

**VERNONIA SCHOOL DISTRICT 47J**  
1201 TEXAS AVENUE  
VERNONIA OR 97064

BOARD OF DIRECTORS REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

November 10, 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 6:04 p.m. by Brett Costley. MEETING CALLED TO ORDER

**Board Present:** Brett Costley, Susan Wagner, Katie Cook, Ernie Smith, Greg Kintz, Brittanie Roberts Cari Levenseller arrived at 7:30 p.m. BOARD PRESENT

**Board Absent:** None BOARD ABSENT  
**Staff Present:** Aaron Miller, Superintendent; Nate Underwood, Middle/High School Principal; Marie Knight, Business Manager; and Juliet Safier, VEA President. STAFF PRESENT

**Visitors present:** Jeana Gump, Scott Laird, Bill Langmaid, Susan Ely, Sharon Bernal, Agnes Naeve, Petra Martin, Christina French Loope, and James Loope. VISITORS PRESENT

- 1.1 Flag Salute:** The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

PLEDGE OF  
ALLEGIANCE  
AGENDA REVIEW

- 1.3 Agenda Review:** Ernie Smith moved to approve the agenda as presented. Brett Costley seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously with those in attendance.

**2.0 PUBLIC COMMENT ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS**

PUBLIC COMMENT

Bill Langmaid on behalf of Vernonia Schools Bond Committee apologized for the bond failure. The committee pledges to support any future endeavors. The Board praised the committee for their work. Discussion on the bond not passing was held. Katie Cook shared that comments she received were not supportive of extra items in addition to the debt. Susan Ely asked for suggestions about how to open conversations with no voters and turn the no to a yes.

Darold Mushatt, parent, spoke regarding the recent head lice incidents. He feels some parents are not taking care of the problem. He does not want to embarrass the kids and suggested checking all kids on Friday afternoon. Staff should contact parents. Rumors are that staff is sending kids back to class with lice and not informing parents. Aaron Miller requested that Mr. Mushatt come and talk with him. What is being described is not school protocol. Susan Ely, parent, felt that elementary kids sharing cubbies can be an issue due to lice being passed on to coats. Mr. Miller shared that teachers have already been instructed to separate kids' belongings. Brett Costley suggested reviewing the District's policy for possible updates regarding lice. Katie Cook, suggested that perhaps the district could send home a flyer to notify parents and give tips to help prevent, as well as give suggestions to help.

Agnes Naeve asked about the seclusion room and how it will be used. Aaron Miller explained that sometimes kids need a place to explode without hurting themselves or others. The room will be used to help avoid any use of restraint. Mr. Miller suggested that Mrs. Naeve come in and talk with him. He's very happy to explain seclusion room state guidelines and how it will be used in our District.

**3.0 CONSENT AGENDA:**

- 3.1** Minutes of 10/13/2016 Regular Meeting

MINUTES

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

CONSENT AGENDA  
APPROVED

**4.0 REPORTS & DISCUSSION**

- 4.1 Student / Building Reports:**

BUILDING REPORTS

VHS Leadership student Odessa Roberts updated the Board on the following:

- Homecoming Week, Oct 3-6, Seniors won the overall Golden Axe
- Fall sports assembly was recently held. It was well attended.
- Blood Drive was recently held. VHS is a model school for blood drives.
- VHS students recently attended the Leadership Conference in Seaside. They listened

to speakers and got ideas for projects, issues, and unity week. While in Seaside they participated in the Seaside School District bond rally to show support of their bond.

- Upcoming: winter formal, winter festival
- Students are working on an awareness project for school debt

Nate Underwood, distributed his Middle/High school building report. He highlighted the following:

- VHS had a visit from the regional AVID Director. She was impressed with what Vernonia has done so far. Ms. Willard and Ms. Safier are working with the program and are beginning to see results. He thanked the Board for allowing their group to attend the conference in San Diego. Mr. Underwood provided a full explanation of AVID.
- Caitlyn Eyrrick was named a national merit scholar and offered his congratulations.

Mr. Miller highlighted his Elementary school building report.

- His building staff is working with VMS teachers on the formative assessment grant. Already noticing feedback from what the teachers are providing to students. Program works to have teachers provide meaningful feedback towards students meeting standards. Module 1 is complete, they are working on module 2.
- Conferences will be next Thursday and Friday with an early release on Thursday. No kindergarten on Thursday to allow time for all parents to meet with the teacher.
- Teachers are working on student learning goals. PBIS is continuing for K-12. VES is doing Golden Awards every two weeks.
- Discipline numbers on report are close to the daily average of .8 for schools of our size. There are few suspensions. Susan Wagner asked about prior years, lowest in past is .5, average has been .7-.75.

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| 4.2 | <b>Financial Report:</b> Marie Knight presented financial report, no questions from the board.   | FINANCIAL REPORT        |
| 4.3 | <b>Maintenance Report:</b> The report was reviewed. Brittanie Roberts asked about vandalism in the boys' locker room. It was explained that this is mainly high school kids after school. Locker room access has now been limited. | MAINTENANCE REPORT      |
| 4.4 | <b>Board Committee Reports:</b> Susan Wagner attended Safety Committee. She stated they are an awesome committee that truly cares about the building.  | BOARD COMMITTEE REPORTS |

Brittanie Roberts attended PBIS committee, also had policy committee meetings.

Katie Cook left the meeting at 6:45pm

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| 4.5 | <b>Transportation Report:</b> Shelley Hennessey was not able to attend. Her report was reviewed. There were no questions from the board. | TRANSPORTATION REPORT |
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## 5.0 INFORMATION & DISCUSSION

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| 5.1 | <b>OSBA Resolution:</b> Greg Kintz presented the OSBA resolution for biennium; outlines legislative priorities. Resolution has been presented at regional meetings and other venues to compile comments and revise if needed prior to bringing to membership. Greg asked the Board to support and vote on the resolution. | OSBA RESOLUTION DISCUSSED  |
| 5.2 | <b>Staff Development Calendar:</b> Juliet Safier, distributed a staff development calendar. Listed half day professional days and items for all teachers.   | STAFF DEVELOPMENT CALENDAR |

Brittanie Roberts asked about Trauma Informed Care. Aaron Miller explained that the study looked at kids from all backgrounds that have had trauma in their lives. People with more traumas have more problems with health & life. Trauma Informed Care tries to address trauma issues and be aware of topics that might bring up trauma issues. Columbia County is looking at a grant model for this. The program works well with PBIS.	TRAUMA INFORMED CARE
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**5.3 School Report Cards:** Aaron Miller shared the school report cards. There is a lot of information such as information around test scores and student groups. An asterisk means we don't have enough population for a percent. Some areas we are performing well, others are in need of improvement. This data is looked at by our staff during instructional teamwork.

SCHOOL REPORT  
CARDS SHARED

**5.4 Policy Updates:** OSBA sends out quarterly suggested policy revisions. Our Policy Committee reviews the suggestions and works on applying the changes to our Vernonia School District policies. The policies presented at this meeting are the work of the committee. They are being presented as a first reading and will be formally approved at next month's meeting.

POLICIES PRESENTED  
AS 1<sup>ST</sup> READING

Health & HIV Education question. The State requires that middle school students receive education on this topic annually. High school requirement is to be taught only twice during the high school career. Students are required to take two years of health education. Our policy matches this requirement so it will remain the same.

Brittanie Roberts suggested adding human sexuality to the Health Fair. Per Ms. Safier some health topics are discussed in other classes as well. Mr. Miller will talk with Mr. Weisel to see if sex education could be part of the Health Fair.

**5.5 Bond Election Results:** Aaron Miller, thanked all who worked on the bond. The result of the election was very close which shows that efforts were successful. The District is still faced with very real debts that are impactful. Work has already started on how to address this. Making cuts necessary to balance the budget will not just impact the school. The school district is the largest employer in the area; we will lose students and staff. This will impact the entire community but most importantly, it will impact students.

BOND RESULTS  
DISCUSSED

Going forth the message must be positive, but it also must be real. Staff have been asked to provide input on how to move forward. Moving forward the Board can opt to go out for another bond in May of 2017. Mr. Miller would recommend going out for the debt amount only. Second, we must have a balanced budget. This is the time of year we start the budget process. All cuts will come from the elimination of school instructional days and/or laying off staff. If we relied solely on eliminating days from the calendar it would equal approximately 20 days. The District is barely meeting the standards of minimum seat time with the State of Oregon now. Eliminating 20 days would put us 18 days below the minimum State standards. If we move to save instructional days, we cut programs, teachers, assistants, administrators, supplies etc. At this point the District plans to move forward with another bond request and at the same time work to develop a balanced budget.

Discussion continued regarding the bond from the audience including input from Sharon Bernal. Sharon explained that the bond committee did not have the optimal amount of time to promote the bond. The committee is planning to start work on another bond right away.

## **6.0 ACTION ITEMS**

**6.1 O.S.B.A. Resolution:** Greg Kintz moved to approve OSBA Resolution #1617-02 as presented. Cari Levenseller seconded the motion. Yes votes: Brett Costley, Ernie Smith, Greg Kintz, Cari Levenseller, Brittanie Roberts. Susan Wagner abstained. Motion carried.

OSBA RESOLUTION  
APPROVED

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

- Next lunch meeting in December will be with Brett and Ernie
- Aaron distributed email response from ASSE Student Exchange program. After conversation with director he had asked for a response in writing. Board members requested to get questions to Aaron; more discussion at December meeting. Possibly move to different coordinator and go through other organization for students.

SUPERINTENDENT  
REPORT

- Insurance deductible question from last meeting; current policy has \$5000 deductible, for \$1000 deductible price increase is \$4500 annual. Question about how much has been spent on repairs the past years.
- Student apology, written in August, re: ticket booth window at Greenman Field, read by Aaron
- Letter of support for community reader board, distributed for review. Aaron will send letter to Mr. Anderson
- Enrollment has been slowly gaining, as of November 7 we were at 546, with four more in process. In past years enrollment has gone down in Dec-Feb
- Election-measure 97 failed, would have created more operating funds.
- Measure 98 passed, requires high school spending for STEM and career programs of \$800 per student. Increases our required spending of \$160,000. This will be at the expense of elementary programs. Program does not come directly out of budget, it is administered through grant program.
- Measure 99, mandates six day outdoor school. Funded by lottery funds.
- Staffing changes: Marie Knight moved to .5 FTE Business Manager, this left an open .5 FTE Fiscal Assistant. Cherise Harbour has been hired for this position along with current job of SPED Compliance Officer.
- Ms. Gilbert moving from MS Sped/Behavior Specialist. Have had sub in for MS Sped program, will be having long term sub move into the position. Ms. Gilbert full time as Behavior Specialist, this is working out well.
- Baseball, softball field update given
- Water run off issue shared
- OSBA film crew came in on no school day for building shots to be used in video

Other Issues:

OTHER ISSUES.

9.0 MEETING ADJOURNED at 8:17 p.m.

ADJOURNED

Submitted by Marie Knight, Business Manager

Board Chair

District Clerk