

VERNONIA SCHOOL DISTRICT 47J  
1201 TEXAS AVENUE  
VERNONIA OR 97064

BOARD OF DIRECTORS REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

February 11, 2021

- 1.0 CALL TO ORDER:** A Regular Meeting of the Board 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:** Jeana Gump, Amy Cieloha, Brittanie Roberts, Greg Kintz, Joanie Jones, Stacey Pelster, and Susan Wagner. **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; Barb Carr, Administrative Assistant; Kaitlyn Carr-Kiprotich, Kendra Schlegel, Juliet Saffier, Rachel Brown, Olivia Keister, and Robin Manning, Licensed Staff; and Karen Roberts, Brandi Abney, Julie Ramsey, and Richard Traver, Classified Staff. **STAFF PRESENT**
- Visitors Present:** Brody Campo, Carolyn Glenn, and Scott Laird (98). **VISITORS PRESENT**
- 1.1** The Pledge of Allegiance was recited. **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**
- 2.0 AGENDA REVIEW:** Two items were added to the agenda. Item #7.8 New Hire and the corresponding Action #8.6 New Hire. Stacey moved to approve 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**
- Student Reports: Carolyn Glenn and Brody Campo presented their inspirational word for 2021. **STUDENT REPORTS**
- Carolyn's one word poster highlighted the word "CAN". Carolyn's message was that we can get through another year.
- Brody Campo's word poster highlighted the word "GROW". According to Brody we need to grow through what we go through. 2020 was hard but he learned more than ever before.
- Principal Reports:** **PRINCIPAL REPORTS**
- Nate Underwood added to his middle/high school written report by highlighting a couple classes. Mrs. Carr-Kiprotich in 2019 started a collaboration with the City of Vernonia Public Library where her art students submit work for exhibition at the library. Work is displayed for 6 months. Students have just submitted for the next round of exhibition and are awaiting the selection announcements.
- Ms. Keister's theater arts class has 2 students competing in a regional competition. She is also exploring the idea of planning and hosting high school students touring another country, specifically Germany and touring Bavaria in depth. The company name is Explorica. Board members expressed their support as well as their concerns for the challenges of raising enough funds for a trip. As this develops more information will come to the Board as well as the official approval of a trip once travel dates are determined.
- Mr. Underwood further shared that class officer elections have taken place but he does not yet have the results.
- Mrs. Eagleson added to her elementary report by sharing that elementary has finished Winter DIBELS testing. Next month the results of the testing and corresponding data will be shared with the Board. Students in grades K-2 returned back to campus this week. The students and staff doing great. On February 22<sup>nd</sup> students in grades 3-5 will return.

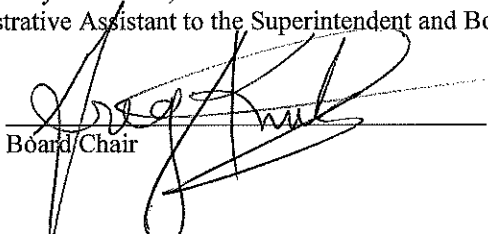
<b>4.0 PUBLIC COMMENT ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS:</b> None.	PUBLIC COMMENT
<b>5.0 BUSINESS REPORTS:</b>	
<b>5.1 Superintendent Report:</b> Aaron Miller updated the Board on the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Students in grade are K-2 back at Vernonia and students in K-5 are back at Mist. Everyone is anxious for Vernonia students in grades 3-5 to come back soon. Work on safety protocols and safety measures continues. The County infection rate numbers have dropped down to 130 / 100,000 today. The District continues to work with the County Health Department. The measures being taken are working.</li> <li>• Questions on the Transportation Contract amendment that was presented last month will be reviewed at the March Board meeting. Rob Curl will be in attendance to answer questions. Mr. Miller was asked to share that according to Curl, his business is having trouble taking advantage of loans at lower interest rates. In an attempt to work with banks he is finding road blocks due to current language in the contract.</li> <li>• Governor Brown recently updated school sports guidance. Contact sports are now allowable with certain conditions. Columbia County went from the Extreme Risk category down to High Risk which allows for indoor practice. More details will come out soon.</li> <li>• The previously ordered Chrome Books finally arrived. In total 515 were received and will be available to any student in the District that has a need.</li> <li>• The District will be the first school in the State to work with a group called Starlink which will allow high speed internet at Mist. The ESD is helping to work through details. An installation date has not yet been determined.</li> <li>• Due to snow school has been cancelled for tomorrow.</li> <li>• Thanks to the Vernonia Education Foundation (VEF) \$100 has been provided to each teacher to help with COVID related needs.</li> <li>• The School Resource Officer position has been removed from the budget for the remainder of the school year.</li> <li>• Budget for 2021-22 process has started. Negotiations with all groups will take place this Spring – VEA, OSEA Administrative and Supervisory/Confidential.</li> </ul>	SUPERINTENDENT REPORT  BOND PROJECTS UPDATE
Bond Update:	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The payroll paperwork that has to be filed is being finalized. Once this is all done, final funds remaining can be determined.</li> <li>• Mist Playground – gravel and chips have been added to deal with the pooling water.</li> </ul>	
<b>5.2 Financial Report:</b> Marie Knight shared the ending fund balance is up a little this month. She has worked hard to balance all grants and this has resulted in an additional \$40,000 added to the ending fund balance. She will continue to do clean up going into the budgeting process.	FINANCIAL REPORT
Brittanie Roberts asked if the District has seen any savings due to students not being in the building this year. Less water has been used and electricity is down, but this is down mostly due to changing out all light fixtures to LED last year. Some savings has been seen in transportation but this is funded at 80%.	
It was noted that the next Biennium State School Fund will be split 49 /51. The first year of the Biennium (2021-2022) will have 49% distributed and 51% in the second year (2022-2023). This will help to offset roll-up costs and is beneficial to budgeting.	
<b>5.3 Maintenance Report:</b> Mark Brown’s report was reviewed by the Board. There were no questions from the Board.	MAINTENANCE REPORT
<b>6.0 BOARD REPORTS/ BOARD DEVELOPMENT:</b>	
	BOARD REPORTS & BOARD

## 7.0 OTHER INFORMATION and DISCUSSION

- 7.1 **School Re-Opening Update:** See Elementary Principal report and Superintendent report above. There was nothing else to share. There were no questions from the Board. RE-OPENING DETAILS
- 7.2 **Policy Updates – 2<sup>nd</sup> Reading:** The following updated policies were presented as a second reading. POLICY UPDATES – 2<sup>nd</sup> READING
- ACB – All Student Belong  
 GCBDAА-GDBDAA – COVID-19 Related Leave - DELETED  
 GCPC/GDPC – Retirement of Staff  
 IJ – School Counseling Program  
 IKFB – Graduation Exercises  
 JB – Equal Educational Opportunity  
 JFCM – Threats of Violence  
 LBE – Public Charter Schools  
 LBEA – Resident Student Denial for Virtual Public Charter School Attendance
- Questions were raised about policy IJ and the current counseling program. A report will be provided at the March meeting.
- Clarification on policy LBEA was provided. Mr. Miller explained that if more than 3% of our student population is attending a virtual charter school, by law the District can deny any additional requests to transfer. This is currently not an issue for the District.
- 7.3 **NWRESD Annual Report and 2021-22 Local Service Plan:** The NWRESD provides many services the District would otherwise not be able to afford. They provide the District with Service Credit Dollars to use in areas needed. This includes technology and fiscal services and other special services provided directly to students. NWRESD ANNUAL REPORT & 2021-22 SERVICE PLAN PRESENTED
- The NWRESD’s Local Service Plan for the 2021-22 school year was also shared with the Board.
- 7.4 **VEA Memorandum of Agreement:** The District negotiation team met with the VEA to discuss how to move forward and address issues surrounding COVID 19. The MOA addresses items such as working conditions, hybrid instruction, staff health and safety, special education workload, leaves, and childcare. Both the VEA and District negotiation teams is recommending approval. VEA M.O.A. PRESENTED
- 7.5 **District Health and Safe Schools Plan (HASS):** Mark Brown submitted a letter of explanation regarding the HASS plan. In 2017 SB 1062 was passed that requires every school district develop a Healthy and Safe Schools Plan. There are specific requirements that must be included for the plan to comply with State law. The District’s HASS Plan (presented) has been approved by the State and the final step is to obtain School Board approval. H.A.S.S. PLAN SHARED
- 7.6 **Licensed Contract Renewal Recommendations:** Aaron Miller shared that working with OSBA he determined that our processes were not necessarily in line with what we need to do for our employees. If there are reasons for non-renewal and discussions happen in executive session the employee has the option to attend. The District will provide notice to the Board in February regarding renewal/non-renewal of licensed contracts. If there are any questions from the Board the item will be included at the March meeting and the staff member in question will be notified and invited to attend. Final action by the Board is still required by March 15<sup>th</sup> annually. LICENSED CONTRACT RENEWAL RECOMMENDATIONS SHARED
- 7.7 **Staff Retirement:** Aaron Miller shared that long time instructional assistant EIDonna Williams has submitted her notice of retirement effective February 28, 2021. He noted that EIDonna has done an outstanding job working with students. STAFF RETIREMENT ANNOUNCED

- 7.8 **Staff Hire:** Aaron Miller shared that as the District moved to returning students to the classroom there were some families not ready for their students to return and requested to remain in full distance learning. To provide this option for approximately 20 students, an additional teacher at the elementary level was needed. Mr. Miller is recommending the hiring of Courtney Ferguson. She has distance learning experience and will be hired as a temporary teacher for the remainder of the 2020-21 school year. NEW CDL  
ELEMENTARY  
TEACHER NEEDED
- 8.0 **ACTION ITEMS**
- 8.1 **Policy Updates Approval:** Jeana Gump move to approve the policy updates as presented. Stacey Pelster seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously. POLICY UPDATES  
APPROVED
- 8.2 **NWRESD Local Service Plan:** Joanie Jones moved to approve the NWRESD 2021-22 Local Service Plan as presented. Jeana Gump seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously. NWRESD 2021-22  
LOCAL SERVICE  
PLAN APPROVED
- 8.3 **VEA Memorandum of Agreement:** Jeana Gump moved to approve the VEA Memorandum of Agreement as presented. Joanie Jones seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously. VEA MEMORANDUM  
OF AGREEMENT  
APPROVED.
- 8.4 **District Health & Safe Schools Plan:** Stacey Pelster moved to accept the ODE Approved District HASS Plan as presented. Jeana Gump seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously. H.A.S.S. PLAN  
APPROVED
- 8.5 **Staff Retirement:** Jeana Gump moved to accept the retirement of EIDonna Williams, Instructional Assistant effective February 28, 2021. Stacey Pelster seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously. E. WILLIAMS  
RETIREMENT  
ACCEPTED
- 8.6 **New Hire:** Stacey Pelster move to approve the Superintendent's recommendation to hire Courtney Ferguson as the VES K-5 Comprehensive Distance Learning teacher. Jean Gump seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously. FERGUSON HIRED
- 9.0 **MONITORING BOARD PERFORMANCE:** Greg Kintz shared the OSBA Legislative Team is busy this year with a lot of bills addressing schools (small schools, mandatory class sizes, guns on campus, and more) that are being put forth in the legislature. MONITORING  
BOARD  
PERFORMANCE
- 11.0 **CONSENT AGENDA:**
- 11.1 Minutes of 01-14-2021 Regular Meeting and 01-30-21 Workshop. MINUTES APPROVED
- Stacey Pelster moved to approve the consent agenda as presented. Joanie Jones seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously. CONSENT AGENDA  
APPROVED
- Other Issues:** Upcoming meeting dates were reviewed. OTHER ISSUES  
Brittanie Roberts shared that she has decided not to run in the upcoming May 2021 election.
- 12.0 **MEETING ADJOURNED** at 7:53 p.m. ADJOURNED

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

  
Board/Chair

  
District Clerk