

VERNONIA SCHOOL DISTRICT 47J
1201 TEXAS AVENUE
VERNONIA OR 97064

BOARD OF DIRECTORS REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

September 10, 2020

- 1.0 CALL TO ORDER:** A Regular Meeting of the of Directors of Administrative School District 47J, Columbia County, Oregon was called to order virtually at 6:00 p.m. by Greg Kintz. MEETING CALLED TO ORDER
- Board Present:** Susan Wagner, Steve Whiteman, Jeana Gump, Joanie Jones, Stacey Pelster, and Greg Kintz. Brittanie Roberts joined at 6:06 p.m. BOARD PRESENT
- Board Absent:** None BOARD ABSENT
- Staff Present:** Aaron Miller, Superintendent; Nate Underwood, Middle/High School Principal; Michelle Eagleson, Elementary Principal; Marie Knight, Business Manager; Barb Carr, Administrative Assistant; Rachel Brown, Malin Campbell, Kaitlyn Carr-Kiprotich, Katherine Dalton, Jordan Frink, Teresa Gore, Olivia Keister, Juliet Safier, Kendra Schlegel, Geoff Schwartz, Jenna Schwartz, Kiara Single, and Claire Youngberg, Licensed Staff. Beth Kintz, Classified Staff. STAFF PRESENT
- Visitors Present:** Scott Laird and Jana Swedo. VISITORS PRESENT
- 1.1** The Pledge of Allegiance was recited. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE
- 2.0 AGENDA REVIEW:** Aaron Miller indicated that the VEA was not ready to present an M.O.U. however the OSEA does have an M.O.U. Adjust discussion item 7.5 and action item 8.5 to reflect the OSEA instead of the VEA. 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
Principal Reports:
Nate Underwood highlighted his report.
- MS/HS staff are learning the new Canvas program and how to integrate Google Classroom into Canvas.
 - The Comprehensive Distance Learning Plan went out to parents today.
 - Next week he will host 3 community chats virtually for parents and students to attend. Monday evening the focus will be 6th grade. Tuesday, 7th and 8th grade, and Wednesday 9th – 12th. Teachers will reach out to families if there is a need for further discussion.
- Michelle Eagleson highlighted her report:
- Kindercamp was held for 2 weeks in August. 20 kids attended the 2 week camp.
 - Staff is currently working on Canvas getting ready for their students.
- 4.0 PUBLIC COMMENT ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS:** Brittanie Roberts thanked the Administration for the work on reviewing and cancelling our use of the Acellus software based on racially sensitive content. PUBLIC COMMENT
- Juliet Safier shared that teachers are excited to be teaching students soon however some have expressed concern about students not being able to see facial expressions when teaching with a mask on.
- 5.0 BUSINESS REPORTS:**
- 5.1 Superintendent Report:** Aaron Miller updated the Board on the following: SUPERINTENDENT REPORT
- Policy Committee is presenting the second reading of policies and asking for approval tonight.
 - System Development Charges (SDCs) – nothing available to report
 - Student Chromebooks: Over 500 brand new chrome books were ordered but delivery has been delayed and they won't arrive prior to the start of school. The District is

working with the NWRES D to secure used ones from the Battle Ground Public Schools for the interim. Mr. Miller thanked Freya Lewis (NWRES D) assisted by Glenda Delemos for their work in getting them ready for our students.

- Acellus – This curriculum has been in use for years. It came out in the news that the State of Hawaii had issues with the racially and gender insensitive material mostly at the elementary level. Our District along with 10 other Districts in our region asked for further review of the curriculum. The NWES D did a random review at all levels and found the curriculum to not be appropriate. The NWES D looking into other options.
- Summer Meals: A total of 7300 meals were provided during the month of August.
- Limited Onsite Instruction. The District has the ability to make this happen. The restrictions are clear as to how often, how many, the reason to meet, etc.
- Licensed staff returned to the building last week – classified staff will return next week. The District is working with PPE. Staff are required to wear masks when around others or in parts of the building outside of their classroom.

**BOND PROJECTS
UPDATE**

Bond Update:

- Art Room: The outside is almost finished. Currently the crew is working on sheetrock and finishing up the electrical and heating components. Cabinets are going in. The room won't be ready for the start of school but it should be ready within a couple of weeks.
- Playground Equipment: The MES equipment is scheduled to be delivered within a week. Equipment order for VES is scheduled to be delivered soon as well.
- VES Play Fields: Once the rains start the area will be hydro-seeded.

Mr. Miller gave a huge thank you to our custodial crew – they have done a great job taking care of the grounds. The campus is looking nice and maintaining what the community has invested in.

- 5.2 Financial Report:** Marie Knight shared that the financial report still doesn't have a final ending fund balance from the 2019-20 school year / beginning fund balance for the 2020-21 school year. This month's financial report merely shows what was budgeted. If there is an adjustment needed based on this year's ADM it will be made soon. The next biennium revenue will be less. Having a little more this year to carry forward is good.

FINANCIAL REPORT

Greg Kintz asked about our enrollment numbers (ADM). Aaron Miller stated that it is a little early to have solid numbers for enrollment, however the District has not seen a large number of students leaving. Some have transferred to other programs and a few students are coming to Vernonia to take advantage of the Vernonia Family Academy (VFA).

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

**MAINTENANCE
REPORT**

- 6.0 BOARD REPORTS/ BOARD DEVELOPMENT:** Greg Kintz discussed the upcoming Board training with Steve Kelley from OSBA and date preferences. Discussion was held on board member availability. It was determined to meet virtually on October 10th from 9:00 a.m. -12:00 p.m.

**BOARD REPORTS &
BOARD
DEVELOPMENT**

7.0 OTHER INFORMATION and DISCUSSION

- 7.1 2020-21 Calendar Adjustment:** Aaron Miller shared a revised 2020-21 instructional calendar with adjustments to the quarter end dates. This was done to make the quarters more equal in number of days and also to move grading days from a Friday to a Wednesday. The VEA and the administration have looked at and approve the calendar.

**2020-21 CALENDAR
ADJUSTMENT
DISCUSSED**

There was a question regarding the number of days being less than previously presented. Discussion was held on this. The Board asked for further clarification and for this item to be presented next month for approval.

- 7.2 **Policy Updates:** A packet of policies was presented for approval. These policies were presented at the August meeting as a first reading. Policy BBF, BBFC, BDC, BDDG, ECACB, EEA, GBA, GBEA, GBEDA, GBNAA/JHFF, GCA, GCAB, IICC, JEA, JEC, JECA, JGAB, JGE, JHCD/JHCDA, JHFE, JHFF/GBNAA, and KL POLICY UPDATES SHARED AS 2nd READING
- 7.3 **Curl School Bus Services Contract Adjustment:** Mr. Miller shared that with the start of the 2020-21 school year schedule as full remote learning and a very limited need for delivery of meals, the District needed to open up and look at our current transportation contract. Mr. Miller shared a letter from Rob Curl explaining circumstances from his perspective as well as the MOA developed in concert with him. Mr. Miller further explained that after legal reviews, he still feels there are a couple items to work out. CURL SCHOOL BUS SERVICES / VERNONIA SCHOOL DISTRICT TRANSPORTATION CONTRACT DISCUSSED

The following question were raised by the Board:

1. The effective date in the MOA states Sept. 14th. This date will need to be adjusted with the delay in approval.
2. Has Curl School Bus Services received any benefits offered to businesses through stimulus funds? Mr. Miller was not sure.
3. Does Curls use full size or the small busses to deliver meals? Last Spring 3 additional smaller vehicles were purchased to be more efficient than using the larger busses.
4. What is the intent of removing "Without Cause" in regards to canceling the contract? This language has been there a long time and Mr. Miller feels this is standard. Rob Curl does not feel it is standard language. This is an item of discussion.

The Board was asked to review the items presented. This item will be back on the Agenda next month for approval.

- 7.4 **Staff New Hire:** Aaron Miller shared that Jamie Hamsa will be joining Vernonia School District as the District's Social Emotional Learning (SEL) Director. Jamie worked with Vernonia, Rainier and Clatskanie school districts last year. This year Vernonia and Clatskanie districts will split this .8 FTE position, each having Jamie on site two days a week. Mr. Miller stated that he is currently looking at another funding source to try and have her in Vernonia another day for a total of 3 days each week. STAFF NEW HIRE SHARED
- 7.5 **Oregon School Employees Association MOU:** Mr. Miller shared that with the changes to work conditions, the classified employees union is requesting to open their contract. They are requesting to bargain the availability of childcare for staff. To fulfill this request ethically and legally, the District would need to offer a compensation packet for our employees. If the District offers child care it will allow our staff to be able to work. The childcare center won't be on campus and the District will have two classified members working the center. It will begin on September 21st and will be for grades PreK – 6th. OSEA REQUESTS TO OPEN CONTRACT DUE TO WORKING CHANGES

The District is looking at renting space for the center and are currently discussing options with local churches and the Grange building.

8.0 ACTION ITEMS

- 8.1 **2020-21 Calendar Adjustment:** This itemed will be on next month's agenda. See discussion above. 2020-21 CALENAR ADJUSTMENT POSTPONED
- 8.2 **Policy Updates:** Susan Wagner moved to approve the updates to policies as presented, with a grammatical adjustment as discussed. Steve Whiteman seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously. POLICIES APPROVED
- 8.3 **Curl School Bus Services Contract:** This itemed will be on next month's agenda. See discussion above. CURL SCHOOL BUS SERVICES CONTRACT MOA POSTPONED

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| <p>8.4 New Hire: Joanie Jones moved to approve the Superintendent's recommendation to hire Jamie Hamsa as the District's SEL Coordinator. Brittanie Roberts seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.</p> | <p>HAMSA HIRES AS DISTRICT SEL DIRECTOR</p> |
| <p>8.5 OSEA M.O.U.: Jeana Gump moved to approve the OSEA MOU as discussed and presented. Brittanie Roberts seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.</p> | <p>OSEA MOU APPROVED</p> |
| <p>9.0 MONITORING BOARD PERFORMANCE: Nothing discussed.</p> | <p>MONITORING BOARD PERFORMANCE</p> |
| <p>11.0 CONSENT AGENDA:</p> | |
| <p>11.1 Minutes of 08/13/20 Regular Meeting.</p> | <p>MINUTES APPROVED</p> |
| <p>Susan Wagner moved to approve the consent agenda as presented. Stacey Pelster seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.</p> | <p>CONSENT AGENDA APPROVED</p> |
| <p>Other Issues: The next School Board meeting is on October 8th and will be held virtually. Steve Whiteman asked for clarification on the reasoning for holding the meetings virtually. Is this a State guideline or a District decision? Greg Kintz shared that he feels it is important to follow the guidelines of OSBA and what other Districts are doing. He also stated that the Board should not enter the building if students aren't allowed to enter.</p> | <p>OTHER ISSUES:
VIRTUAL vs IN-PERSON BOARD MTGS DISCUSSED</p> |
| <p>Jeana Gump asked about the current number and the matrix used to determine when students can return to on-site learning. Aaron Miller stated that the County hit the mark this week which would allow K-3 to return, however to avoid flip-flopping if numbers change, the District plans to wait until the end of the quarter in November to review again.</p> | <p>MATRIX USD TO ALLOW STUDENTS TO RETURN TO ONSITE LEARNING</p> |
| <p>Susan Wagner feels an extensive conversation should occur before any decision is made.</p> | |
| <p>12.0 MEETING ADJOURNED 7:23 p.m.</p> | <p>ADJOURNED</p> |

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

Board Chair

District Clerk