

VERNONIA SCHOOL DISTRICT 47J
1201 TEXAS AVENUE
VERNONIA OR 97064

BOARD OF DIRECTORS REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

April 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 6:00 p.m. by Brett Costley.

MEETING CALLED
TO ORDER

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

BOARD PRESENT

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

BOARD ABSENT

Staff Present: Aaron Miller, Superintendent; Nate Underwood, Middle/High School Principal; Dawn Plews, Business Manager; Marie Knight, Fiscal Assistant; Barb Carr, Administrative Assistant; Juliet Safier, Linda Hobart, and Laura Blacker, Licensed Staff; and Beth Kintz, Classified Staff.

STAFF PRESENT

Visitors Present: Scott Laird, Agnes Naeve, Jeana Gump, Isaiah Naeve, Matthew Naeve, Tracie Ruiz, Anicia Ruiz, Angela Bettencourt, and Delaney Draeger.

VISITORS PRESENT

1.1 The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

PLEDGE OF
ALLEGIANCE

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

AGENDA REVIEW

2.0 **PUBLIC COMMENT ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS:** Juliet Safier, spoke about the Better Oregon Campaign, which essentially increases the taxes of businesses that have annual revenue greater than \$25 million. The increase to the tax base would be used to fund regular education, health education, and senior services. She is collecting signatures in the effort to help get the bill on the November ballot.

PUBLIC COMMENT

3.0 **CONSENT AGENDA:**

CONSENT AGENDA

3.1 Minutes of 03/10/2016 Regular Meeting.

Ernie Smith 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

Third grade teacher Laura Blacker, and her student Anicia Ruiz, reported on their recent field trip to Stub Steward State Park.

Fourth grade teacher Linda Hobart, and her students Isaiah Naeve and Delaney Draeger, shared their experience of hatching salmon eggs in their classroom and releasing them into Vernonia Lake.

VHS Students Viviana Bustamante and Grace Coleman spoke to the board on the new project based class debuting during 4th quarter. Students will be choosing and completing projects around the school and community. They will interview civic groups to determine any needs they might have. Students that are highly motivated and academically sound were handpicked to participate in this pilot program. Jim Krahm developed the program as a means to keep students with less than full schedules their senior year, fully engaged.

PILOT PROJECT
PROGRAM SHARED

4.2 **Building Reports:**

BUILDING REPORTS

Mr. Underwood highlighted his written report by sharing with the board more accurate numbers to the absenteeism report presented last month.

Mr. Miller added to his written report. The Run for the Arts fundraiser was held today. Many students and volunteers make this event a success. Proceeds benefit the elementary school by bringing in cultural experiences such as assemblies or artists in residence. The Elementary teacher group is looking for experiences next year that tie to the curriculum more.

4.3	Financial Report: Dawn Plews shared that the ending fund balance on her report has dropped significantly since last month. The decrease is due to a few reasons. The District finally settled the transportation contract with Curls School Bus Services for 2015-16. Contract increases have now been paid retroactive back to July. Funds have been transferred out of the General Fund to cover the annual debt payments, approximately \$230,000 that was not budgeted in the General Fund. The District has also taken a hit from our 2014-15 and 2015-16 ADM being less than projected.	FINANCIAL REPORT
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4.4	Maintenance Report: The board reviewed Mark Brown’s report. There were no questions from the board.	MAINTENANCE REPORT
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5.0 INFORMATION & DISCUSSION

5.1	Bond Refinance Discussion: Aaron Miller continued the discussion from last month on the opportunity for the District to save the taxpayers money by refinancing the current obligation bonds. The resolution provided is in support of the “Advanced Refund” and is needed to move forward. The District’s bond advisor feels we can save tax payers a substantial amount of money by taking advantage of a lower interest rate than when the bonds were sold. The initial estimate in savings to the tax payers is around \$600K, but this is dependent on the interest rates on the day of the actual sale. It was noted that the Board can approve the resolution but if rates increase and the amount of savings is not worth the effort, the District is not obligated to complete the refinance process. It was again noted that there is no direct benefit to the District; the benefit is to the tax payers only.	BOND REFINANCE DISCUSSED
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5.2	New Bond Discussion: Aaron Miller discussed at the last meeting the need for the District to move forward with trying to pass another bond and remove the overhead construction debt of \$5 million. The district has several \$100K payments annually and options of grants, fundraising, and legislative assistance to help pay the annual payments has run out. Next year will be the first year having to face the debt head on with the general fund. Utilizing the general fund to make the annual debt payments would have a catastrophic impact on the educational programs in the Vernonia School District.	NEW BOND DISCUSSED
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Superintendent Miller and Dawn Plews have met with the District’s bond advisor to develop options on what a possible bond would look like. The following options are suggestions:

- Option 1 – keep current rate at \$1.78 per thousand and extend the length of the bond out one more year – \$3.1 million would be generated.
- Option 2 – set rate at previously approved rate of \$1.90 per thousand and extend length of bond 6 years – \$5.6 million would be generated.
- Option 3 – set rate at previously approved rate of \$1.90 per thousand and extend length of bond 11 years – \$7.8 million would be generated.

Supt. Miller is seeking Board approval to continue the planning of placing a Bond on the November, 2016 ballot.

5.3	Promise Scholarship Program: Brett Costley shared an opportunity with OSBA to earn \$5K in scholarship money for our students. The Board must agree to work with OSBA on a Board leadership styled project and submit an application to the Promise Scholarship program.	PROMISE SCHOLARSHIP DISCUSSED
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There was discussion on the costs associated with the program that OSBA would charge for facilitating the board work towards their chosen project. The board had numerous questions and Greg Kintz offered to get more information on Friday April 22nd when he meets again with OSBA.

The Board was in consensus with tabling this discussion item until more information could be gathered.

5.4	Budget Committee Vacancies: Currently there are four vacancies on the Budget Committee. One application has been submitted by Tobie Finzel for the Board to consider. The first meeting of the Budget Committee will be May 5 th .	BUDGET COMMITTEE VACANCIES
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5.5	PACE Joinder of Trust Agreement: Aaron Miller and Marie Knight shared the Trust Agreement with OSBA’s Property and Casualty Coverage – PACE. The District receives free legal services,	PACE JOINDER OF TRUST
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and support for the safety committee work. All public schools are part of the trust and the document presented to the board just signifies that our District wishes to participate in this trust which shares any risk with all districts in Oregon. Superintendent Miller indicated that he has utilized many services through this program and recommends to the Board to approve the Intergovernmental Trust Agreement.

INTERGOVERN-
MENTAL
AGREEMENT

- 5.6 Policy Revision (1st Reading):** It was noted that at the recommendation of OSBA a line has been added to policy GCBD/GDBD - Leaves and Absences. It was presented as a first reading.

POLICY 1st READING

6.0 ACTION ITEMS

- 6.1 Bond Refinance – Resolution #1516-05 to Authorize General Obligation Bond Advanced Refund (including Exhibit A, Tax Exempt Bond Post Issuance Compliance Policy):** Ernie Smith moved to approve resolution #1516-05 to Authorize General Obligations Bond Advanced Refund. Greg Kintz seconded the motion. There was no discussion. Motion passed unanimously with those in attendance.
- 6.2 New Bond:** Greg Kintz moved to authorize Superintendent Miller to move forward in gathering information for a possible bond election in November, 2016. Ernie Smith seconded the motion. There was no discussion. Motion passed unanimously with those in attendance.
- 6.3 Promise Scholarship Program:** There was no motion made on this item.
- 6.4 Budget Committee Appointment:** Ernie Smith moved to appoint Tobie Finzel to a three year term on the Vernonia School District budget committee. Brittanie Roberts seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously with those in attendance.
- 6.5 PACE Joinder of Trust Agreement:** Greg Kintz moved to approve the PACE Joinder of Trust Intergovernmental Agreement as presented. Brittanie Roberts seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously with those in attendance.
- 6.6 Retirement:** Mr. Miller read aloud the retirement letter of Lynn Shaw-Hayes. Ernie Smith moved to accept the retirement and resignation of Lynn Shaw-Hayes effective July 1, 2016. Brittanie Roberts seconded the motion. The Board thanked Lynn for her service to the students of Vernonia School District. Motion passed unanimously with those in attendance.

BOND REFINANCE
RESOLUTION
APPROVED

NEW BOND
RESEARCH
APPROVED

PROMISE
SCHOLARSHIP
PROGRAM

FINZEL APPOINTED
TO BUDGET
COMMITTEE

PACE JOINDER OF
TRUST AGREEMENT
APPROVED

SHAW-HAYES
RETIREMENT
ACCEPTED

7.0 SUPERINTENDENT REPORT: Aaron Miller updated the board:

- Additional correspondence has been received giving our Boys' Basketball team accolades for their outstanding representation at the State 2A Basketball Tournament in Pendleton.
- A Kindercamp Grant was received from the NW Early Learning Council. The \$5,000 award will provide two weeks of transitional classes to incoming Kindergarten students over the summer.
- Strategic Plan draft documents were shared containing preliminary information regarding surveys, work sessions and community forums. The Board was asked to review the data and determine if the strategies within each goal are sufficient to reaching the goal. It is important to really drill down and address ways to improve the district in areas that are important to staff, board, parents, and community. The final document will be adopted by the board at a future meeting.
- The District is working with both unions to review how we provide insurance coverage for employees.
- Transportation contract negotiations have come to a tentative agreement on updating fees for the 2015-16 school year.
- Work on developing the 2016-17 budget continues. It appears the district will face a significant shortfall due to the debt service on the new school building.
- Work on the softball field continues. The dedication date of 4/22 is still on track.

SUPERINTENDENT
REPORT

Greg Kintz shared that applications are being accepted for summer intern positions at Stub Steward State

Park, the District, and the Upper Nehalem Watershed Council. Application deadline is April 25th and are available at the school Library. Mr. Miller thanked our partners, Stub Steward State Park and the UNWC.

Brett Costley shared that the Robotics team had struggles with their robot this season and did not advance to the district competition. Students did a fabulous job in how they handled the adversity this year.

8.0 MEETING ADJOURNED at 7:20 p.m.

ADJOURNED

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

Board Chair

District Clerk