

VERNONIA SCHOOL DISTRICT 47J
1201 TEXAS AVENUE
VERNONIA OR 97064

BOARD OF DIRECTORS REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

March 14, 2013

- 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 6:04 p.m. by Jim Krahn, Chair. MEETING CALLED TO ORDER
- Board Present:** Jim Krahn, Chair; Bill Langmaid, Vice Chair; Cari Levenseller and Greg Kintz. BOARD PRESENT
Board Absent: Ernie Smith, Camrin Eyrrick and Tim Bamburg.
- Staff Present:** Ken Cox, Superintendent; Nate Underwood, Middle/High School Principal; Aaron Miller, Elementary Schools Principal; Gordon Jarman, District Athletic Director; James Brookins, District Special Ed. Director; Dawn Plews, Business Manager, Deb Stahlnecker, Juliet Safier and Ashley Rogers, teachers; Jan Dyer, Classified staff; and Barb Carr, Administrative Assistant. STAFF PRESENT
- Visitors Present:** Susan Ely, Scott Laird, Peggy Freund, Marilyn Pederson, Alexis Baska, Annika Johnson, Marjorie Carson, Jerry Johnson, and Cathy Ward. VISITORS PRESENT
- 1.1** The Pledge of Allegiance was recited. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE
- 1.2** Agenda Review: None. AGENDA REVIEW
- 2.0 PUBLIC COMMENT ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS:** None PUBLIC COMMENTS
- 3.0 CONSENT AGENDA:** CONSENT AGENDA
Bill Langmaid moved to approve the consent agenda as presented. Cari Levenseller seconded the motion.
- 3.1** Minutes of 02/14/13 Regular Meeting and the 02/28/2013 Workshop. MINUTES APPROVED
Motion passed unanimously.
- 4.0 REPORTS & DISCUSSION**
- 4.1 Student Reports:** STUDENT REPORTS
High School – Alexis Baska
- HS leadership and foreign exchange students recently visited the Oregon Capitol
 - Basketball and Wrestling has ended – boys basketball finished 6th in State. Baseball/Softball/Track/Golf have started.
 - Doernbecher Days will be April 8-13 with the Doernbecher Dash on the 13th. The run will follow the Bear Creek route. All proceeds raised goes directly to Doernbecher Children's Hospital. Leadership is also collecting toy donations. They will deliver toys to the hospital on April 1st. One of the many weekly highlights will be the selling of snowcones. The founder of Making Miracles will be at the Doernbecher Days assembly
 - Leadership is helping to produce the school newspaper, The Timberline
 - OSSOM is working on the upcoming SKID presentation and the upcoming health fair
- Middle School – Annika Johnson, leadership student and Ashley Rogers, teacher updated the board:**
- Leadership visited the State Capitol earlier this month. They toured capitol building and met Senator Johnson. They also sat in on sessions of both the House and the Senate.
 - Spring Fling formal dance is April 4th. Volunteers are needed as dance chaperones
 - Close Up goes to Wash DC next month. Students will report to the board when they return.
 - 6th Grade classes are growing a garden. They have started vegetable seeds in trays. Thanks to volunteers Cathy Ward, Marilyn Pederson and Judy Gwin the students will

break ground on the project next week.

- Middle School track starts next week. 65 students have signed up
- Misc. 7th and 8th grade classroom activities were shared
- 6th grade is holding a Plant Sale fundraiser to fund their end of the year field trip.

4.2 Building Reports:

BUILDING REPORTS

Elementary: Aaron Miller added to his report a summary of the recently held Wetlands Sustainability Day. Byron Brown's forestry class planned the entire day. First they did research and ordered plants that would help the district maintain the wetlands in the correct way. On the day of the event they organized 15-20 kids in each class and planned the sections around the wetlands. Students in grades K-6 worked in the morning and then 7-12 worked in the afternoon. Aaron indicated that what he appreciated the most was how the older students worked with the elementary students. They were patient and helped them learn. At times they were required to do a little discipline and they handled it very well. He also very much appreciated the fact that the Forestry students planned the event so that he didn't have to. The District has partnered with BLM and the Watershed Council to get plant materials here and our students are doing the work, thus saving the district money. The Leadership class is sponsoring a contest to name the wetlands.

Middle/High School: Nate Underwood had nothing extra to add to his written report. It was noted that the Robotics team finished 3rd at Regional Competition. The Robotics program functions off of grants which they will be losing. The program needs sponsorships and increased student numbers.

- 4.3 **Financial Report:** Dawn Plews stated that there is no wiggle room on the ending fund balance – this is mainly due to added expenses this year in salaries. Attendance is also down slightly. The ending fund balance in this report is what will be projected as the beginning fund balance for 2013-14. There were no questions from the Board.

FINANCIAL REPORT

- 4.4 **Maintenance Report:** Submitted by Mark Brown. There were no questions from the Board.

MAINTENANCE REPORT

- 4.5 **Winter Sports Report:** Gordon Jarman highlighted his written report.

WINTER SPORTS REPORT

- MS Boys' Basketball had a questionable team in 7th grade but really came together and finished the season with a 9-1 record. The 8th grade boys had talent but didn't play well as a team. They finished the season with a 1-9 record.
- HS Girls' Basketball carried 24 on their roster and finished the season as champions of the NW League. They unfortunately lost in the first round of the State playoffs and did not make it to the final 8 tournament in Pendleton. Four girls earned all-league recognition.
- HS Boys' Basketball carried 25 on their roster and finished the regular season in 3rd place within the NW League. They made it to the final 8 tournament and brought home the 6th place trophy. Three earned all-league honors.
- Wrestling numbers were down slightly this season. New Coach Chris Barnes led the team to a tie for first in the 2A Special District 1. The team finished 3rd in the district tournament and sent 4 wrestlers to State.

5.0 INFORMATION & DISCUSSION

- 5.1 **Data Review:** Nate Underwood reported to the board on VHS Graduation Data. The majority of our graduation rates are above the state average. The report provided separated graduation rates by ethnicity however as a whole the VHS 2012 graduate percentage is at 69.57% and the state rate is 68.4%. This is for students graduating in 4 years (co-hort). *Students with Disabilities* were below the state average – 25% vs 38% and *Economically Disadvantaged* students were above the state average - 70.97% vs 61%.

DATA REVIEW – VHS GRADUATION DATA

Within the Non-Graduate category there are students considered "Completers" and "Non-Completers." Completers receive something other than a standard diploma, ie. modified diplomas, GEDs, adult high school diplomas, etc. Non-Completers are students that did not complete any course of study during their four years and could include students that remain enrolled in school past the final day of their 4th year (5th year senior) or students that drop out.

According to Nate, focusing on proficiency at the Elementary level translates into better

attendance at the middle school which translates to sufficient credits to graduate at the high school level. The Co-Hort Rate is based on each student's co-hort year. This is the year in which a student enters High School. From that point they have four years to complete their regular diploma. There is now a new Completion Rate that is being tracked. This rate includes 5th year seniors that graduate as well as those that earn GEDs, modified diplomas, etc.

The high school is looking at ways they can help Freshman in the career level classes. It is highly likely that a Freshman will not stick with it and recover if they get behind in credits thus keeping them from graduating.

Jim Krahn asked if Nate felt students would be more likely to stay in school if more vocational courses were offered. Yes, he tends to think so. Without our construction class he feels some students would not have graduated. The mentorship provided by Mr. Fellas is just as valuable as the ability of a student to work on things they enjoy. The more you have for kids to connect with, whether it is vocational or art, is absolutely a way to help students stay in school.

5.2 Title I Annual Update: Debbie Stahlnecker, Title I teacher, updated the board on the Title I program. TITLE I ANNUAL UPDATE

- Students are split into different reading groups based on student level. This has allowed the teachers to teach to more individualized level of student. Debbie steps in and helps teach some of the groups of kids. This year she is working with 1st, 3rd and 4th grades.
- The Title I Instructional Assistants work with the teachers by providing support in math and writing.
- Progress monitoring of those students not meeting the requirements occurs monthly. Discussion is held on ways to help these students improve.
- Annual parent training on how to read with your student is offered. This year the parent meeting was divided into two levels: Learning to Read (K-2nd) and Reading to Learn (3rd +). Attendance is not always great but it offers a good avenue for connecting with parents.
- Barnes & Noble book drive this year resulted in over 2000 books. Parents were able to take home free books.
- Family Reading night is April 25 at 6:30 p.m. The Scholastic Book Fair where parents buy one book and get one free is also happening at that time.
- ODE has changed how they determine a school's Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP). This is a 4 year process and we are currently in year one. The design of conferences will change. The State is mandating items to be discussed during a conference and therefore will lengthen the time of each individual conference.
- Intervention time will be scheduled for any student needing help. After students are pulled out of class for intervention those students remaining in the classroom (on target, exceeders, and TAG students) will receive specialized instruction.

Deb presented the Parent Involvement policy to the board. This should have been presented to the Board at the beginning of the year. She asked that the board review this for her records. It is required by the State to have this policy updated annually.

5.3 Collaboration Grant Update: Juliet Safier updated the board COLLABORATION GRANT UPDATE

- A new teacher evaluation handbook has been revised. Two elementary teachers, 1 middle school teacher, and 2 high school teachers worked on the evaluation revisions. These five staff will be evaluated this year using the new model and will share with the rest of the staff the results of the evaluation process.
- Administration is working to put together a new evaluation for their employee group. This evaluation should align with the State as well as with the licensed staff evaluation.
- Juliet will be reviewing everything over Spring break so that a draft can be presented to the board.
- Vernonia School District is far ahead of other districts around the state due to our participation with the Class Grant. We've had 4 years to get to this point where many districts are starting from the beginning this year.
- Dr. Cox will be sending a letter to our state legislators in support of continuing this program and secure funding for the future.

- 5.4 **Emergency Facility Use MOA:** The Public Health Foundation of Columbia County pre-arranges the use of buildings in case of a health epidemic. They need space for a staging area for vaccinations and a temporary dispensary. They have toured the new building and would like to use the Commons area should the need arise. This agreement has been in place before however with the new school some updates were required. Dr. Cox recommends renewing the approval. EMERGENCY FACILITY USE MOA DISCUSSED
- 5.5 **HB 3681:** Dr. Cox explained that last year Legislation was passed that required districts to set limits on the numbers of kids coming in to and leaving a district. Each District is required to set this number by March 1st each year. Vernonia did not have any come in last year. There is a gentleman's agreement within the Districts in Columbia County to keep this limit at 5 students unless both districts agreed to increase that number. Because Scappoose and St. Helens are so close they opted to increase their limits to 10. Rainier and Clatskanie did the same thing. HB 3681 STUDENT LIMITS DISCUSSED
- 6.0 **ACTION ITEMS.**
- 6.1 **Policy Approval:** Bill Langmaid moved to approve Policies CCG, EEA, EEACC, EEACD, GCDA/GDDA, GCN, GDN, IL, JECC, and JECF as presented. Greg Kintz seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously. POLICIES APPROVED
- 6.2 **Approve Out-of-State Band Field Trip:** Bill Langmaid moved to approve the out-of-state band field trip to Battle Ground, Washington on 4/12/13. Cari Levenseller seconded the motion. Jim Krahn asked who was paying for the trip expenses? Dr. Cox was not sure but would check. Motion passed unanimously. OUT-OF-STATE BAND FIELD TRIP APPROVED
- 6.3 **Budget committee Appointment:** Bill Langmaid moved to appoint Tobie Finzel to a three year term on the budget committee. Cari Levenseller seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously. FINZEL APPOINTED TO BUDGET COMMITTEE
- 6.4 **Approve Budget Calendar:** Bill Langmaid moved to approve the Budget Calendar as presented. Cari Levenseller seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously. BUDGET CALENDAR APPROVED
- 6.5 **Approve Emergency Facility Use MOA:** Bill Langmaid moved to approve the Memorandum of Agreement between the Vernonia School District and the Public Health Foundation of Columbia County as amended. Cari Levenseller seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously. EMERGENCY FACILITY MOA APPROVED
- 6.6 **HB3681 Limits:** Greg Kintz moved to set the limit at 0. There was no second. Motion died. Bill Langmaid moved to set the limits for HB 3681 for the 2013-14 school year at 5. Cari Levenseller seconded the motion. There was no further discussion. Motion passed unanimously. HB 3681 LIMITS SET FOR 2013-14
- 7.0 **SUPERINTENDENT REPORT:** SUPERINTENDENT REPORT
- Greenhouse project is underway. Rock and gravel have been placed, footings have been poured and the site is prepared. Delivery should be in a couple of weeks.
 - Maintenance / Wood Shop Project: Walls have been constructed with the help of students so that insulation can be installed. A mezzanine will be installed for additional storage. Mr. Fellas is working on a plan to allow some wood shop equipment in this area when finished, which will entail getting a dust collection system in place.
 - Demolition Update: green building has been emptied this week. It will be deconstructed soon.
 - New Spencer Park Update: Updated plans for the park will be reviewed at a town hall meeting on April 17th at 7pm in the school commons. Demolition should be done by the end of June. In July they will start to move dirt from the new school site down to the park space and hope to begin seeding grass in August.
 - Legislative requirement is to have an Integrated Pest Management plan in place. The district's model was shared.
 - The District ADM is down. This can be substantial when building a budget. There is approximately 20 less students at \$6500 per student. The PERS increase will cause us to be between \$135K and \$350K short in salaries alone. The budget will be discussed at the town hall in April.
 - Dates and times will be reviewed for a possible workshop for the board to begin working on developing a facilities plan for the remaining unfinished projects such as sports fields, etc.

- 8.0 RECESS TO EXECUTIVE SESSION** under O.R.S. 192.660 (2) (i) to review and evaluate the performance of the chief executive office or any other public officer employee or staff member at 7:35 p.m. RECESSED TO EXECUTIVE SESSION
- Present:** Jim Krahn, Cari Levenseller, Bill Langmaid, Greg Kintz, Ken Cox, Nate Underwood, Aaron Miller, James Brookins, Barb Carr and Scott Laird.
- All licensed staff (teachers and administration) were reviewed for contract renewal.
- 9.0 RECONVENED TO REGULAR SESSION** at 8:30 p.m. RECONVENED TO REGULAR SESSION
- Bill Langmaid moved to accept Resolution #1213-04 and Resolution #1213-05 extending contracts as presented. Motion seconded by Cari Levenseller. Motion passed unanimously. RESOLUTIONS EXTENDING CONTRACTS FOR LICENSED & ADMIN. APPROVED
- OTHER ISSUES:**
- Green Building Discussion: The Board once again discussed the possibility of purchasing the Green Building. According to Dr. Cox the District is going to have to make some hard decisions to balance the budget next year. After extensive consideration by the board the consensus of moving forward with the Green building was not in the District's best interest. The District has juggled a lot over the last few years getting the funding together to build the school. It's time to walk away from this project since the funding is not there. BOARD MAKES FINAL DECISION TO NOT GO FORWARD WITH THE PURCHASE OF THE GREEN BUILDING
- Discussion was held as whether or not we could use volunteers to install drainage on the fields. According to Dr. Cox the plans for this are required to be engineered. The District could utilize volunteers to help but we must have someone with credentials satisfactory to obtain the necessary permits.
- 10.0 MEETING ADJOURNED** at 8:55 p.m. ADJOURNED

Submitted by Barb Carr,
Administrative Assistant

Board Chair

District Clerk

