

VERNONIA SCHOOL DISTRICT 47J
1201 TEXAS AVENUE
VERNONIA OR 97064

BOARD OF DIRECTORS REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

FEBRUARY 16, 2017

- 1.0 CALL TO ORDER:** A Regular Meeting of the Directors of Vernonia Administrative School District 47J, Columbia County, Oregon was called to order 6:02 p.m. by Brett Costley. MEETING CALLED TO ORDER

Board Present: Brett Costley, Ernie Smith, Greg Kintz, and Brittanie Roberts

BOARD PRESENT

Board Absent: Susan Wagner, Katie Cook, and Cari Levenseller

BOARD ABSENT

Staff Present: Aaron Miller, Superintendent; Nate Underwood, MS/HS Principal; Marie Knight, Business Manager; Barb Carr, Administrative Assistant; and Juliet Safier, Licensed staff

STAFF PRESENT

Visitors Present: Andre Schellhaas, Scott Laird, Jeana Gump, Larry Grant, James Loope, Christina French Loope, and Agnes Naeve.

VISITORS PRESENT

- 1.1 Flag Salute:** The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

PLEDGE OF
ALLEGIANCE

- 1.3 Agenda Review:** Ernie Smith moved to approve the agenda as presented. Greg Kintz seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously with those in attendance.

AGENDA REVIEW

- 2.0 PUBLIC COMMENT ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS:** There were no comments from the audience.

PUBLIC COMMENT

- 3.0 CONSENT AGENDA:**

- 3.1** Minutes of 01/26/17 Regular Meeting

MINUTES

Ernie Smith moved to approve the consent agenda as presented. Brittanie Roberts seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously with those in attendance.

CONSENT AGENDA
APPROVED

- 4.0 REPORTS & DISCUSSION**

- 4.1 Building Reports:**

BUILDING REPORTS

Mr. Underwood shared highlights from his written report:

- AVID: Feedback from students in this first year has been positive.
- Breaking Down the Walls: Leadership and the Project Based Learning class are teaming up for plans to host a presentation on anti-bullying to all VHS students.
- 8th Grade Project: The new project is spearheaded by Ashley Ward and is a lesser commitment than the HS Senior Project.
- NAEP Testing (National Assessment of Educational Progress) - All 8th graders and Mist 4th graders were randomly selected to participate.

Mr. Miller shared highlights from his written report:

- Formative Grant: Staff have completed module 3 of 5 in the Oregon Formative Assessment Grant for Students and Teachers (OFAST). Implementation is going well in terms of our progress and our progress compared to other schools. Hopefully grant funds will be available next year to continue.
- Rural Network for Small Schools: A \$2500 grant was made available to members of this group. VES will use this money to enhance its non-fiction reading libraries.
- White River Visitation: This preapproved out of state travel for Feb. 6 was cancelled due to weather. It has been rescheduled for March 20.

- 4.1.1 Student Reports:** Odessa Roberts, Public Relations Representative updated the Board on activities at VHS

BUILDING REPORTS

- Winter sports assembly was held today. Many athletes were recognized.
- March 7th – Blood Drive
- TBA – Donkey Basketball
- Fundraiser – One Dollar For Life. Money raised will help to build a school in Nicaragua.

- 4.2 **Financial Report:** Marie Knight shared that there are not a lot of changes from the previous month. There were no questions from the Board. FINANCIAL REPORT
- 4.2.1 **Draft Budget Calendar:** A draft of this Spring's Budget Calendar was shared. It will be formally adopted at the March Board meeting. Currently there are 5 vacancies on the Budget Committee. Questions can be directed to Barb Carr or Aaron Miller at the District Office. Applications were available for the public. BUDGET CALENDAR / BUDGET COMMITTEE VACANCIES
- 4.3 **Maintenance Report:** Brittanie Roberts asked if there was a determination as to why the leak occurred in the band room. Aaron Miller will follow up. MAINTENANCE REPORT
- 4.4 **Board Committee Reports:** There were none given. BOARD COMMITTEE REPORTS
- 5.0 **INFORMATION & DISCUSSION**
- 5.1 **2015-16 Audit Presentation:** Larry Grant, Grove Mueller and Swank, presented the 2015-16 year end audit for the District. A couple comments on the audit included:
- Post-employment benefits were not accrued. GAP requires this accrual.
 - Expenditures exceeded appropriations in two areas:
 1. Debt Service - Support Services in the amount of \$400.00; and
 2. General Fund - Debt Service in the amount of \$99.00
- Overall the opinion of the Auditors is that the financial statements presented by the Vernonia School District are in accordance with accounting principles. AUDIT PRESENTATION
- 5.2 **May Bond Discussion:** Aaron Miller handed out a final draft of the resolution that will officially place a bond measure on the May election ballot if approved by the Board. Exhibit A of the resolution lists the caption, the question, and the summary language for the ballot to be submitted to the district's voters. MAY BOND DISCUSSED
- Brittanie Roberts asked about the solar panels noted on the list of items to be funded if the bond passes. According to Mr. Miller, we are required to have some solar panels. How many we actually have to purchase will be a future discussion.
- 5.3 **Transfer Limits:** Aaron Miller explained that annually the Board sets the transfer limits for students coming into the District that reside outside our district boundaries. This allows equitable control of class sizes and resources. Last year the Board set this limit at 15 students. TRANSFER LIMITS
- 5.4 **Out of State Travel Request:** Nate Underwood stated that the Senior Class is planning this year's Disneyland Trip on April 21-24. The two head chaperones for this trip are Cathy Ward and Shelley Hennessey. Both of these ladies have been planning and chaperoning this trip for many years. There is no cost to the District for this trip. OUT OF STATE TRAVEL REQUEST FOR SENIOR and 8th GRADE CLASSES
- Also planning an out of state trip is the 8th grade Close Up trip to Washington D.C. on April 16 - 20. This trip is planned and chaperoned by teacher, Ashley Ward and has been occurring for many years as well. The only cost to the District for this trip is the sub costs to cover Ms. Ward's classroom in her absence.
- Students have been fundraising for both of these trips.
- 5.5 **Calendar Update:** Aaron Miller shared another school year calendar update. Due to additional weather incidents, students have missed two additional days of school (Fri. Feb. 3 and Mon. Feb. 6) since the last calendar update. Mr. Miller is proposing adding to the end of the year, Mon. June 12 and Tues. June 13. CALENDAR UPDATE
- On Thu. Feb 9th the District was forced to send students home early (1 pm) without preplanning due to high water and road slides. Mr. Miller shared that our parents did an amazing job of working with the school and their students to get everyone home safe. Staff was prepared to stay as long as needed until all students could be picked up. Within a half an THANK YOU TO PARENTS

hour of releasing our students all were accounted for by their families.

- 5.6 NWRESD Local Service Plan:** Aaron Miller shared the NWRESD's Local Service Plan for 2017-18. The plan provides an overview of the services we obtain from the ESD through Service Credits. Service Credits can be used in place of dollars to purchase services we as a small district would otherwise not be able to afford. These services include: technology support, school improvement services, administrative support (business manager), special needs services, etc. **NWRESD LOCAL SERVICE PLAN**

Due to our enrollment remaining flat, where other District's enrollment has increased, our available service credits will be \$12,000 less in 2017-18. The District's general fund will have to cover the shortage if all current services are maintained.

Positively, the School Improvement Services area of the Service Plan shows an increase of approximately \$300,000. These additional dollars will go into the pot for all member districts to share. This will help provide support to teachers in what they are doing in the classroom.

6.0 ACTION ITEMS

- 6.1 May Bond Resolution:** Ernie Smith moved to approve resolution #1617-04 authorizing the District to contract general obligation bonded indebtedness in an aggregate principal amount not to exceed \$6,800,000 to finance capital costs and related matters. Brittanie Roberts seconded the motion. There was no discussion. Motion passed unanimously with those in attendance. **BOND RESOLUTION APPROVED**
- 6.2 Transfer Limits:** Greg Kintz moved to set the limits for HB3681 for the 2017-18 school year at 15. Brittanie Roberts seconded the motion. There was no discussion. Motion passed unanimously with those in attendance. **TRANSFER LIMITS FOR 2017-18 APPROVED**
- 6.3 Out of State Travel:** Brittanie Roberts moved to approve out of state travel for the 8th grade Close Up trip to Washington, DC and the senior trip to California. Ernie Smith seconded the motion. There was no discussion. Motion passed unanimously with those in attendance. **OUT OF STATE STUDENT TRAVEL APPROVED**
- 6.4 Calendar Update:** Brittanie Roberts moved to approve the 2016-17 instructional calendar adjustment as presented. Ernie Smith seconded the motion. There was no discussion. Motion passed unanimously with those in attendance. **CALENDAR UPDATE**
- 6.5 NWRESD Local Service Plan:** Greg Kintz moved to approve the NWRESD Local Service Plan Resolution #1617-05 as presented. Ernie Smith seconded the motion. There was no discussion. Motion passed unanimously with those in attendance. **NWRESD LOCAL SERVICE PLAN APPROVED**

- 7.0 SUPERINTENDENT REPORT:** Aaron Miller updated the board on the following: **SUPERINTENDENT REPORT**
- Confederation of Oregon School Administrators (COSA) posters highlighting what the various levels of education funding by the State would mean to Districts.
\$8.02 Billion = CUTS
\$8.40 Billion = NO CUTS
\$8.83 Billion = PROGRESS
\$9.97 Billion = QUALITY
There is roughly a \$2 billion dollar gap between what the state has proposed and what a quality education model looks like. Mr. Miller stated that the District is prepping its 2017-18 budget on \$8.02 billion. If additional funding comes to education we'll discuss add backs.
 - Oregon Dept. of Education (ODE) has offered a 14 hour waiver to the minimum seat time requirements due to all the weather related missed school days across the State. We will not take advantage of this and plan to make up all days missed.

- 8.0 Other Issues:** Brittanie Roberts asked if the Bond Committee has started working on the campaign? Sharon Bernal is chair of the committee and they are meeting every two weeks. Public advertisements will come out mid-March. **OTHER ISSUES**

9.0 **RECESS TO EXECUTIVE SESSION:** The Board recessed to executive session under O.R.S. 192.660 (2) (i) at 6:48 p.m. RECESS TO
EXECUTIVESESSION

Principal Miller and Principal Underwood reviewed the evaluations of licensed staff and provided their recommendations for contract renewal.

10.0 **RECOVENE TO REGULAR SESSION:** The Board reconvened to regular session at 7:20 p.m. RECONVENE TO
REGULAR SESSION

11.0 **ACTION ITEM:**
Approve Resolution #1617-03: Brittanie Roberts moved to approve resolution #1617-03 extending licensed employee contracts as presented. Ernie Smith seconded the motion. There was no discussion. Motion passed unanimously with those in attendance. RESOLUTION
AUTHORIZING
CONTRACT
EXTENSIONS
APPROVED

12.0 **MEETING ADJOURNED** at 7:25p.m. ADJOURNED

Submitted by Barb Garr, Administrative Assistant

Board Chair

District Clerk