

VERNONIA SCHOOL DISTRICT 47J
1201 TEXAS AVENUE
VERNONIA OR 97064

BOARD OF DIRECTORS REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

January 14, 2016

CALL TO ORDER: A Regular Meeting of the Board of Directors of Administrative School District 47J, Columbia County, Oregon was called to order at 6:01 p.m. by Brett Costley.

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER

Board Present: Brett Costley, Susan Wagner, Greg Kintz, Katie Cook, and Cari Levenseller. Brittanie Roberts arrived at 6:02 p.m.

BOARD PRESENT

Board Absent: Ernie Smith

BOARD ABSENT

Staff Present: Aaron Miller, Superintendent; Nate Underwood, Middle/High School Principal; Dawn Plews, Business Manager; Barb Carr, Administrative Assistant; and Kendra Schlegel, Licensed Staff.

STAFF PRESENT

Visitors Present: Larry Grant, Scott Laird, Joshua Johnston and Jeana Gump.

VISITORS PRESENT

1.1 The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

1.2 Agenda Review: Brett Costley shared the addition of Information & Discussion Item #5.5 Superintendent Annual Evaluation Process. Greg Kintz moved to approve the agenda as amended. Katie Cook seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously with those in attendance.

AGENDA REVIEW AND APPROVAL

2.0 PUBLIC COMMENT ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS: None

PUBLIC COMMENT

3.0 CONSENT AGENDA:

CONSENT AGENDA

3.1 Minutes of 12/17/2015 Special Meeting.

Cari Levenseller moved to approve the consent agenda as presented. Greg Kintz seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously with those in attendance.

MINUTES APPROVED

4.0 REPORTS & DISCUSSION

4.1 Student Reports:

STUDENT REPORTS

Elementary Students in Kendra Schlegel's class have been working on a project called Hour of Code. This is basically an hour long introduction to computer science. The class project works in coordination with Code.org and its Apps that are used on iPads. Three students Olivia Bunke, Sylar Navarro and Conner Johnston shared some highlights of the apps they work with.

There were no MS or HS students represented.

4.2 Building Reports: Nate Underwood shared information on the 2015-16 instructional minutes as well as indicating a good turnout at fall conferences. Spring testing will begin after Spring Break.

BUILDING REPORTS

Aaron Miller shared that conference attendance at VES was 86% and 91% at MES.

4.3 Financial Report: Dawn Plews reported that she is concerned with the overall enrollment but does see some increase and hopefully the increase will continue. Later this month or beginning of next month she will start working on the 2016-17 budget, narrowing in on this year's ending fund balance as well as making predictions for next year's enrollment.

FINANCIAL REPORT

Dawn introduced Larry Grant, Grove, Mueller and Swank Auditors, who reviewed the

AUDIT PRESENTATION

District's 2014-15 Audit. It was explained that HB 2174 went in to effect June 15 requiring a Plan of Action for any areas mentioned in the audit as needing adjustment. The Plan of Action does require acceptance by the Board. The District had housekeeping adjustments in the area of overspent appropriations in a couple funds; Food Serve and Capitol Construction. Teacher Experience reporting was also mentioned and the District will be doing a self-audit of this information prior to 3/31/16.

Larry shared that overall the District's Audit would receive an A. There are no issues requiring action.

- 4.4 Maintenance Report:** The board reviewed Mark Brown's written report. Aaron Miller shared that Randy Phipps has been hired in one of the two vacant custodial positions. The second position has been offered to Debbie Johnston. Debbie will start as soon as she separates from her current job.

MAINTENANCE REPORT
PHIPPS & JOHNSTON
HIRED AS CUSTODIANS

Susan Wagner questioned the notice in the written report of leaks in the wrestling room and questioned whether or not they would be covered by the building warranty. Per Aaron Miller, the warranty has passed and the leaks were very minor.

5.0 INFORMATION & DISCUSSION

- 5.1 Policy Discussion – Weapons in Schools:** Aaron Miller reviewed the District's current policies regarding Weapons in Schools applicable to staff, students and public. He also shared conversation summaries with Rebekah Jacobson, the District's Legal Counsel; Police Chief Michael Conner, and Columbia County Under Sheriff Andy Moyer as well as the District's Legal Counsel response to questions regarding appropriate school signage.

WEAPONS IN SCHOOLS
POLICY DISCUSSED

Greg Kintz shared that he disagrees with the comment made by Chief Conner that the District could be liable if we installed signage prohibiting weapons. Greg does not feel the District should take such a soft approach. He does not have issues with concealed gun laws but does take issue with attitudes of people feeling they can do what they want. If a weapon is visible and not concealed the District should be able to do something about it.

Brittanie Roberts asked if Chief Connor explained why he thought it would place the district in a position of liability. Brett Costley stated that he thought that even if we placed the "no weapons" signage we could still be sued. We would likely win but the process could be a liability for the district.

Mr. Miller indicated that the protocol of administration is that if they see an open carry on school campus, or at events on and off school grounds they will contact the police. School grounds are designated as anywhere our students gather even if off the actual school campus.

Katie Cook stated that posting signs announces what the position of the district is and states our standards as to any action taken. It is important to communicate to the public what our approach will be.

District policy does not allow staff to carry a concealed weapon.

- 5.2 Athletic Field Naming Discussion:** Aaron Miller reported the Vernonia Education Foundation (VEF) Sports Initiative group did the heavy lifting with fundraising. The majority of the funds raised for building the softball field came from VHS Alumni and the complete cost of constructing a baseball field has been donated by VHS Alumni Evelyn Holce and Randy Holce. The Naming Committee (Randy Shockey, Kathi Fetch, Michael Fetch, Cassidy Whittan, Gordon Jarman, Aaron Miller and Ernie Smith) has recommended to the VEF who in turn is recommending to the Board that the softball field officially be named the "Alumni Field" and the baseball field officially be named "Holce Field".

ATHLETIC FIELDS
NAMING DISCUSSION

- 5.3 Division 22 Standards:** Aaron Miller shared that he and Nate Underwood reviewed each area in the Division 22 assurances and attest that the district is in compliance with all the elements.

DIVISION 22
STANDARDS

By Jan 15 annually the District must present to public that we are in compliance with Division 22 Standards.

It was suggested that this information be shared with the community via an article in The Voice. Frustration from the board was expressed at the lack of parents attending the board meetings.

DISCUSSION ON LACK OF PARENT ATTENDANCE AT BOARD MTGS. & ENGAGING THE COMMUNITY

Mr. Miller asked if the board would be willing to write article to invite people to their meetings. Another suggested way to connect with the community is to hold a "Coffee with the Board" informally with 3 board members or a more formal setting with all the board offering refreshments. Cari Levenseller and Susan Wagner offered to bring items. Katie Cook offered to write an article. According the Scott Laird the next issue with open space would be the 2nd issue in February, deadline to submit would be the week of Feb. 8. Katie asked for input from the rest of the board.

- 5.4 **Local Service Plan 2016-17:** Aaron Miller shared how our District benefits utilizing NWRES D service dollars to support programs through service credits. Small districts benefit greatly utilizing the services. Greg Kintz shared that OSBA has fought to keep local control through ESDs, specifically to make sure those benefits remain. A plan for how those credits will be allocated is being presented for board approval. The plan has been vetted by all Superintendents within the NWRES D's service area.

2015-16 NWRES D LOCAL SERVICE PLAN

- 5.5 **Superintendent Annual Evaluation Process:** Brett Costley shared that it is the time of year to evaluate Superintendent Miller. A sample evaluation form was shared and Brett proposed that Mr. Miller do a self-evaluation as well as each board member submit their input to Brett. He will combine and bring to the February meeting for discussion during an executive session. The Board will receive an electronic copy of the evaluation form and are to return it to Brett by Feb. 1st. Mr. Miller's deadline for his self-evaluation is Jan. 22nd.

SUPT. ANNUAL EVAL. DISCUSSED

Brett also shared that Mr. Miller has requested that his contract be opened up and reviewed. The Board Negotiation team is Ernie Smith, Gregg Kintz and Brett Costley. They will meet with Mr. Miller and then bring a recommendation to the board. Brett stated that he welcomes individual input from all board members.

6.0 ACTION ITEMS

- 6.1 **Athletic Field Naming:** Greg Kintz moved to authorize the naming of the new Softball and Baseball Field as recommended. Cari Levenseller seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously with those in attendance.
- 6.2 **Local Service Plan:** Cari Levenseller moved to approve the NWRES D Local Service Plan Resolution as presented. Susan Wagner Seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously with those in attendance.
- 6.3 **Financial Statement Plan of Action:** Katie Cook moved to approve the Vernonia School District Financial Statement plan of Action as presented. Cari Levenseller seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously with those in attendance.

ATHLETIC FIELDS NAMED – ALUMNI SB and HOLCE BB

2015-16 NWRES D LOCAL SERVICE PLAN APPROVED

FINANCIAL STATEMENT PLAN OF ACTION APPROVED

7.0 SUPERINTENDENT REPORT: Highlights from Mr. Miller's written report are as follows:

- Smarter Balance opt out letters have gone home as required by the State.
- NCLB is changing and he will report on this at the next meeting.
- Baseball Field construction funds are in place. Hoping to go out for bid soon.
- Softball Field is ready to start the install of fencing. Six 40' long gas pipes were donated by Enerfin with WOEC donating the transportation to get them on site. Ernie Smith is cutting them to size to be used in fencing. Hoping to play games by the end of February.
- Shop – utilizing the shop worked fine during the fall with the temporary portable heater. Still dealing with issues on permitting allowances. Heating options continue to be denied. Aaron continues to work with Dan Titus.

SUPERINTENDENT REPORT

- During the December flooding event the school was activated as a shelter site. There were 11 people in the small gym and another 10-15 staying in RV's in the parking lot. Another 4-6 RV's were parked. Emergency Management meeting last week reported that everything went well. Vernonia Schools can be a safe haven for the community if need be.
- Due to recent snow/ice closing school, three pre-determined snow make-up days will now be school days. Mr. Miller will come to the board if the calendar needs to be adjusted beyond the pre-determined snow make-up days.

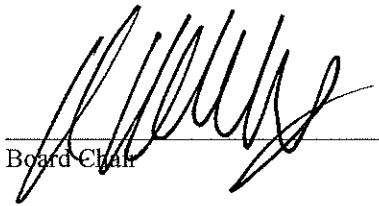
Other Issues: The VHS Robotics Team received a grant. There first competition will be in March.

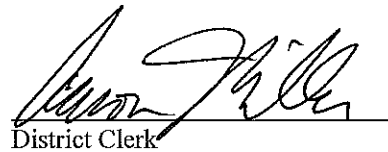
OTHER ISSUES

8.0 MEETING ADJOURNED at 7:58 p.m.

ADJOURNED

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


Board Chair


District Clerk