENDA MINUTES APPROVED</p> |
| <p>13.0 RECESS to EXECUTIVE SESSION under O.R.S. 192.660 (2) (i) at 8:44 pm</p> | <p>RECESSED to EXECUTIVE SESSION</p> |
| <p>14.0 RETURN to REGULAR SESSION at 10:04pm</p> | <p>RETURNED to REGULAR SESSION</p> |
| <p>15.0 Other Issues: Congratulations to Superintendent Aaron Miller for receipt of the award of Oregon Small Schools Association Administrator of the Year for 2021.</p> | <p>MILLER AWARDED OSSA ADMINISTRATOR OF THE YEAR FOR 2021</p> |
| <p>MEETING ADJOURNED at 10:07 p.m.</p> | <p>ADJOURNED</p> |

Submitted by Marie Knight, Business Manager



 Board Chair



 District Clerk