

VERNONIA SCHOOL DISTRICT 47J  
1201 TEXAS AVENUE  
VERNONIA OR 97064

BOARD OF DIRECTORS REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

August 11, 2016

- 1.0 CALL TO ORDER:** A Regular Meeting of the 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:** Brett Costley, Ernie Smith, Greg Kintz, Cari Levenseller and Brittanie Roberts. BOARD PRESENT  
**Board Absent:** Susan Wagner and Katie Cook BOARD ABSENT  
**Staff Present:** Aaron Miller, Superintendent; Dawn Plews, Business Manager; Marie Knight, Fiscal Assistant; Barb Carr, Administrative Assistant; Juliet Safier, VEA President; Kathi Fetch, OSEA President; and Beth Kintz, Classified Staff. STAFF PRESENT
- Visitors present:** Lonnie Perry, Michael Spry, James Lope, Christina French Loope, Janice Essenberg, Andre Schellhaas, and Scott Laird. VISITORS PRESENT
- 1.1** The Pledge of Allegiance was recited. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE
- 1.3 Agenda Review:** Ernie Smith moved to approve the agenda as presented. Cari Levenseller seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously with those in attendance. AGENDA REVIEW
- 2.0 PUBLIC COMMENT ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS:** Lonnie Perry, Grandparent of Vernonia students, shared with the Board his concern about the recent TV news coverage of new after school clubs being formed referred to as "Satan Clubs." Portland has a chapter of the Satan Temple and they are attempting to infiltrate local schools. PUBLIC COMMENT
- 3.0 CONSENT AGENDA:** CONSENT AGENDA  
**3.1** Minutes of 07/14/2016 Regular Meeting MINUTES APPROVED
- Ernie Smith moved to approve the consent agenda as presented. Cari Levenseller seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously with those in attendance. CONSENT AGENDA APPROVED
- 4.0 REPORTS & DISCUSSION**
- 4.1 Building Reports:** Juliet Safier reported on behalf of Mr. Underwood. Recently Middle and High School staff Doran Lower, Pete Weisel, Juliet Safier, Susann Myers, Teri Willard, and Nate Underwood attended the AVID conference in San Diego. AVID which stands for Advancement Via Individual Determination, is a curriculum that will be incorporated on some level to all Freshman classes. The curriculum is focused on getting Freshman to begin thinking of college. The staff participated in a three day intensive course. Juliet will be the site coordinator and will make regular reports to the Board as to their progress. BUILDING REPORTS
- The Middle School would like to amend the 2016-17 Fee Schedule approved at the July meeting. It was not communicated that 8<sup>th</sup> grade Shop students should have a fee to be consistent with the high school shop fee. Mr. Underwood is proposing a \$20 fee for 8<sup>th</sup> grade shop students.
- Mr. Miller reported that Kindercamp will begin next week for incoming Kindergarten students. The goal of Kindercamp is to help our students adjust to a new setting and a new teacher without the crowds. Kindercamp was made possible through a grant with the E.S.D.
- 4.2 Financial Report:** Brett Costley presented flowers to Dawn Plews on behalf of the board. Dawn will retire at the end of the month. FINANCIAL REPORT
- Dawn shared two reports with the Board. One report showed detail through June 30, the end of our Fiscal year. There were a few updates in June to accrue last year's deposits and PLEWS RETIRES

expenditures. There are still some final journal entries to do. The second report was for the month of July which is basically business as usual. Not a lot happening at this time of year.

Dawn shared that she and the business office has been working hard with the NWRES D to work through the transition of her retirement. Dawn introduced Janice Essenberg, Business Manager at the NWRES D. Janice explain that today, she as well as other ESD employees spent time going through a list of duties with Dawn and the District business office. They are in the process of posting the available position. ESD employee Andre Schellhaas will be attending board meetings in the interim.

BUSINESS MGR.  
REPLACEMENT  
DISCUSSED

**4.2.1 Budget resolution #1516-07 Amendment:** Dawn Plews shared that the amended resolution addresses the Advance Refund. The District does not need to list as much as was initially noted for debt service. The amended resolution must be sent to the County and will tax the public less.

RESOLUTION 1516-07

**4.3 Maintenance Report:** The report was reviewed. There were no questions or comments from the Board.

MAINTENANCE REPORT

**4.4 Board Committee Reports:** No reports given.

BOARD COMMITTEE  
REPORTS

## 5.0 INFORMATION & DISCUSSION

**5.1 Student / Staff Handbook:** Aaron Miller reviewed basic housekeeping changes to both the Student and Staff Handbook. Adjustments were made to the attendance calling procedure, cell phone limits, and discipline consequence guidelines in the Student Handbook.

STUDENT /STAFF  
HANDBOOKS

**5.2 New Staff:** In review, Debbie Taylor was hired last June for a 1<sup>st</sup>/2<sup>nd</sup> grade teacher. Over the summer another 1<sup>st</sup>/2<sup>nd</sup> grade vacancy was advertised for. We currently have an offer out to hire Andrea Anderson for this position. We are waiting for her license to be issued.

NEW STAFF AND  
CURRENT VACANCIES

High School Science is still a vacancy we have yet to fill. An offer was given after the first round of interviews however the offer was declined. After the second round of interviews an offer has been given. We are expecting a formal answer to that offer in a couple days. If the offer is declined Mr. Underwood will work with the NWRES D to see if any subs would be available. We do have the ability to have a current staff person fill in but this would eliminate the Elementary Counselor position.

Coaching vacancies include: High School Head and Assistant Football, Assistant Boys Basketball, and Assistant Track.

**5.3 Athletic Coop with Banks School District:** Aaron Miller shared that the same student that requested to play soccer for Banks High School last year has made the request again this year. The same process has occurred - the initial request was denied by Athletic Director, Gordon Jarman and High School Principal Nate Underwood upheld Mr. Jarman's decision. The next step is to come to the Superintendent. Mr. Miller is requesting that the Board allow the student to participate with Banks School District Soccer program. The student intends to also play Football in Vernonia.

ATHLETIC COOP  
W/BANKS SCHOOL  
DISTRICT PRESENTED

## 6.0 ACTION ITEMS

**6.1 Budget Resolution #1516-07 Amendment:**

Ernie Smith moved to approve resolution #1516-07 as presented. Greg Kintz seconded the motion. There was no discussion. Motion passed unanimously with those in attendance.

RESOLUTION #1516-07  
APPROVED

**6.2 New Hire:** Greg Kintz move to approve the Superintendent's recommendation to hire Andrea Anderson contingent on her obtaining successful licensure. Cari Levenseller seconded motion. Motion passed unanimously with those in attendance.

ANDERSON HIRED AS  
ELEMENTARY  
TEACHER – 1<sup>st</sup>/2<sup>nd</sup> Blend

**6.3 Athletic Coop with Banks School District:** Cari Levenseller move to approve the Athletic

ATHLETIC COOP WITH

Coop with Banks School District for 2016-17 allowing one VHS student to participate in the Banks High School Soccer program. Brittanie Roberts seconded the motion.

BANKS SCHOOL  
DISTRICT APPROVED

There was a question from the Board as to why the requests have been denied. The denial was based on the potential impact to Vernonia's athletic programs. There was no further discussion. Motion passed unanimously with those in attendance.

**7.0 SUPERINTENDENT REPORT:** Aaron Miller updated the board on the following:

SUPERINTENDENT  
REPORT

- Retirement Celebration for Dawn Plews is August 17<sup>th</sup> 12:30 – 1:30 pm at the District Office. The Board is invited to join us for cake and punch.
- In response to a previous Board question, Gordon Jarman and Nate Underwood felt the option to waive fees for students whose parent volunteer as coaches was a good suggestion. Aaron Miller will work with both gentlemen to put together a plan.
- Implementing Standard Response Protocol: Rachel Wilcoxon briefly explained the program which will simplify how we react. The person that started the iloveguys.com website lost a daughter in a school shooting. He focused on ways to help and created the standard response protocol. All districts in Columbia County are doing the same thing. Language is simplified and much easier to follow. Law enforcement and first responders will all move to use the same protocol.
- The Building is looking great. The custodial staff has been working hard and supervising a team of student interns (Corbin Nelson, Jasmine Knighton, Amanda Rose Sicard, Grace Coleman, Cassandra McFalls, and Ben Fleck). Other interns include Jarod Shaw at the Upper Nehalem Watershed Council and Brooke Naron at Stub Stewart State Park.
- All required paperwork has been submitted for the Bond.
- Softball: Ernie Smith and Aaron will be working on the final elements next month.
- Baseball: Dan Titus is making great progress. The field has been graded, ditches dug, half of the irrigation lines are in and ready to cover up. Dirt to cover is on site. Seed will go on. Coach Joe Walters will work with volunteers to get the fence in. Bob Green has done some design work for dugouts for both the Softball and Baseball field.
- The board is invited to attend the Staff Welcome Back Breakfast on Tuesday, August 30 at 7:30 a.m.
- The NWRESD will hold their inservice on Monday August 29<sup>th</sup> at our school. We anticipate 550 employees of the NWRESD to be here.

**Other Issues:** Questions from the board were asked.

OTHER ISSUES.

Do we have an indication of enrollment numbers? Mr. Miller stated that it is too early to know.

Is there any follow up on the Foreign Exchange issue surrounding athletics. Mr. Miller has a letter in response drafted and will share with the Board when he sends it.

**9.0 MEETING ADJOURNED** at 6:40 p.m.

ADJOURNED

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

Board Chair

District Clerk