

VERNONIA SCHOOL DISTRICT 47J  
1201 TEXAS AVENUE  
VERNONIA OR 97064

BOARD OF DIRECTORS REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

November 12, 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 6:07 p.m. by Greg Kintz. MEETING CALLED TO ORDER
- Board Present:** Greg Kintz, Joanie Jones, Brittanie Roberts, and Stacey Pelster. Jeana Gump joined at 6:17 p.m. BOARD PRESENT
- Board Absent:** Susan Wagner and the vacant position BOARD ABSENT
- Staff Present:** Aaron Miller, Superintendent; Michelle Eagleson, Elementary Principal; Marie Knight, Business Manager; Barb Carr, Administrative Assistant; Kendra Schlegel, Juliet Safier, Kaitlyn Carr-Kiprotich, Jordan Ochoa, David Spackman, Olivia Keister, Kiara Single, Andrea Anderson, Laura Blacker, Kendra Berryman, Jenna Schwartz, Teresa Gore, Robin Manning, Claire Youngberg, and Jim Krahn, Licensed Staff; and Camrin Eyrrick, Traci Wolf, Elizabeth Kintz, Richard Traver, and Sheril McWhirter, Classified Staff. STAFF PRESENT
- Visitors Present:** Shelley Hennessey, Scott Laird, and Tara Kamp. VISITORS PRESENT
- 1.1** The Pledge of Allegiance was recited. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE
- 2.0 AGENDA REVIEW:** Other Information and Discussion Item #7.6 Returning Students to On-Site Learning and Action Item #8.6 Returning Students to On-Site Learning were added to the agenda. Stacey Pelster moved to accept the agenda as amended. Brittanie Roberts seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously with those in attendance. AGENDA REVIEW
- 3.0 SHOWCASING OF SCHOOLS:** SHOWCASING OF SCHOOLS
- Principal Reports:  
Nate Underwood was not in attendance. His written report was previously shared with the Board.
- Michelle Eagleson highlighted her report: PRINCIPAL REPORTS
- The last month has been very busy for the Elementary teachers. They are working hard to implement District Learning. She has received great feedback from parents especially noting the positive difference between how things are going from last Spring to this Fall.
  - Tuesday David Spackman and Jamie Hamsa held a virtual community chat with K-5 parents. They had a great conversation with parents on ways to deal with the stress and the overwhelming feeling of Distance Learning.
  - On October 26, Kendra Schlegel, held a core review meeting with our K-2 and 3-5 teachers. As expected the data is showing the circumstances of the pandemic. The team is focusing on what they have control over. The main area is how to engage our students. Once the students are engaged the academic data will come up.
  - The Elementary teachers are preparing for next week's conferences on Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday.
  - Vernonia Elementary has started the Limited In-Person Instruction (LIPI) with 2 elementary students on campus this week.
- ODE At-A-Glance School and District Profiles:** Aaron Miller shared with the Board the At-A-Glance School and District Profiles, formerly Oregon Department of Education (ODE) School and District Report Cards. The data on the profiles is very different than what has been provided in years past. One area that is still available is the High School Graduation statistics for both 4 year and 5 year graduation cohorts. VHS on time graduation (4 year cohort) was at 78% with the Statewide average at 80%. VHS 5 year cohort was at 97% compared to the 86% for the Statewide average. Full access to the profiles is available on the O.D.E. website. ODE AT-A-GLANCE SCHOOL and DISTRICT PROFILES

**4.0 PUBLIC COMMENT ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS:** None

PUBLIC COMMENT

**5.0 BUSINESS REPORTS:**

**5.1 Superintendent Report:** Aaron Miller updated the Board on the following:

SUPERINTENDENT REPORT

- ODE and Oregon Health Authority released updated metrics for school reopening. The metrics are less restrictive and open a path for children to go back to in-person learning sooner than before. Previously, counties had to have fewer than 30 cases per 100,000 people for three consecutive weeks, to resume any in-person learning. Now that metric is fewer than 100 cases per 100,000 people to resume limited onsite K-3 (phasing up to 6th) and fewer than 50 cases per 100,000 for onsite for all students for two-week period. The metrics were updated based on evidence of reduced transmission of COVID-19 among children and sustained stress on parents.
- The District does have LIPI in place with 2 elementary students this week, 3 next week as well as 5 high school students.
- New chrome books are scheduled to arrive by the end of November.
- The District has worked to meet the needs of all families in regards to connectivity for online access to Distance Learning. A couple students are going back and forth with thumb drives, getting new assignments and submitting completed ones due to not being able to get them connected. Ms. Wilson and the SEL Team has done a great job with intake and assessment of student need, whether it be with SEL, online connectivity, or a lack of engagement and participation, and routing the needs to the staff person that can help the student the most.
- Staff are working hard to make connections with the students that are not engaged, including home visits, and it's working well. Staff are putting in a lot of extra hours to make it all happen.

Greg Kintz shared that with his conversations regarding other Districts around the State all are experiencing the same issues of getting the students to engage.

**Bond Update:**

BOND PROJECTS UPDATE

- Art Room: Very close to having final occupancy. The ceiling fans, once installed, will allow the District to obtain the occupancy permit. They are also, not quite done with the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor emergency exit stairs at the end of that wing.
- Playground equipment has been installed at MIST and VES. Bark chips are not in yet at Mist.
- Security updating at the main entrance is almost complete.
- Solar panels are in and functioning.
- The District is very close to being done with all Bond projects. Another month will allow everything to move through the system and then provide a clear picture of any remaining funds. Installing stairs up to the Wood and Metal shop is a possibility and a small amount of seed money for the grandstands at the football field.

Brittanie Roberts asked about the procedure if, when she is online with her student in a virtual class, she overhears a comment that is concerning. She, through her work, is a mandatory reporter. Does she make a report or contact the school? Aaron Miller stated that any mandatory reporter has to make their own decision on whether or not to report. There are always district staff in the virtual classrooms and they are all mandatory reporters as well. The responsibility of a mandatory reporter is the same for on-site and virtual classroom situations. The District continues to have reports made although not as many as when students are on site. If a parent is online and doesn't have mandatory reporting status they should be in contact with the teacher or the building administrator if they have any concerns. The District takes this very seriously.

MANDATORY REPORTING THE SAME FOR ON-SITE AND VIRTUAL CLASSROOM SETTINGS

**5.2 Financial Report:** Marie Knight shared that Vernonia, along with many other Districts around the State, have had a decline in enrollment. ODE allowed Districts the option to revise their enrollment estimates. Marie did decrease our enrollment estimates. By adjusting the

FINANCIAL REPORT

State School Fund (SSF) payment, this year's ending fund balance was adjusted by \$30,000, bringing it down to \$396,000. She is working hard to be realistic in what we are spending and what we will receive in our SSF payment.

Jeana Gump asked if our budget will be adjusted to reflect the decrease. According to Marie, no. The budget will remain the same. What will change is the amount of our ending fund balance. The amount we are forecasting to have left over at the end of the 2020-21 year will be less.

**5.2.1 Audit Presentation:** Tara Kamp, a partner with Pauly Rogers & Co. introduced herself and shared that her company performs the annual financial statement for the district through June 30, 2020.

AUDIT  
PRESENTATION

The overall purpose of audit is to audit financial statements to determine if they are fairly stated and to ensure the District is in compliance in the audit as required by the State of Oregon.

The results for the Vernonia School District are very good. They have issued an unmodified opinion. There was no management letter issued, meaning they found nothing worth addressing.

There was one exception in regards to an account being over expended in the area of instruction. Marie Knight explained that near the end of each year she reviews spending compared to what was budgeted. She then estimates how much she will need to move between accounts. This adjustment within the budget is called the Budget Appropriations that she presents to the Board for approval each Spring. Last year she underestimated this amount which was due to a grant coming in at the end of the year with less money than originally expected.

Tara Kamp further went on to share that they also cover any future accounting standards that are coming up. She again stated that overall the results are excellent for the District.

**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:** The next training date with Steve Kelley, OSBA is scheduled for January 30<sup>th</sup>.

BOARD REPORTS &  
BOARD  
DEVELOPMENT

Board Member Steve Whiteman submitted his resignation effective October 9. Stacey Pelster stated her disappointment in the resignation as she felt Steve was a strong and dynamic board member. She was surprised at his social media comments of being silenced. Stacey further commented that she would like to see our Board meetings be held in person. Jeana Gump and Brittanie Roberts agreed with wanting to hold meetings in person, stating they are unable to be an effective board member when meeting virtually. Greg Kintz apologized if he gave any impression of suppressed opinions. He was elected to serve and to be lawful and is bound by those laws.

Aaron Miller stated that there is a lot of safety issues to tackle before having our students and the public back in the building. He would appreciate having time to put processes in place for students before having the public in the building for a board meeting.

The question was raised if the board could be in person for their meetings and the public attend virtually. Greg Kintz will check with OSBA about public meeting laws regarding this.

Discussion was held on the vacant position replacement timeline. After discussion the Board agreed they preferred to appoint a replacement as soon as possible. The following timeline was agreed upon:

Friday, November 13 – post the vacancy

Friday, November 27 – applications due to the District Office

Thursday, December 10 – appoint a person to the vacant position

**7.0 OTHER INFORMATION and DISCUSSION**

- 7.1 Curls School Bus Services Annual Transportation Report:** Shelley Hennessy reported that currently they have 4 lunch routes going. They are delivering 247 lunches daily with double that amount going out on Thursdays. They unfortunately had some vandalism on site, damaging 4 of their busses and forcing them to use the vans for the meal delivery. Next Monday, all the repairs will be completed and all busses back. Currently she has 5 assigned drivers, 4 delivering lunches and 1 special needs route. ANNUAL TRANSPORTATION REPORT
- 7.2 Division 22 Assurances:** Mr. Miller shared that this year the Division 22 list is less inclusive than previous years. The basic procedures are there to address and take care of. The District is meeting all Division 22 standards with the exception of meeting the timelines for sharing the document with the public. In previous years the deadline to submit the document to ODE was February. This year it was moved to November which caught him off guard. He had to answer “No” we are not in compliance, to notifying the public our status and placing on our website by November 1<sup>st</sup>. He was able to answer “Yes” to acknowledging giving receipt of the report to the Board by November 15<sup>th</sup>. DIVISION 22 ASSURANCES SHARED
- Brittanie Roberts asked where she could look more at Division 22. Aaron Miller shared he will forward to her email he receives regarding the Division 22 standards.
- 7.3 Student Success Act (SSA) – Student Investment Account (SIA) Grant Agreement:** Mr. Miller shared the grant agreement is the culmination of work done last year. The District’s top priorities were textbook adoption at the high school, hiring a Social Emotional Director and instructional assistant support. We are to receive \$170,959.47 which will fund our priorities and allow the District to maintain all Instructional Assistants on staff. SSA – SIA GRANT AGREEMENT REVIEWED
- 7.4 OSBA Resolution Supporting the 2021-22 Legislative Priorities & Principles:** Greg Kintz shared that the Legislative Priorities and Principles list is well vetted around the State. A number of individuals from various areas of the State worked together to come up with the final list of priorities for OSBA to focus on during the 2021-22 year. He asked if the Board had any issues on what was being presented – there were no comments from the Board. OSBA RESOLUTION SHARED
- 7.5 Policies Presented as 1<sup>st</sup> Reading:** The Policy Committee is presenting policies GCBDAAG/GBDAA, GBN/JBA, GBL, and GBLA for a first reading. These will be on the December meeting agenda for approval. Please submit any questions to Mr. Miller before then. 1<sup>st</sup> READING OF POLICY UPDATES
- 7.6 Returning Students to Onsite Learning:** Mr. Miller is asking the Board to approve the return of our K-5 students to on-site learning when the numbers on the Governor’s metrics allows this to happen. This initial ask for approval comes with timelines that aren’t yet known. There are a lot of moving parts before the students can return to the building. Some parents are excited and ready while others aren’t willing to return to on-site learning until an effective vaccine is in place. The District is going to have to offer both in-person and distance learning at the same time. RETURNING STUDENTS TO ON-SITE LEARNING DISCUSSION

Initially Mr. Miller wanted to ask that we start this the week after Thanksgiving break for students in grades K-2 and then bring back students in grades 3-5 the week after we return from Winter break. After visiting with staff, the teachers are asking for a little extra time to get ready. He would like to honor their request and bump it later by one week. If the COVID-19 positivity numbers in Columbia County stabilize we can look at bringing back middle and high school students.

The goal is to get our students back however, how much time they will be in the building each day is uncertain. It’s going to be a lot for our teachers to be instructing onsite, across the hall, and virtually all at the same time. Administration is beginning to plan for this. By getting the Board’s approval tonight, when numbers allow, we will be ready to bring our students back.

Joanie Jones clarified that work will go on now to begin the preparation of bringing students back. According to Mr. Miller, yes. There are things to work out such as student co-horts for bathroom use, how they move through the hallways, recess, lunch, etc. Larger classes will have to be split into two, the teacher in one classroom and the instructional assistant in the other for half the time the students are here, and then flip-flopping. Having the students on-site will take time away from the preparation time our teachers need for distance learning instruction. The District is at the point to start putting those plans together so that when the numbers allow we will be ready to go. Mr. Miller is currently meeting with teachers to begin planning and can share what they have in place at the next School Board meeting.

Stacey Pelster stated she is extremely frustrated with the situation our students are in but feels as though she needs to apologize to Aaron Miller for all the planning that he has to do. The level of restrictions the State is putting on districts is daunting.

Aaron further stated that meeting all the needs of our students is going to be difficult. The Vernonia community needs to really step up to do what is needed to keep the COVID-19 numbers down. Wear your masks, social distance, avoid social gatherings, etc. so we can open our schools back up. He shared that he misses the students but he has to operate within the rules and it is almost impossible to do this with all the guidelines the District is expected to follow.

Jeana Gump shared she has her private school students only 4 hours a day and this helps to make it work.

**8.0 ACTION ITEMS**

- |  |   |  |
|--|---|--|
| <b>8.1</b>   | <b>Division 22 Assurances:</b> Jean Gump moved to approve the District’s Division 22 Assurances report as presented and discussed. Joanie Jones seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously with those in attendance.  | DIVISION 22<br>ASSURANCES<br>ACCEPTED                          |
| <b>8.2</b>   | <b>SSA-SIA Grant Agreement Approval:</b> Jeana Gump moved to approve the SSA-SIA Grant Agreement as presented and discussed. Brittanie Roberts seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously with those in attendance.   | SSA-SIA GRANT<br>AGREEMENT<br>APPROVED                         |
| <b>8.3</b>   | <b>OSBA Resolution Support:</b> Brittanie Roberts moved to approve Resolution #2021-01 supporting OSBA’s 2021-22 Legislative Priorities and Principles as presented and discussed. Jeana Gump seconded the motion.  | OSBA RESOLUTION<br>APPROVED                                    |
| Stacey Pelster commented that she will be voting against this resolution primarily because of the language around Protecting the 2019 Student Success Act. |   |  |
| Greg Kintz called for the vote: Yes votes: Greg Kintz, Jeana Gump, Joanie Jones, and Brittanie Roberts. No votes, Stacey Pelster. Motion passed.           |   |  |
| <b>8.4</b>   | <b>Board Member Resignation:</b> Brittanie Roberts, with regret, moved to accept the resignation of Steve Whiteman, school board position #3, effective 10/9/2020 declaring a vacancy on the school board. Jeana Gump seconded the motion. There was no further discussion. Motion passed unanimously with those in attendance. | BOARD MEMBER<br>RESIGNATION<br>ACCEPTED                        |
| <b>8.5</b>   | <b>Board Member Replacement Process and Timeline:</b> Stacey Pelster moved to approve the process and timeline for filling the vacancy on the school board as discussed (in item 6.0). Brittanie Roberts seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously with those in attendance.   | BOARD<br>REPLACEMENT<br>PROCESS &<br>TIMELINE<br>APPROVED      |
| <b>8.6</b>   | <b>Returning Students to On-Site Learning:</b> Brittanie Roberts moved to approve the plan to return students to on-site learning as discussed. Jeana Gump seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously with those in attendance.   | RETURNING<br>STUDENTS TO ON-<br>SITE LEARNING<br>PLAN APPROVED |

9.0 **MONITORING BOARD PERFORMANCE:** Greg Kintz stated he will follow up with OSBA on legally how we can perform a hybrid meeting and will get back to the board as soon as he can. Stacey asked if there is a possibility to meet offsite? Suggestions were made such as at the Grange, a local church, the City Library.

MONITORING  
BOARD  
PERFORMANCE

11.0 **CONSENT AGENDA:**

11.1 Minutes of 10/08/2020 Regular Meeting and 10/10/2020 Workshop.

MINUTES APPROVED

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:** Next meeting will be held Thursday, December 10, 2020 at 6:00 p.m.

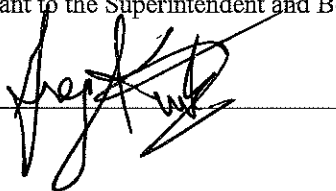
OTHER ISSUES:

12.0 **MEETING ADJOURNED** at 8:08 p.m.

ADJOURNED

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

Board Chair



District Clerk

