

VERNONIA SCHOOL DISTRICT 47J  
1201 TEXAS AVENUE  
VERNONIA OR 97064

BOARD OF DIRECTORS REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

April 11, 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 6:00 p.m. by Jim Krahn, Chair. MEETING CALLED TO ORDER
- Board Present:** Jim Krahn, Tim Bamburg, Bill Langmaid, Ernie Smith, and Greg Kintz. Camrin Eyrrick arrived at 6:09 p.m. BOARD PRESENT
- Board Absent:** Cari Levenseller
- Staff Present:** Ken Cox, Superintendent; Nate Underwood, Middle/High School Principal; Aaron Miller, Elementary Schools Principal; James Brookins, District Special Ed. Director; Dawn Plews, Business Manager; Barb Carr, Administrative Assistant; Juliet Safier, Kathleen Pennington, and Ashley Rogers, teachers; and Jan Dyer, Classified staff. STAFF PRESENT
- Visitors Present:** Scott Laird, Peggy Freund, Susan Ely, Marilyn Pederson, Lauren Glass, Hope Cutright, Judi Gwin, Megan Rice, Megan Ely, McKenzie Willard, Lauren Ely, and Jessica Butcher. VISITORS PRESENT
- 1.1** The Pledge of Allegiance was recited. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE
- 1.2** Agenda Review: Added 4.5 SHaW Clinic Report and Item 6.4 Staff Resignation AGENDA REVIEW
- 2.0 PUBLIC COMMENT ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS:** Jessie Butcher, Lauren Ely, Megan Ely and McKenzie Willard, representing Girl Scout troop 40485, shared that they are trying to earn a Silver Award. 50 hours of community service is required for this award. On Saturday April 13<sup>th</sup> the troop will be weeding along Missouri Avenue. They are also recycling and have set up bins in the Commons. Money raised from recycling will be used to purchase Water for Haiti. PUBLIC COMMENTS
- 3.0 CONSENT AGENDA:** CONSENT AGENDA  
Bill Langmaid moved to approve the consent agenda as presented. Ernie Smith seconded the motion.
- 3.1** Minutes of 03/14/13 Regular Meeting. MINUTES APPROVED  
  
Motion passed unanimously.
- 4.0 REPORTS & DISCUSSION**
- 4.1 Student Reports:** STUDENT REPORTS  
**High School** – there was not a student in attendance to report.  
  
**Middle School :** Hope Cutright, Megan Rice, and Lauren Glass reported:
- 2<sup>nd</sup> round of OAK's testing is underway. Test scores are improving.
  - Miscellaneous classroom activities were highlighted
  - 6<sup>th</sup> grade garden project is underway
  - 6<sup>th</sup> grade play coming up next month
  - Students leave next week for the DC trip
- Camrin Eyrrick arrived at 6:09 p.m.
- 4.2 Building Reports:** BUILDING REPORTS  
**Elementary:** Nothing additional to the written report.  
  
**Middle/High School:** Nate Underwood shared that the Leadership class has done a great job with all the activities this week in conjunction with Doernbecher Days. They are holding a 10K run this Saturday beginning at 10:00 a.m.

- 4.3 Financial Report:** Dawn Plews reported that the ending fund balance is currently at negative \$35,000. Ken Cox gave an explanation for the negative balance. There were some differences between revenue budgeted and actual revenue received, increased costs, the need to add additional special education staff, and unbudgeted ESD costs. To offset the shortfall Dr. Cox is recommending cutting four school days between now and the end of the school year. The District can save \$22,000 per day (\$20,000 salaries and \$2,000 transportation). The dates recommended by Dr. Cox are May 10 and 17 and June 6 and 7. Last day of school would be Wed. June 5.
- Dr. Cox indicated that he will be in the Commons next Monday afternoon at 3:15 p.m. to discuss this with staff and answer any questions.
- Greg Kintz commented that every year when dealing with budgets there are always parts that are fluid and the District is unable to know in advance exact amounts. To keep as many staff as possible the District cuts as close as it can. However when there are increased costs that were unanticipated this type of shortfall is going to happen. Greg feels as though the District will be able to weather this and be okay.
- 4.4 Maintenance Report:** Written report submitted by Mark Brown. There were no questions.
- 4.5 SHaW Clinic Report:** Written report submitted by Sherrie Ford. Ken Cox shared that their Open House will be held on April 23<sup>rd</sup> from 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. All are invited to attend.
- 5.0 INFORMATION & DISCUSSION**
- 5.1 Data Review – Attendance:** Ken Cox will report on this next month.
- 5.2 Special Education Report:** Mr. Brookins and Ms. Jackson reported.
- Success story: last year a senior on his last try passed the Oaks testing after sitting with Mr. Brookins and Ms. Jackson. He went on to graduate and received the “Chance to Become” scholarship. This student just completed training in the Wind Turbine program.
  - Robin Murphy will be unable to teach Special Education next year due to an expiring Conditional Assignment Permit (CAP) license.
  - Four part-time Instructional Assistants were recently hired.
  - A new 1000 lb. swing, surplus from a neighboring district, has been installed in the Life Skills room. The swing offers additional physical recreation.
  - Adult life skills classroom is starting to be utilized. They offer cooking and overall apartment living curriculum.
  - The Smart Board is being utilized to teach sign language. Both students and instructional assistants are learning.
  - Computers with over 150,000 book titles can read to students. I-Pads are being used as well.
  - Technology is outstanding in the new school and the Special Ed. Department is putting it to good use.
  - The Sped Department has a student teacher, Sarah Nelson, in Life Skills.
  - 2013-2014 numbers should remain consistent. There are seven students graduating and seven incoming Kindergarten students next year. Current 2012-13 caseload totals 99 including a few students in referral.
  - The District is responsible for paying for evaluations of pre-kindergarten aged kids. These students ages 2-5 attend and receive early childhood education at Head Start
  - The NWRESA is no longer doing Autism evaluations. The District has trained 6 people to do this.
  - The District receives double funding from the state for all Special Education students up to a limit of 11%. We currently have 17% of our population receiving special education services. It was noted that there is discussion to increase this limit across the nation to 13%.

Aaron Miller arrived at 6:45 p.m.



5.3	<p><b>2013-2014 Budget Update:</b> Ken Cox shared that the May board meeting will be the first Budget Committee meeting. As soon as the first draft of the budget is printed he will be meeting with Administration and then will reach out to the community to gather input. The District will see a huge increase in PERS next year. With student enrollment down, Dr. Cox indicated that we will not be able to maintain our current staffing levels next year.</p> <p>Bill Langmaid asked if we had any students coming to Vernonia under HB3681. Deadline for parents to apply is April 1<sup>st</sup> and no applications were received.</p> <p>Greg Kintz indicated that the recent federal sequestration is hitting us hard. Money provided to the State for all Title programs has been reduced drastically. Interest rates on the loans the District currently has have also been affected. Interest rates will no longer be picked up by the Government as they have in the past.</p>	2013-14 BUDGET UPDATE
5.4	<p><b>2013-2014 Instructional Calendar:</b> Ken Cox shared the proposed 2013-14 instructional calendar. Mr. Underwood met with the calendar committee and came up with the 180-day option. District Policy states that we must adopt the next year's instructional calendar at the April meeting. Dr. Cox recommends adopting this option and make changes if needed.</p>	2013-14 INSTRUCTIONAL CALENDAR
5.5	<p><b>Vernonia Vitality – Student Survey:</b> Bill Langmaid reported that Amy Grotta, OSU Extension - Columbia County, is working with Deanna Pearl, Scott Laird, and others on the Vitality Project for Vernonia. This is a way of measuring how our community is doing in terms of vitality, is it engaging, do people want to be in Vernonia, etc. An indicator of poor vitality would be the percentage of empty store fronts for example. The group will be asking different user groups in Vernonia different questions. Sample questions that will be given to our high school students were shared. Data gathering will continue through the end of the summer then the data will be analyzed. They hope to continue the project every 5-10 years. It will be a benefit to the community to see how their decision making is affecting the community long term.</p>	VERNONIA VITALITY – STUDENT SURVEY
5.6	<p><b>OSBA Strong Schools, Strong State Resolution:</b> Greg Kintz presented one of OSBA's campaigns that they are sponsoring. There are multiple coalition partners such as OSEA, COSA, OSSA, OASBO, Oregon PTA, OEA, and OAESD. The resolution doesn't carry any weight, it just allows all to stand forth as one unit as they come up against education issues. It sends the message to the legislature that we are one voice and going down the road together.</p>	STRONG SCHOOLS STRONG STATE RESOLUTION
6.0	<b>ACTION ITEMS.</b>	
6.1	<p><b>Instructional Calendar:</b> Bill Langmaid moved to approve the 180-day instructional calendar as presented. Ernie Smith seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.</p>	2013-14 INSTRUCTIONAL CALENDAR APPROVED
6.2	<p><b>Student Survey:</b> Bill Langmaid moved to approve administering the Vitality Student Survey to high school students. Camrin Eyrrick seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.</p>	STUDENT SURVEY APPROVED
6.3	<p><b>OSBA Resolution:</b> Bill Langmaid moved to approve resolution #1213-06 in support of OSBA's Strong Schools, Strong State campaign. Greg Kintz seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.</p>	OSBA RESOLUTION APPROVED
6.4	<p><b>Teacher Resignation:</b> Ken Cox shared that last month the board received a resignation from Kari Hansen effective at the end of this school year. Dr. Cox personally thanked Mrs. Hansen for her years of service to district. Tim Bamburg moved to accept the resignation of Kari Hansen and thanked her for her many years of dedicated service to the district and our students. Ernie Smith seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.</p>	KARI HANSEN RESIGNATION ACCEPTED
6.5	<p><b>Calendar Adjustment:</b> Tim Bamburg moved to cut the following days from the 2012-13 calendar; May 10 &amp; 17 and June 6 &amp; 7. Motion seconded by Bill Langmaid. Ken Cox clarified that this is a reduction for all employees. Motion passed unanimously.</p>	2012-13 CALENDAR DAYS REDUCED
7.0	<p><b>SUPERINTENDENT REPORT:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Currently working with Wedbush to secure additional financing. Wedbush recently highlighted Vernonia Schools in a recent pamphlet.</li> </ul>	SUPERINTENDENT REPORT

- Integrated Pest Management Plan is complete and available for view.
- Town Hall meeting has been scheduled for April 17 at 7 p.m. in the commons. Primary purpose of the meeting is to discuss finalize some details on the new Spencer Park.
- UNWC will be a tenant in the basement of D.O. hopefully in May.
- Recently hired Amanda Wolf as Volunteer coordinator. Picking up where Betsy Miller left off.
- Green house has arrived. Aaron Miller will be coordinating getting that put together.
- The swing set goes out there as well.
- Maintenance and woodshop project – students helped line the walls inside the shop with plywood.
- Demolition of building is mostly complete.

Other Issues: Bill Langmaid reviewed the work of the three student groups that have been in Vernonia over the past month to help us out. Sierra Service Project identified areas in Vernonia that they could work with. The first group built planter boxes from wood purchased from donations. The second group worked with bricks from the old WGS. The bricks will be used as pavers in the community garden to make it handicap accessible. The third group had a total of 66 youth and adults. They stayed overnight in the commons and cleaned a dump truck load of bricks as well as finished the planting, landscape work at the museum, painting and flooring projects at senior homes in the community. All three groups were excited and received a great response. They plan to come back in the fall and again in the winter. Possibly next summer they would like to have a 6 week mission in Vernonia. Very positive for them and for us.

OTHER ISSUES:  
SIERRA SERVICE  
PROJECT COMES  
TO VERNONIA

**8.0 MEETING ADJOURNED at 7:15 p.m.**

ADJOURNED

Submitted by Barb Carr,  
Administrative Assistant

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Board Chair

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District Clerk