

VERNONIA SCHOOL DISTRICT 47J
1201 TEXAS AVENUE
VERNONIA OR 97064

BOARD OF DIRECTORS REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

November 15, 2012

- 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 6:08 by Vice Chair Bill Langmaid. MEETING CALLED TO ORDER
- Board Present:** Bill Langmaid, Tim Bamburg, Greg Kintz, and Camrin Eyrrick. BOARD PRESENT
Board Absent: Jim Krahn, Cari Levenseller, and Ernie Smith
- Staff Present:** Ken Cox, Superintendent; Nate Underwood, Middle/High School Principal; Aaron Miller, Elementary Schools Principal; James Brookins, Special Services Director; Dawn Plews, Business Manager; Barb Carr, Administrative Assistant; Juliet Safier, Teacher; and Jan Dyer, Classified Staff. STAFF PRESENT
- Visitors Present:** Jim and Kathy Eckland, Amy Cieloha, Susan Ely, Peggy Freund, Alexis Baska, Megan Ely, McKenzie Willard, and Kaitlyn Eyrrick. VISITORS PRESENT
- 1.1** The Pledge of Allegiance was recited. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE
- 1.2** Agenda Review: Added action item #6.1 OSBA Resolution regarding Legislative Policies and Priorities. AGENDA REVIEW
- 2.0 PUBLIC COMMENT ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS:** Amy Cieloha, representing the PTA, asked about available District money to put towards playground equipment. There is currently some money available from the Boosters and the PTA did raise some funds at the recently held carnival. Dr. Cox stated that there is no money in the current budget for playground equipment. There is however, \$1000 donated for playground equipment as well as \$1000 from the Jacob Levenseller memorial contributions. Dr. Cox is looking to Mr. Miller to work through the PTA and get input as to what is wanted and/or needed and create a timeline for fundraising and completion. PUBLIC COMMENTS
- 3.0 CONSENT AGENDA:** CONSENT AGENDA
Tim Bamburg moved to approve the consent agenda. Greg Kintz seconded the motion.
- 3.1** Minutes of 10/11/12 Regular Meeting and 11/08/12 Workshop MINUTES APPROVED

Motion passed unanimously.
- 4.0 REPORTS & DISCUSSION**
- 4.1 Student Reports:** STUDENT REPORTS
High School – Alexis Baska updated the board:
- The Leadership students recently attended the annual Oregon Assoc. of Student Councils (OASC) convention in Seaside. The conference was great and they met inspiring leaders.
 - The Sock & Blanket Drive will go through next Tuesday. This is a benefit for the Portland Rescue Mission. When you donate socks or a blanket you'll receive a raffle ticket for a chance at a door prize.
 - Nov. 27 Blood Drive – contact any Leadership student or Ms. Willard to sign up.
 - There is a new 411 segment called Big Logger. It's like Big Brother. There are interviews and the option to vote others out.
 - Homecoming Dance was held in the Wrestling Room this year and it was fun.
- Middle School -** Kaitlyn Eyrrick, McKenzie Titus, and Megan Ely updated the board:
- Updated misc. classroom activities
 - Sustainability day went great – pulled blackberries from hillside and weeded.

- 6th Grade is working on a terrace garden
- Close Up trip currently has 9 students planning to attend. As a fundraiser, they will be selling Christmas trees at the upcoming Booster Bazaar
- Sports are going well. Girls Basketball is starting.

4.2 Building Reports:

BUILDING REPORTS

Elementary: Mr. Miller had Nothing to add to his written report.

Middle/High School: Mr. Underwood did not have anything to add to his written report. It was mentioned that a former VHS Alumni was here recently working with Mr. Weisel to help students with college planning.

4.3 Financial Report: Dawn Plews had nothing to add. Greg Kintz had a question on enrollment numbers.

FINANCIAL REPORT

4.4 Sustainability Project Report: Mr. Miller reported on the on-going sustainability project.

SUSTAINABILITY PROJECT REPORT

- The first two sessions (Aug. 23 and 30) were teacher professional development days paid for by a \$26,000 grant. Teachers spent two days developing projects and curriculum around the sustainability program.
- Campus sustainability days occurred on Nov. 5 and 6. The focus was taking care of the campus, starting the native plant seed garden, planting trees and native plants and removing any invasive plants. They also took surveys of different plants and conducted wildlife population studies.
- Wetland Sustainability Day is planned for Feb. 8. On this day they will maintain and restore requirements as well as continue to work with plantings in the upland areas and remove fencing. A current Leadership student is working with the City Parks committee and will be the liaison with this organization. They are in the process of coming up with a contest to name the wetlands. Grand opening of the wetlands and naming is scheduled for February.
- Spring Maintenance Day is planned for April 12. During this day it will be important to remove any invasive vegetation from around the plants.
- There are plans to design a large “V” with landscaping on the hillside by the area of the future athletic fields.
- Mr. Miller will be doing work in the evenings down at the Wetlands. He has created a Sustainability Club for any students that are willing to help out. He currently has 18 students interested.
- Teachers will have one Friday a month with Oregon Natural Resources Education program training. Assistance and support will continue.
- Forestry students have been logging the site for the new greenhouse. The District received a BLM grant of \$32,000 for a new greenhouse. The plan is to have have nursery stock in by the end of January or February.
- The Forestry program continues to work with the watershed council and restoration projects. They are also working with Longview Timber on property located above the City. This winter DEQ will come out to take water temperature data off of the analysis equipment that the students placed last summer. They also will be working with Stub Stewart State Park to help with timber cruising.

Mr. Miller complimented Forestry Program teacher Byron Brown for the efforts he’s put forth to get this program up and running. Mr. Underwood indicated that there are a lot of students showing interest and they are still working out scheduling issues..

4.5 Fundraising Report: Dr. Cox distributed a report from the Metropolitan Group and introduced Jim and Kathy Eckland who are spearheading the Alumni endeavor. They hope to have a mailing ready to go the end of November.

FUNDRAISING REPORT

5.0 INFORMATION & DISCUSSION

5.1 Data Review:

DATA REVIEW

5.1.1 Dropout Rate /Graduation Rate Review: Mr. Underwood reported graduation and cohort year data:

- A student's cohort year is the first year they enter high school. The state looks at the data of a 4 year cohort student who graduates with a reg. diploma. Students who withdraw for homeschooling, to obtain a GED or receive an alternate certificate of completion in place of a regular diploma counts against us. A couple years ago a 5 year cohort was created for those students who come back a 5th year and complete their high school requirements.
- Current HS Report card data was shared. The HS received "in need of improvement" in the area of Participation. This is because we didn't have enough students taking the test. State average is 95% and we had 92%. In the area of Graduation our score was "outstanding" and in the area of Achievement the HS received a "satisfactory". Because we received one "in need of improvement" the overall Report Card score was "in need of improvement". This is the first time in the last 7 years that the high school has not been satisfactory or outstanding in the overall rating.
- Drop outs happen for a variety of reasons. According to Mr. Underwood he sees students get behind in the early years of high school. When they come back to make-up credits it becomes overwhelming for them. Our dropout rate is still below the state average.

Dr. Cox referenced this section of the agenda again with the Board. If there are specific areas the board wishes to receive data on to please let him know. He'll do the research and present at an upcoming meeting.

6.0 ACTION ITEMS.

6.1 OSBA Resolution Regarding Legislative Policies and Priorities: OSBA has a legislative policy committee made up of people from regions around state as well as OSBA directors. Greg Kintz is a representative for the NW region. He explained that the Legislative Policy committee takes a look at all bills coming out from the Legislature. They have successfully helped to get policies on the books that support education and eliminate those policies that harm education. They are working hard to meld education partners and result in everyone working together more effectively.

OSBA RESOLUTION ON
LEGISLATIVE POLICIES
AND PRIORITIES
APPROVED

The Legislative Policies & Priorities handout provided the board is a statement for education that OSBA stands for and hopes to accomplish in the next Biennium. This document was approved by the OSBA board previously. They are required to have it presented to all education member boards for a vote.

Greg Kintz moved to approve the OSBA Resolution regarding their adoption of Legislative Policies and Priorities as presented. Camrin Eyrrick seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimous.

7.0 SUPERINTENDENT REPORT:

SUPERINTENDENT
REPORT

- Dr. Cox recently attended an OSBA dinner. Information packets handed out at the dinner were shared with the board.
- Green Building Acquisition – board met last Thursday in a workshop to discuss this. The building was designed with different bays that could be split. He is asking the demolition company to delay the start of deconstruction one month. There is a possibility of splitting the building with the Vernonia Health Board. The challenge is that we still haven't paid for the new school yet. The Green building could be a bargain but still funds are needed.
- Greenhouse moving forward
- Demolition Update
- VSBHC – goal is to open in January.
- Columbia County Education Funding Summit scheduled – held on Jan. 15th at St. Helens HS.

8.0 OTHER ISSUES: Camrin Eyrrick attended classes at the recent OSBA convention. She received a

lot of great information and wanted to highlight one in particular. She learned about Max's Law. This was enacted for all districts state wide in regards to student concussions and appropriate concussion training. Playground monitors, PE teachers, coaches, etc. should have the training. She also learned that the state is currently working on outlines and requirements of how we teach the arts in Oregon. What we have is not adequate and the State has been ineligible to apply for grants. This should be in place this Spring.

Bill Langmaid is working with wellness team on the SBHC. They have finished up their policies. Sherrie Ford will present the policies to both her board and our board for approval hopefully in December. January open date is still the target date.

The Community Garden will be located at the east end of the parking lot. Sierra Service Project will commit to bringing 30-40 kids and 8 adults on the weekend of April 7/8. They will be working to install the fencing as well as putting the beds together. Their only requirement is that we have students available to tell them their story.

9.0 MEETING ADJOURNED at 7:13 p.m.

ADJOURNED

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

Board Chair

District Clerk