

ADMINISTRATIVE SCHOOL DISTRICT 47J
475 BRIDGE STREET
VERNONIA OR 97064

BOARD OF DIRECTORS REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

March 8, 2012

- 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 at 5:47 p.m. by Chair Jim Krahn. MEETING CALLED TO ORDER
- Board present:** Jim Krahn,,Chair; Cari Levenseller, Vice Chair; Greg Kintz, Tim Bamburg, Ernie Smith, Bill Langmaid, and Camrin Eyrrick. BOARD PRESENT
- Staff present:** Ken Cox, Superintendent; Nate Underwood, Middle/High School Principal; Aaron Miller, Elementary Schools Principal; James Brookins, SpEd Director/A.D., Dawn Plews, Business Manager; Barb Carr, Administrative Assistant; Ashley Rogers and Lynn Shaw, Teachers; and Dana Hyde and Kathi Fetch, Classified Staff. STAFF PRESENT
- Visitors present:** Rebecca McGaugh, Carol Cox, Emily Bergerson, Bryanna Larson, Sara Smith, Charity Barklow, John Donovan, Robyn Bean, Kassidy Fetch, Ryan Lawrence, Stuart Potter, Senator Betsy Johnson, Bill Haack, Scott Laird, DeDe Webb, Don Webb, Susan Wagner, Barbara Larson, Dale Webb, and Donna Webb. VISITORS PRESENT
- 2.0 RECESS TO EXECUTIVE SESSION** under O.R.S. 192.660 (2) (i).at 5:47 p.m. Discussion was held on licensed staff and administrator contract renewal. RECESS TO EXECUTIVE SESSION
- 3.0 RECONVENE TO REGULAR SESSION:** The Board reconvened to the regular business meeting at 6:05 p.m. RECONVENE TO REGULAR SESSION
- 3.1** The Pledge of Allegiance was recited. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE
- 3.2 Agenda Review:** Add item 7.7 Policy Review: Policy GBK – Tobacco Free Environment, 1st reading. AGENDA REVIEW
- 4.0 PUBLIC COMMENT ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS:** None PUBLIC COMMENTS
- 5.0 CONSENT AGENDA:** CONSENT AGENDA
- Ernie Smith moved to approve the consent agenda as presented. Cari Levenseller seconded the motion.
- 5.1** Minutes of 02/09/2012 Regular Meeting MINUTES APPROVED
- Motion passed unanimously.
- 6.0 REPORTS & DISCUSSION**
- 6.1 Student Reports:** STUDENT REPORTS
- VMS Students Emily Bergerson, Sara Smith, and Bryanna Larson reported:
- Miscellaneous classroom activities were highlighted
 - MS Band has requested to play in a festival in Battleground, WA on April 27
 - Movie Night is scheduled for next week. Proceeds will go to a local resident suffering from kidney disease.
 - Close Up students will be leaving next month for Washington D.C.
- VHS Student Ryan Lawrence reported:
- Spring sports have started. Baseball, softball & track are underway.
 - Congrats to the Band for qualifying for the State Band Competition
 - The new PEER counseling project is getting started. Students from Pacific University are working with our HS students to become PEER counselors.

- The Blood Drive that was cancelled on Feb 29 has been rescheduled for April 3
- *Donate a Dollar, Build a School, Save a Town* fundraiser missed its goal of \$2,000 but has raised \$1,326 thus far. WGS will collect until Spring Break.

6.2 Building Reports:

BUILDING REPORTS

VMS/VHS: Nate Underwood shared his updated Chalk Talk article. He also reported on VHS Co-Hort graduation data. The Co-Hort data is the percentage of students that entered high school in 2007-08 and graduated last year. Basically how many students graduated in 4 years with a regular diploma. Honorary diplomas or student obtaining their GED don't count. The statewide average last year was 67%. VHS percentage last year was 79%. It was noted that the foreign exchange students are not counted in that mix. Many students that come over from other countries are younger and haven't earned enough credits to obtain a regular diploma. Instead they receive an honorary diploma.

MGS/WGS: Aaron Miller had nothing to add to his written report.

6.3 Financial Report: Dawn Plews stated that she recently learned about a couple more revenue sources:

FINANCIAL REPORTS

- NWRES credit money, and
- Medicaid surveys are paying from last year.

There were no questions from the board regarding the financial reports.

6.4 Project Manager Report: Steve Effros added to his written report:

PROJECT MANAGER REPORT

On Site School Construction:

- Final water pressure test on all the windows passed.
- Inside systems are being prepared to be up and running
- Solar World has designed the roof array. They have also designed a demonstration array with 16 panels for students to view and use as a learning tool.
- Finishers are moving fast and furious. Most of the painting inside is done.

Off Site Road Improvements:

- Utilities are almost complete. The last piece is working with neighbors on the west side of the street to make sure the current drainage from their property gets hooked in formally to the new underground system.
- ODOT – final set of documents have gone to Salem. Getting ready for the bid process for the highway road work. The working relationship with WOEC will begin soon.

Off Site Wetland Mitigation:

- Currently at a pause.

Funding:

- Working closely with Oregon Solutions partners on reimbursements for utilities.
- Dept. of Energy reimbursement process will be starting soon. The biomass boiler will be the first test of the reimbursement process.

6.5 Catalyst Campaign Report: John Donovan introduced Senator Betsy Johnson to share the great news received this week from the State of Oregon.

MET GROUP REPORT

Senator Johnson shared that the Vernonia Project has been the most challenging piece of policy worked on in the Legislature. It has been a rollercoaster to say the least. It wasn't known until Monday of this week that Vernonia made it on the final list of negotiated bills to go before the Legislature. It was a fight merely because 88 of her colleagues can tell you a story about a bad or deficient school in their district. It was a challenge for these policy makers to not vote for their schools but yet vote for Vernonia. There were many unexpected heroes that emerged on Vernonia's behalf. People that could make a difference were calling in from everywhere. Alissa Keny-Guyer turned our story into a human interest story. Representatives Boone and Witt and Senator Johnson were in constant contact with each other. Commissioner Hyde was calling in from D.C. Mark Ellsworth was talking with Dennis

Richardson, Chairman of the Ways and Means committee. Everyone made special efforts to get us to the finish line. On the downside, Vernonia is now so valuable we are trading goods for everyone! In the end, \$4.5 million dollars was approved specifically for Vernonia Schools! The appropriation made the difference between contractors packing up and going home or opening the doors next Fall.

Senator Johnson publicly thanked those who worked so hard on our behalf including the Vernonia School Board members and also Norm Smith and the Ford Family Foundation who agreed to expedite the funding of our challenge grant. Senator Johnson stated that she feels the entire legislature knows the urgency of getting the money to us. As soon as more is known she will be in touch.

Chair Krahn publicly thanked Senator Johnson for all her work on behalf of the Vernonia School District and community of Vernonia. Senator Johnson received a standing ovation from all in attendance.

THANK YOU SENATOR
BETSY JOHNSON

6.6 Winter Sports Report: James Brookins reported that winter sports were very successful this year. Wrestling took the league championship and sent 5 wrestlers to state. Four ended up placing. Boys Basketball went to the State Basketball tournament in Pendleton for the first time in many years. They placed 4th in State. Girls Basketball had a successful season and the Equestrian Team is currently competing in McMinnville.

WINTER SPORTS
REPORT

7.0 INFORMATION & DISCUSSION

7.1 Morrow Pacific Project Introduction: Liz Fuller gave a presentation on the Morrow Pacific project last month to the Columbia County Superintendents on the potential revenue to Columbia County schools. Dr. Cox invited her to give a presentation to the Board.

MORROW PACIFIC
PROJECT
INTRODUCTION

Ms. Fuller works with a communications company that represents Ambre Energy. Ambre Energy is currently developing an export route for low-sulfur coal from the Powder River Basin to US trade allies in the Asia-Pacific market. When the project is operational:

- Coal from the Powder River Basin in Montana and Wyoming will be shipped by train to an enclosed transfer and loading facility at the Port of Morrow, Boardman, OR.
- At Port of Morrow coal will be moved from the facility by enclosed conveyors and placed in covered barges for transportation down the Columbia River to Port Westward, near Clatskanie.
- At the Port Westward the coal will be transferred to oceangoing vessels and shipped overseas.
- There will be no visible coal piles at either the Port of Morrow or Port Westward. Ambre will be in compliance with all strict operating guidelines protecting air and water quality, and fish and wildlife habitat.

Additionally:

- Initially, Ambre anticipates shipping 3.5 million metric tons of coal per year to Japan, South Korea and Taiwan beginning as soon as mid-2013. This would include one train per day, one barge per day, and one vessel per week. These daily and weekly totals will double when at capacity.
- Full operational and permitted capacity is expected to be 8 million metric tons annually.
- This project will provide significant port revenue to both Ports (\$850,000 to each annually) as well as annual property taxes estimating \$750,000 to each County.
- Beyond the Port and County tax revenue the Morrow Pacific project will make a voluntary contribution to Morrow County and Columbia County schools in the approximate amount of \$300,000 - \$350,000 annually. The Columbia County Superintendents will develop guidelines for disbursement of this money among school districts in Columbia County.

7.2 2012-13 Instructional Calendar: Dr. Cox stated that last month a couple options for next year's instructional calendar were presented to the Board. Nate Underwood indicated that his

2012-13 CALENDAR
OPTIONS DISCUSSED

calendar committee unanimously voted for option B. Currently there is not an open house on the calendar and they would like to add this. The committee feels it would be a good idea to combine and hold a K-12 open house. If, after the budget is developed and days need to be reduced, the committee would prefer to have those days eliminated during the Spring.

Dr. Cox recommends making one adjustment on the presented calendar. The August 31st staff development will be paid for by a grant therefore the calendar can reference this as a non-contract day making the final calendar a 189-day calendar for budget purposes.

- 7.3 **Supplemental Budget:** Dr. Cox indicated that next Thursday, March 15th at 6:00 pm, there will be a special board meeting to hold public hearing and adopt a supplemental budget. This is due to the fact that the District received more money to the construction fund than what was originally budgeted. SUPPLEMENTAL BUDGET
- 7.4 **Budget Assumptions:** Dr. Cox shared a list of Budget Assumptions for the upcoming 2012-13 budget cycle. More information will be provided during the budget meeting. BUDGET ASSUMPTIONS
- 7.5 **Audit Award Recommendation.** A recommendation letter was included in the packet from Dawn Plews. Even though the recommendation is for the same company we have been using, Grove, Mueller, and Swank, it was a worthy exercise as the District saved some money on audit fees. AUDIT AWARD RECOMMENDATION
- 7.6 **Modular Classroom:** Dr. Cox discussed with the board the status of the 5th grade modular. The District will not need the modular when we relocate to the new school next Fall. A couple districts have expressed interest in purchasing this modular. Before the District can begin negotiations to sell it, the Board will need to declare it as surplus. Dr. Cox recommends discussing this more at next week's special board meeting. The Board was in consensus to discuss next week. MODULAR CLASSROOM
- 7.7 **Policy Review:** Policy GBK Tobacco Free Environment has been reviewed with Sherrie Ford, of Columbia County and the Wellness Committee. A first reading of the revised policy was handed out to the board for review.

8.0 ACTION ITEMS

- 8.1 **2012-13 Calendar Adoption:** Bill Langmaid moved to adopt the 2012-13 Instructional Calendar as presented in Option B with the adjustment to August 31st as a non-contract day. Motion seconded by Camrin Eyrrick. Motion passed unanimously. 2012-13 INSTRUCTIONAL CALENDAR ADOPTED
- 8.2 **Audit Contract Award:** Bill Langmaid moved to award a contract to Grove Mueller and Swank for District audit services. Motion seconded by Cari Levenseller. Motion passed unanimously. AUDIT CONTRACT AWARDED TO GROVE MUELLER & SWANK
- 8.3 **Teacher/Administrative Contract Renewals:** Bill Langmaid moved to approve contract renewals for teachers and administrators as presented. Motion seconded by Cari Levenseller. Motion passed unanimously. TEACHER / ADMIN. CONTRACTS RENEWED

9.0 SUPERINTENDENT REPORT

Dr. Cox reported on:

- Construction Financing
- Construction Update
- City/District Spencer Park Planning Committee
- COPS Grant Update
- Negotiations

- A special thank you to both VEA and OSEA unions for the support and hard work directly related to the new schools project.

SUPERINTENDENT REPORT

Other Issues: Dr. Cox invited all to stay for the Community Town Hall that will be starting shortly.

OTHER ISSUES

10.0 MEETING ADJOURNED at 7:15

ADJOURNED

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

Board Chair

District Clerk