

VERNONIA SCHOOL DISTRICT 47J
1201 TEXAS AVENUE
VERNONIA OR 97064

BOARD OF DIRECTORS REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

May 12, 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 6:15 p.m. by Brett Costley.

MEETING CALLED
TO ORDER

Board Present: Brett Costley, Susan Wagner, Greg Kintz, Ernie Smith, Brittanie Roberts, and Katie Cook. Cari Levenseller arrived at 6:47 p.m.

BOARD PRESENT

Board Absent: None.

BOARD ABSENT
STAFF PRESENT

Staff Present: Aaron Miller, Superintendent; Nate Underwood, Middle/High School Principal; Dawn Plews, Business Manager; Barb Carr, Administrative Assistant; and Juliet Safier, Licensed Staff.

Visitors Present: Scott Laird, Amanda-Rose Sicard, Paul Peterson, Hyrum Schirmeister, Dawn Schirmeister, and Meagan Schirmeister.

VISITORS PRESENT

1.1 The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

PLEDGE OF
ALLEGIANCE

2.0 RECESS to BUDGET COMMITTEE MEETING at 6:17 p.m.

RECESS TO BUDGET
MEETING

3.0 RECONVENE TO REGULAR MEETING at 7:00 pm

RECONVENE TO
REGULAR SESSION

1.2 Agenda Review: One addition was noted; Information & Discussion item #7.1 ORVED Presentation and renumbered this section accordingly. Susan Wagner moved to approve the agenda as amended. Cari Levenseller seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

AGENDA REVIEW

4.0 PUBLIC COMMENT ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS: None

PUBLIC COMMENT

5.0 CONSENT AGENDA:

CONSENT AGENDA

5.1 Minutes of 04/14/2016 Regular Meeting.

Cari Levenseller moved to approve the consent agenda as presented. Katie Cook seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously with those in attendance.

MINUTES APPROVED

6.0 REPORTS & DISCUSSION

6.1 Student Reports: Amanda-Rose Sicard updated the board.

STUDENT REPORTS

- The Project Based Learning class has determined the project they will work on this quarter. Project Sparkle, sprucing up the school campus, will involve students in the elementary, middle and high school. They are also planning on having this year's seniors place their handprints on the wall by the locker rooms as they were the first class to attend all four years in the new school.
- Doernbecher Week has been successful with \$900 of the goal of \$1,000 raised. They are selling Dolly Heads for \$1.00 each. The Date Auction was held today, Saturday is the kids race over obstacles and relays. The week will culminate with a Save It or Shave It fundraiser. Various staff members have volunteered for this. Money will be collected until Friday and the results announced on Monday. They are also selling ice cream sundaes.
- ASB Elections will be on Tuesday.
- OSSOM Health Fair is next Tuesday.
- Athletics: all is going well. Track heading out to District competition, Softball and Baseball have their last game this week – seniors will be recognized.
- Band Concert will be May 17th
- Leadership students will be volunteering on May 21st at Bailey's Pantry fundraiser.

6.2 Building Reports: BUILDING REPORTS
Aaron Miller added that State testing appears to be going well. He shared information on next year's grade configurations. Board Member Katie Cook asked if high school students are utilized in the classrooms. Yes, they are utilized often.

Nate Underwood added to his written report. He shared the recent successes of our students at the recently held Math and Spelling competitions. Board Member Susan Wagner asked if there would be any changes in the foreign exchange programs in regards to OSAA. Mr. Miller stated that there have been no sanctions by OSAA and that the various foreign exchange programs are discussing the issue.

6.3 Financial Report: Dawn Plews shared her financial report. There were no significant changes to report. There were no questions from the Board. FINANCIAL REPORT

6.4 Maintenance Report: The board reviewed Mark Brown's report. It was noted that the leak in the wrestling room has been repaired. There were no questions from the board. MAINTENANCE REPORT

7.0 INFORMATION & DISCUSSION

7.1 ORVED Presentation: Paul Peterson, Asst. Superintendent at NWRES D, and Director of Oregon Virtual Education gave a presentation to the Board on potentially becoming the sponsor of ORVED. Highlights of his presentation: ORVED PRESENTATION

- ORVED is a Virtual Charter School that has been around for 4 years.
- There are 14 Virtual Charters around the state.
- ORVED west is currently sponsored by Gaston School District. ORVED East by Sherman County.
- Currently the year is winding down with only a few kids enrolled. Their highest enrollment has been 60 students.
- Gaston's contract goes through 2018 however they are choosing to end their sponsorship at the end of 2016 due to the extra work and that all ORVED student testing results are combined with their District's data. Virtual Charters historically have the lower end of performing students enrolled and this can have a negative impact on the sponsoring district's state report card.
- ORVED operates without making any money.
- ORVED offers options for students who can enroll at any time during the year. The rolling enrollment makes it so students don't have to wait for the new school year or have to play catch up.
- The NWRES D desires to look for a new sponsor soon and have a signed contract by the end of June. Supt. Miller stated a possible interest and invited the NWRES D to come before the Board with a proposal.
- The sponsoring District retains 5% of any ADM for enrolled students. The remaining 95% is retained by ORVED to operate the program.

There were questions from the Board and the audience.

- How will our District be hit on our report card?
- Would doing this causes changes to our weighted formulas in the State School Fund?
- Can the date be pushed out to allow more time to discuss the proposal?

The need for time to process and perhaps hold another meeting was brought forth. The board was in consensus of this. Aaron Miller asked that all board members look through the materials provided and send any questions Dawn Plews or to him by end of day on Monday. They will get responses gathered and returned by next Thursday.

Cari Levenseller moved to hold a special board meeting and public hearing to further discuss the option of becoming the sponsoring District of ORVED on Thursday, May 19th at 6:30 p.m. Susan Wagner seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

- 7.2 **Cool School Loans Forbearance Agreements:** Aaron Miller shared two Oregon Department of Energy agreements that provide two years of forbearance on both loans. The loans will still accrue interest and the District will still owe the money, however it provides time to move forward with retiring debt before having to pick up payments again. COOL SCHOOL LOANS FORBEARANCE
- 7.3 **Preliminary Official Statement:** Dawn Plews is currently working on an agreement with Piper Jaffrey on this element for the advanced refund. It deals with the current bond taken out in 2010 for \$13 million and is a necessary document in the process. She has been through two rounds of revisions and has provided answers to questions they have had. The agreement is basically a snapshot of the District in regards to tax info, demographics of the district, etc. Investors look at this document and then assign risk. It is still in draft form and there are no guarantees the District will move forward with this. It is all dependent on the rates on the date of the sale. Currently the sale is set for June 19th. PRELIMINARY OFFICIAL STATEMENT NECESSARY FOR ADVANCED REFUND (refinance of current bond)

A question arose as to whether or not the two year loan forbearance would have an impact on this? Yes, and according to Dawn a lot of emails have gone back and forth regarding this.

- 7.4 **Strategic Planning Update:** Aaron Miller shared an update on the Strategic Planning process. He provided multiple handouts that have survey results as well as a compilation of the work done by Kate Pattison. The handouts provided include: STRATEGIC PLANNING UPDATE
- Parent Survey Responses
 - Staff Survey Responses
 - Vernonia Parent and Community Work Session Notes
 - Vernonia Strategic Planning (School Board and Instructional Team) Work Session Notes
 - VSD Strategic Plan 2016-19 Draft

Aaron asked the Board to please go through the documents and contact him of questions. He had hoped to have this process done by this time but understands it takes a great deal of time and likely will not have a final draft until next Fall.

8.0 ACTION ITEMS

- 8.1 **Policy GCBD/GDBD:** Ernie Smith moved to approve the update to policy GCBD/BDBD – Leaves and Absences. Greg Kintz seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously. POLICY GCBD/GDBD UPDATE APPROVED
- 8.2 **Cool School Loans Forbearance Agreement:** Susan Wagner moved to approve the Loan Forbearance Agreements for Loan #L00864 and #L00881 as presented. Ernie Smith seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously. COOL SCHOOL LOAN FORBEARANCE AGREEMENTS APPROVED

- 9.0 **SUPERINTENDENT REPORT:** Aaron Miller updated the board: SUPERINTENDENT REPORT
- Next lunch meeting is with Cari and Brett. Barb Carr will be in contact to get this set up.
 - Friday, May 6th the school was in lock out on this day due to a serious incident involving a pictorial threat turned in to a staff member by a student. The date on the drawing was Friday, May 6th. Administration has been addressing the situation very seriously since the drawing was turned in. They have worked with law enforcement. The impact to the district was large with 260 of the 548 students absent on May 6.
 - A Kindercamp grant has been received. The \$5,000 grant will provide two weeks of transitional classes just prior to the start of the new year.
 - Work continues on the budget deficit. Negotiations with both unions will begin soon.
 - Facilities – Softball field dedication went well. Baseball Field constructions bid packets have been sent to three contractors.
 - June 2nd an informational meeting to discuss the bond with community will be held. It will begin at 6:00 pm and will be held in the Library. Patrons of the community will be able to ask questions and provide input.

10.0 RECESS TO EXECUTIVE SESSION under ORS 192.660 92) (b) at 8:45 p.m.

The board discussed a fourth level appeal regarding a request to allow a non-enrolled student to participate in the class of 2016 graduation ceremony.

RECESS TO
EXECUTIVE SESSION

11.0 RECONVENT TO REGULAR SESSION at 10:07 p.m.

Susan Wagner moved to uphold the decision of the Administration regarding a non-enrolled VHS student participating in the class of 2016 graduation ceremony. Greg Kintz seconded the motion. There was no further discussion and Chair Costley called for a vote.

RECONVENE TO
REGULAR SESSION

ADMINISTRATION
DECISION UPHELD
BY BOARD

Yes votes: Susan Wagner, Brett Costley, and Greg Kintz. No votes: Cari Levenseller, Katie Cook and Brittanie Roberts. Abstained for personal reasons: Ernie Smith. Motion failed.

12.0 MEETING ADJOURNED at 10:12 p.m.

ADJOURNED

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

Board Chair

District Clerk