

VERNONIA SCHOOL DISTRICT 47J
1201 TEXAS AVENUE
VERNONIA OR 97064

BOARD OF DIRECTORS WORKSHOP MEETING MINUTES

March 6, 2021

CALL TO ORDER: A Workshop of the Board of Directors of Administrative School District 47J, Columbia County, Oregon was convened at 9:10 a.m.

MEETING CALLED
TO ORDER

Board Present: Stacey Pelster, Susan Wagner, Amy Cieloha, Jeana Gump, Joanie Jones and Greg Kintz

BOARD PRESENT

Board Absent: Brittanie Roberts

BOARD ABSENT

Staff Present: Aaron Miller, Superintendent and Barb Carr, Administrative Assistant

STAFF PRESENT

Visitors Present: Steve Kelley and Janet Avila-Medina, OSBA

VISITORS

Vernonia School District DEMSP (full program) Training, Session #3 – Board Culture: Intermediate Roles and Responsibilities

DEMSP
SCHOLARSHIP
PROGRAM BOARD
TRAINING #3

Introductions were held and an overview of the DEMSP Training Sessions were reviewed.

Training Session #1 – Overview and Planning

Training Session #2 – Best Practices: Roles & Responsibilities

BOARD CULTURE:
INTERMEDIATE
ROLES and
RESPONSIBILITIES

Today is Training Session #3 – Board Culture / Intermediate Roles & Responsibilities

Board members were asked to choose one word from a provided list that represents a value that is embraced and helps to guide board decisions.

Susan Wagner: Objectiveness

Jeana Gump: Compassion

Stacey Pelster: Commitment

Joanie Jones: Family

Amy Cieloha: Compassion

Greg Kintz: Compassion

Aaron Miller : Honesty / Empathy

Proposed Board Goals were reviewed:

Goal #1

The Vernonia School Board will continue to “set and communicate high expectations for student learning with clear goals and plans for those expectations.”

Action Plan

1. Ensure that all future policy work includes (maintains) the belief that all students can learn at high levels.
2. Continue to support the district goals/strategic plan with the proper financial support throughout the budgeting process and as needed during the school year.
3. Calendar at least 3 dates to monitor progress (in collaboration with superintendent) toward the goals and outcomes of the strategic plan. This can and should happen during regular board meetings.

Goal #2

The Vernonia School District will continue to hold school district accountable for meeting student learning expectations.

Action Plan

1. Calendar and execute a regular schedule to collaboratively review the district’s strategic plan during a minimum of 3 board meetings by 7/2/21
2. Calendar and execute at least 2 monitoring sessions to collaboratively review student achievement data related to the District’s priorities with the Superintendent and key staff by 7/1/21.

Goal #3

The Vernonia School Board will continue to evaluate the superintendent on clear and focused expectations.

Action Plan.

1. Calendar and execute at least 2 evaluation check ins with the superintendent prior to February 1, 2021
2. Review the current superintendent evaluation system and create (if needed) modifications to the process for the next evaluation cycle beginning April, 2021

3. Review the updated superintendent evaluation system jointly develop by COSA and OSBA prior to April 2021.

Goal 3 appears to need the most work. It was noted that Steve Kelley, Aaron Miller and Greg Kintz will work on this separately and put together a proposal.

Collaborative Governance – be united not uniform. It was stressed that it is good to have differences of opinion but all decisions made must be supported by all. Other aspects of collaborative governance include:

- Effective partnerships with stakeholders (parents, community, staff)
- Systems thinking (big picture is considered)
- Shared focus on student learning
- Culture of trust and respect for collective responsibility
- Learning and developing together as a team
- Collective accountability and support and shared decision making

Board Culture Matters – how Board members talk to one another is critical. Culture can be described as like an iceberg. Only 10% of an iceberg is above the surface and visible. This includes strategies, mission, vision, values, goals and objectives. It's what is underneath that counts. This includes internal competition, personal values, folklore, assumptions, perceptions, fear, corporate politics, unwritten rules, attitudes, old habits, traditions, and beliefs.

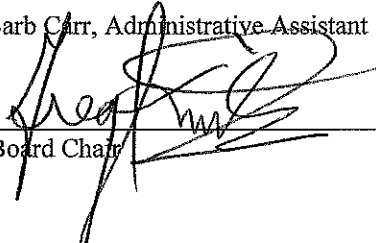
Brief discussion was held on the following items:

- All levels of communication from staff to community
- Building a relationship foundation within the board
- Individual Board member roles and how it impacts student achievement
- Various Board scenarios, how to address different issues that come to school boards
- The need to develop Board documents: Board Operating Agreement, Board/Superintendent Operating Agreement, Superintendent Evaluation Process and Paperwork
- Policy BG – Board/Staff Communications

ADJOURNED: Workshop concluded at 11:49 p.m.

ADJOURNED

Submitted by Barb Carr, Administrative Assistant


Board Chair


District Clerk