

VERNONIA SCHOOL DISTRICT 47J
1201 TEXAS AVENUE
VERNONIA OR 97064

BOARD OF DIRECTORS REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

July 09, 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 at 6:00 p.m. by Greg Kintz. MEETING CALLED TO ORDER
- Board Present:** Susan Wagner, Steve Whiteman, Jeana Gump, Greg Kintz, Stacey Pelster, and Brittanie Roberts via phone. BOARD PRESENT
Board Absent: Vacant position BOARD ABSENT
Staff Present: Aaron Miller, Superintendent; Nate Underwood, MS/HS Principal; Marie Knight, Business Manager; Barb Carr, Administrative Assistant; and Juliet Safier, Teresa Gore, and Brett Costley, Licensed Staff. STAFF PRESENT
- Visitors Present:** Jana Swedo, Joanie Jones, Sharlena Roberts-Oviatt, Jennifer Gentry, Damien Cox, Scott Laird, Amy Cieloha, Steve Calhoun, Michael Calhoun, Carol Calhoun, Corrie Aiuto, Arlene Buck, and Don Warfield. VISITORS PRESENT
- 1.1** The Pledge of Allegiance was recited. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE
- 2.0 AGENDA REVIEW:** One item was added under Discussion – 8.9 Superintendent M.O.A. and a subsequent action item 9.7. Susan Wagner moved to accept the agenda as amended. Stacey Pelster seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously. AGENDA REVIEW
- 3.0 BOARD CHAIR / VICE CHAIR:**
- 3.1 Elect 2020-21 Board Chair:** Steve Whiteman nominated Greg Kintz to serve as Board Chair for 2020-21. Stacey Pelster seconded the motion. Yes votes: Steve Whiteman, Stacey Pelster, Brittanie Roberts, Susan Wagner, Steve Whiteman and Jeana Gump. Abstain: Greg Kintz. Motion passed. KINTZ TO SERVE AS 2020-21 BOARD CHAIR
- 3.2 Elect 2020-21 Board Vice Chair:** Jeana Gump nominated Stacey Pelster as Vice Chair for 2020-21. Steve Whiteman seconded the motion. Yes votes: Steve Whiteman, Greg Kintz, Brittanie Roberts, Susan Wagner, Steve Whiteman and Jeana Gump. Abstain: Stacey Pelster. Motion passed. PELSTER TO SERVE AS 2020-21 BOARD VICE CHAIR
- 4.0 SHOWCASING OF SCHOOLS:** No report given. SHOWCASING OF SCHOOLS
- 5.0 PUBLIC COMMENT ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS:** Sharlena Roberts-Oviatt and Corrie Aiuto shared their involvement with a newly formed community group to address Vernonia’s racial injustice and equality. Their goal is to work with the City of Vernonia and the School District to bring awareness to the issues they see. PUBLIC COMMENT
- Michael Calhoun expressed concerns about the proposed security upgrades to the school. He requested crime rates, data and statistics to back-up the proposed changes the District is planning to make in regards to public access to the school. He would like to have a more in-depth conversation with Superintendent Miller.
- Steve Calhoun also spoke regarding the security of the school. He feels something has been lost regarding the open and welcoming feeling of the school. Deeper thinking before reacting is important.
- Brittanie Roberts commented as a community citizen and not as a member of the School Board. She expressed her concern for locking the school front doors. She does not feel this will create safety but will further isolate students in most need of a welcoming an open school.

6.0 BUSINESS REPORTS:

6.1 Superintendent Report: Aaron Miller updated the Board on the following:

- SDC Follow Up: Communication was received from the City and a meeting with them will occur in the next couple of weeks to discuss the process of moving forward. Both Columbia and Washington Counties need to be involved. It is not a simple process but Mr. Miller feels it is still doable.
- Policy Updates: First readings will be offered next month.
- 2020-21 Operational Blue Prints were shared. The depth of areas the district needs to have a plan for, per ODE, is deep. After August 13th the District will have a more finalized plan.
- Mr. Miller shared his support of the Salem Superintendent that called out her Board as well as herself regarding comments at Board meetings and elsewhere that were inappropriate. She called out all educational employees in regards to equity and racial issues in schools. Mr. Miller supports this and wants to know of anything that is not culturally responsive.
- Re-Opening Plan: The goal is to be supportive of our parents and their work schedules as well as keeping safety the number one priority. Currently looking at elementary students attending 4 days each week on Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday. Middle school students only attending on Thursday and Friday. High School students only attending on Monday and Tuesday. All students would be home and distance learning on Wednesdays. Any elementary classes with more than 21 students will be divided to maintain the proper social distancing for the size of classroom. Teachers will teach live in one room and provide their lesson over Google Classroom for the others. Those that choose to stay home will be able to access the Google Classroom as well. On Wednesday the entire school will be sanitized.

SUPERINTENDENT REPORT
 IN-PERSON & VIRTUAL MEETING IN AUGUST
 S.D.C. FOLLOW-UP
 POLICY UPDATES COMING IN AUGUST
 2020-21 OPERATION BLUEPRINTS SHARED
 CULTURALLY RESPONSIVE ACTION
 RE-OPENING PLAN SHARED

Prior to reopening, the District must have an Emergency Procedure and a Communicable Disease Plan directly related to COVID-19. Also, all District policies must reference COVID-19. Currently our School Nurse and the Columbia County Health Department are working together to create a draft of the Communicable Disease Plan. Until these two plans are finalized students are not able to meet. A question was raised about Cross Country. Mr. Miller reiterated that students are not able to meet at this time. ODE has not yet provided a clear directive regarding athletics and until there is Mr. Miller is not ready to take the risk. More will be known after guidance from the State is shared. Fall sports' organized practices begin on August 17th. Currently the concern is regarding summer conditioning only.

Mr. Miller responded to a variety of questions from the Board:

1. Special Education services are still being worked on and remains a topic of discussion at all meetings.
 2. Consequences for students that don't adhere to the social distancing will be addressed as behavioral issues not a discipline referral.
 3. The District is currently looking at the financial impact to the District for additional cleaning supplies, mask purchases, etc. There is a Federal Stimulus Package to assist with this but the District is unclear on the impact.
 4. Bussing students is another concern that was expressed. Mr. Miller agreed and stated options are under discussion.
 5. Meals: Students won't eat lunch in the Commons – they will take lunch back to their classroom.
 6. Playground equipment and other areas used for breaks will be cleaned after each use by a cohort group.
- Calendar adjustment – likely there will be a need to adjust the beginning or start of school to have more planning time.

- Parent meetings for the Vernonia Family Academy will take place in August. Currently we have two teachers to oversee this program. If the maximum number of enrolled students is surpassed the District may have to look at adding another teacher. The current teachers believe they can serve over 100 students between the two of them. Adding an instructional assistant is another option to consider.
- The District Budget is still in a holding position. The Federal Government will meet at the end of July and following that the State will have their next special session. The Governor's current budget numbers protect our General Fund budget it doesn't include how the SIA money or Measure 98 funds will be impacted.

6.1.2 Bond Update:

- Art Room: A lot of progress is taking place on the Art Room addition.
- Mist Elementary: cement for the sidewalks and the apron connectors are done. Replacing windows in two of the four classrooms is under discussion and close to a decision. A walking trail around the perimeter of the playground is in progress.
- Playground equipment has been ordered for both VES and MES.
- A drainage system will be installed on the playground hillside at VES to transport ground water to the bio-swale area.
- Playfield at VES will have top soil spread on top and then re-seeded to make a smoother field.
- Cross Country trail on the Vernonia Campus will be completed soon.
- Security Upgrades: moving forward with the front interior door relocation and the installation of exterior cameras with better night vision.
- After everything is complete, it appears there will be funds available to be used as seed money for a new grandstand at the football field. The remaining funds are due to not being able to construct the four classrooms as planned and only constructing one and the decreased contract amount for construction of the football field / track. Mr. Jarman is meeting with a group to discuss fundraising efforts to finalize this project.

BOND PROJECTS
UPDATE PROVIDED

A question was raised from the audience if special needs playground equipment will be installed as well as security fencing around the entire playground. Mr. Miller stated that a slide that doesn't require any climbing, it is built into the hillside, will be installed. There is no fencing being installed as this project wasn't part of the original bond documentation.

6.1.3 1:1 Technology: Mr. Miller shared with the Board that with the possibility of distance learning and students going back and forth next year, he has been working to provide every student with a Chromebook for their use. We have been going in this direction the last couple of years but will need to take a bigger jump this year to offer 1:1 technology to our students.

1:1 TECHNOLOGY
UPGRADE CRITICAL TO
DISTANCE LEARNING

Funding to make this happen is of concern but the concern of not having equity for all students to have access to education is greater. In our District, there are real disparities between families that have technology and those that don't. The District has access to a grant that will get wireless connectivity for families that don't have it. This will give the District the opportunity to offer equitable education away from school. An on-line instructional program that is consistent in format for families, staff and kids is available.

The cost is over \$160K to purchase enough Chromebook laptops for each student. A large portion of this (\$117K) will be covered through the Cares Act / stimulus funds from the Federal Government. The District already had placed in the 2020-21 budget funds to purchase some Chromebooks. It will take away some money from some area of the budget, but if the District is to meet the needs of all our students, this is necessary. Mr. Miller stated he doesn't see how the District provides education without doing this. Students will be able to take the Chromebook home with them.

Stacey Pelster shared that she is happy to see this happening sooner than later. This is a Board goal and has been a topic of discussion for quite some time.

6.2 **Financial Report:** Marie Knight reported that she did not provide a financial report this month since we are only two weeks into the fiscal year. She has been working hard to get 2019-20 wrapped up. All grants from last year have had claims submitted and money is either in the bank or on the way. Over the next few weeks, she will be working to get payroll set up for the new year.

FINANCIAL REPORT

Ms. Knight also addressed the Board regarding the agenda item later in the meeting about the MOA for the Confidential / Supervisory group. The Confidential/Supervisory contract has dictated language regarding vacation days. Some staff have been unable to take vacation due to the COVID19 additional workload and furlough days. The MOA is asking for an adjustment in the language for the 2019-20 so as not to lose the benefit of the vacation days.

CONFIDENTIAL / SUPERVISORY M.O.A. REQUEST SHARED

6.3 **Maintenance Report:** Mark Brown’s report was reviewed by the Board. There were no questions.

MAINTENANCE REPORT

7.0 **BOARD REPORTS/ BOARD DEVELOPMENT:**

7.1 **Board Vacancy Discussion and Appointment:** Chair Greg Kintz asked Barb Carr to explain the length of the term up for appointment. The vacant position is for the remainder of the original term, which expires on June 30, 2021. At that time, if the appointed individual wishes to remain on the Board they will need to seek election during the Spring 2021 election process.

BOARD VACANCY DISCUSSION and APPOINTMENT

The Board had previously reviewed the applications / questionnaires submitted by Damien Cox, Jennifer Gentry, and Joan Jones.

Additional questions were asked by Board members of the three candidates.

1. What inspired you to apply?
2. How many Board meetings have you attended?
3. What have you done to familiarize yourself with Board policy?
4. How would you prepare for a meeting?
5. How much time do you think the position will require of you?
6. Are you willing to fire a Superintendent if you feel they are not performing?

After discussion, Stacey Pelster moved to nominate Damien Cox to the vacant position #5 for the remainder of the term. Susan Wagner seconded the motion. There was no discussion. Yes votes: Susan Wagner and Stacey Pelster. No votes: Steve Whiteman, Jeana Gump, Greg Kintz and Brittanie Roberts. Motion failed.

Steve Whiteman nominated Joan Jones to the vacant position #5 for the remainder of the term, Jeana Gump seconded the motion. After discussion, Chair Kintz called for the vote. Yes votes: Jeana Gump, Steve Whiteman, Stacey Pelster, Greg Kintz, and Brittanie Roberts. No votes: Susan Wagner. Motion passed.

JOAN JONES APPOINTED TO THE VERNONIA SCHOOL DISTRICT BOARD OF DIRECTORS POSITION #5 FOR THE REMAINDER OF THE TERM (06/30/2021)

The other applicants were encouraged to seek election during the next election cycle or join the Budget Committee.

Susan Wagner left the meeting at 8:06 p.m.

Aaron Miller administered the Oath of Office to Joan Jones who was then seated at the table with the Board and finished the meeting as an active member of the Vernonia School District Board of Directors.

8.0 **OTHER INFORMATION and DISCUSSION**

8.1 **Board Liaisons to District Committees:** Aaron Miller explained that there are school committees that Board members are welcome to be participants. Discussion was held on when the committees hold their meetings. It was noted as a reminder that due to quorum guidelines and public meeting law no more than 3 board members can be part of any one committee. Board members expressed interest in serving on the following committees:

BOARD LIAISONS TO DISTRICT COMMITTEES

- 8.1.1 Safety:** Discusses safety issues, safety inspections, and works with Standard Response Protocols. This committee meets at 7:15 a.m. Tuesday mornings once a month. Stacey Pelster (tentative as she is unable to meet on Tuesdays) and Joanie Jones. SAFETY COMMITTEE
- 8.1.2 Talented and Gifted:** Looks at TAG policies and reviews test score criteria for TAG qualification. Kendra Schlegel will run this committee. Jeana Gump (tentative if available) T.A.G.
- 8.1.3 Vernonia's Caring Community (VCC) – Social Emotional Learning (SEL):** Rachel Wilson (Wilcoxon) and Ms. Hamsa co-chair this committee which will meet once a month. Joanie Jones V.C.C. and S.E.L.
- 8.1.4 Curriculum Committee:** Brittanie Roberts, Steve Whiteman, and Jeana Gump
- 8.2 Board Committee Assignments:** Aaron Miller explained that there are currently four Board Committees that are active. Three board members can serve on each committee. BOARD COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENTS
- 8.2.1 Negotiations:** This team along with the Superintendent and the Business Manager make up the District side of negotiations with the Classified and Certified union, Confidential/Supervisory and Superintendent and Administrative Contracts. Greg Kintz, Steve Whiteman, and Susan Wagner was added in her absence. NEGOTIATIONS COMMITTEE
- 8.2.2 Policy Review:** Responsible for reviewing and updating District policy, meeting quarterly or more often if needed. Greg Kintz, Brittanie Roberts, and Steve Whiteman POLICY REVIEW
- 8.2.3 Facilities (Long Range Planning):** Discusses facility planning, meets as needed for projects. Stacey Pelster and Susan Wagner was added in her absence. FACILITIES
- 8.2.4 Vernonia Education Foundation (VEF):** This committee provides a liaison from the School Board to the VEF Board. Stacey Pelster, Jeana Gump, and Joanie Jones VEF
- 8.3 Substitute Teacher Pay:** The 2020-21 State recommendation is \$189.32 per day. Aaron Miller recommends the District set their substitute teacher pay at \$190.00 - \$200.00 per day. The 2019-20 sub rate amount was \$188.00 per day. 2020-21 TEACHER SUB PAY DISCUSSED
- 8.4 2020-21 Board Meeting Schedule:** A draft schedule was presented with all meetings scheduled on the 2nd Thursday of each month as well as workshops as needed in any month with 5 Thursdays. The meeting in October and April will take place at Mist Elementary School. BOARD MEETING SCHEDULE DISCUSSED
- The next School Board meeting is August 13. Discussion was held as to the preference of the Board to hold the meeting in person or virtually. After discussion, the consensus of the Board was to hold the meeting in person, all stating they liked the contact and connection by being in the same room. The District will work to offer a virtual option as well.
- 8.5 Fee Schedule:** The 2020-21 Fee Schedule was reviewed. Increases over the 2019-20 fees were as follows: 2020-21 FEE SCHEDULE DISCUSSED
- K-12 lunch fees were increase by \$.05 as directed by ODE School Nutrition Program
 - Yearbook – \$10.00 increase at VMS and \$1.00 increase at VHS
 - VMS Shop Class – decreased to \$10.00 as this is only a 9 week course
 - 6th Grade Band Fee – now listed as optional
 - Facility Use Fees – increase in the hourly rate as well as the addition of a Technology Equipment Fee and a Technology Support Fee. The custodial hourly rate was also increased.
- 8.6 New Hires:** Aaron Miller shared his recommendation to hire Natalia Burdulis for 3rd Grade. Ms. Burdulis came to us half way thru the year last year as a temporary teacher in 5th grade. Mr. Miller also recommends hiring Sena Wilmoth as the 3rd-5th teacher at Mist. Ms. Wilmoth comes to us with a lot of experience including teaching at Concordia University. NEW HIRE RECOMMENDATIONS PROVIDED
- 8.7 Supervisory / Confidential Contract M.O.A.:** Explanation for this item was given during the Financial Report earlier in the meeting. SUPERVISORY / CONFIDENTIAL MOA PREVIOUSLY SHARED
- 8.8 Superintendent Contract:** Aaron Miller shared his adjustment requests for his 2020-21 contract. Adjustments include: SUPT CONTRACT DISCUSSED

1. Rolling forward the dates to maintain a 3-year contract.
 2. COLA for the Superintendent is the same as it is for teachers. It is based on performance evaluation between 2 and 4 percent. He is requesting to only go with a 2% COLA.
 3. Offer the same vacation language in his contract to match Supervisory/Confidential
- A question was asked as to when Mr. Miller will be leaving VSD. He stated that due to life changes he will be in Vernonia until he retires, likely in 3 years.

- 8.9 **Superintendent M.O.A.:** Aaron Miller shared that he is asking for the vacation day adjustment for this year only. This is the same ask as the Confidential/Supervisory group. SUPT M.O.A. SHARED
- 9.0 **ACTION ITEMS**
- 9.1 **Substitute Teacher Pay:** Stacey Pelster moved to establish the Substitute Teacher Pay for 2020-21 at \$200.00 per day. Jeana Gump seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously with those in attendance. SUBSTITUTE PAY FOR 2020-21 SET AT \$200 PER DAY.
- 9.2 **Board Meeting Schedule:** Jeana Gump moved to approve the board meeting schedule for 2020-21 as presented. Stacey Pelster seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously with those in attendance. BOARD MEETING DATES SET FOR 2020-21
- 9.3 **Fee Schedule:** Stacey Pelster moved to approve the 2020-21 Fee Schedule as presented. Joanie Jones seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously with those in attendance. 2020-21 FEE SCHEDULE ESTABLISHED
- 9.4 **New Hires:** Joanie Jones moved to hire Natalia Burdulis as a 3rd Grade teacher at Vernonia Elementary and Sena Wilmoth as the blended 3rd-5th Grade Teacher at Mist. Stacey Pelster seconded the motion. Steve Whiteman clarified neither are brand new positions but replacements. Motion passed unanimously with those attendance. BURDULIS and WILMOTH HIRED
- 9.5 **Supervisory / Confidential Contract MOA:** Jeana Gump moved to approve the Supervisory / Confidential Contract MOA as presented and discussed. Stacey Pelster seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously with those in attendance. SUPERVISORY / CONFIDENTIAL CONTRACT M.O.A. APPROVED
- 9.6 **Superintendent Contract:** Jeana Gump moved to approve the adjustment to the Superintendent Contract as presented and discussed. Joanie Jones seconded the motion. There was no additional discussion. Motion passed unanimously with those in attendance. SUPERINTENDENT CONTRACT APPROVED
- 9.7 **Superintendent Contract MOA:** Stacey Pelster moved to approve the Superintendent Contract MOA as presented and discussed. Jeana Gump seconded the motion. There was no additional discussion. Motion passed unanimously with those in attendance. SUPERINTENDENT CONTRACT M.O.A. APPROVED
- 10.0 **MONITORING BOARD PERFORMANCE:** Greg Kintz shared that the OSBA Memorial Scholarship Program application was submitted on time. He should be notified soon if our District has been accepted to participate in this program. MONITORING BOARD PERFORMANCE
- 11.0 **CONSENT AGENDA:** CONSENT AGENDA
- 11.1 Minutes of 06/11/20 Regular Meeting and Budget Public Hearing. MINUTES APPROVED
- 11.2 Designate DESIGNATE:
- 11.2.1 Chief Administrative & Budget Officer/Clerk – Aaron Miller CHIEF ADMIN/CLERK
- 11.2.2 Custodian of Funds – Aaron Miller CUSTODIAN OF FUNDS
- 11.2.3 Representative of Federal/State Fund & Grant Applications – Aaron Miller GRANT APPS REP.
- 11.2.4 Depository of Funds – US Bank & Government Pool DEPOSITORY OF FUNDS
- 11.2.5 District Auditors – Pauly, Rogers & Co. P.C. AUDITORS
- 11.2.6 Insurance Agent of Record – Brown & Brown Northwest INSURANCE AGENT
- 11.2.7 Attorney of Record – Garrett, Hemann, Robertson, Jennings, Comstock & Trethewey, P.C. ATTORNEY OF RECORD
- 11.2.8 Newspaper of Record – Vernonia’s Voice NEWSPAPER OF REC.
- 11.3 Set:

11.3.1 Borrowing Limit - \$150,000.00

BORROWING LIMIT SET

Stacey Pelster moved to approve the consent agenda as presented. Jeana Gump seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously with those in attendance.

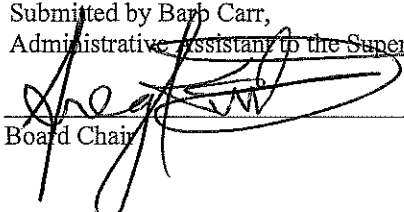
CONSENT AGENDA
APPROVED

Other Issues: None

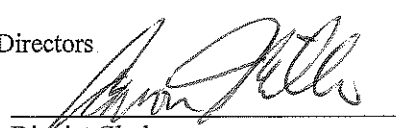
12.0 MEETING ADJOURNED at 8:59 p.m.

ADJOURNED

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



Board Chair



District Clerk

