

VERNONIA SCHOOL DISTRICT 47J
1201 TEXAS AVENUE
VERNONIA OR 97064

BOARD OF DIRECTORS REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

August 14, 2014

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 6:03 p.m. MEETING CALLED TO ORDER

Board Present: Bill Langmaid, Jim Krahn, Brett Costley, and Greg Kintz. Cari Levenseller arrived at 6:25 p.m. BOARD PRESENT

Board Absent: Tim Bamburg and Ernie Smith

Staff Present: Aaron Miller, Superintendent; Barb Carr, Administrative Assistant; Marie Knight, Fiscal Assistant; Dawn Plews, Business Manager; Deb Stahlnecker, Juliet Safier, and Laura Blacker, Teachers; and Jeana Gump and Amanda Wolf, Classified Staff. STAFF PRESENT

Visitors Present: Scott Laird, Amy Cieloha, Daniel Rice, Jon Nelson, Rose Vasquez, Angela Stern, Noelle Rogers, Mike Niederkorn, Kelly Busch, Matt Hanson, Connie McNamara, Kari Johnson, Mackenzie Kero, Tiffini Meyer, Amber Wheelock, Kevin Swayze, Samantha Swayze, and Jennifer Draeger. VISITORS PRESENT

1.1 The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

1.2 Agenda Review: 5.1 Staff Handbook Review removed and Action Item #6.2 Accept Resignation of Licensed Staff Member added. AGENDA REVIEW

2.0 PUBLIC COMMENT ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS: Multiple parents expressed concern and asked for information on the decision to have K,1,2 blended classrooms this upcoming school year. PUBLIC COMMENT

Bill Langmaid thanked everyone for attending the meeting and indicated that he hopes to see this level of involvement continue throughout the school year.

Mr. Miller explained the reasons behind the decision to go with K,1,2 blends.

- The initial numbers at each grade level were not equitable. Various options of different blends were reviewed and no good option was available.
- Adding a 5th teacher still did not solve the issue and provide an equitable option for maintaining student numbers at the different grade levels.
- After discussion with the teachers the best way to address equitable class sizes was to combine K, 1, and 2. Classroom numbers will be lower by going with this option.
- The district has had a different blend every year over the last 6 or 7 years due to enrollment numbers. Moving to a K-2 program consistency from year to year will be in place allowing student progress to increase.
- Two years ago a K-1 blend was implemented. There was concern at that time as well. Teachers made it work and there were no concerns the next year.
- K-2 students are currently combined and working on reading skills based on skill level.
- Teachers have already started planning and will have a couple more days prior to school starting to continue the planning.
- Other positives to the K,1,2 program is that it allows the district to maintain full day Kindergarten without full time state funding as well as expansion of student peer groups.

Multiple parents expressed the same concern of how teachers will address the large span of skill level within their classroom. Mr. Miller explained that students in all classrooms will be grouped together by skill level to receive instruction in reading and math. A Homeroom teacher will teach to their group level only in these areas.

Various staff members shared that their children have been successful in Vernonia's blended classroom in the past and they are confident that by now having a "team" of teachers working together to improve learning students will benefit.

Mr. Miller indicated the best way for this new program to be successful is for parents to work together with their child's teacher and support communications with the teacher. Parents need to be an advocate for students. Meet with the teacher if you have concerns. Be involved as much as you can. As the program unfolds there undoubtedly will be bugs. Give the bugs a chance to come up and get worked out.

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| 3.0 | CONSENT AGENDA: | |
| 3.1 | Jim Minutes of 07/10/14 Regular Meeting. | CONSENT AGENDA
MINUTES APPROVED |
| | Jim Krahn 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 | Financial Report: The financial report was reviewed. By the end of August all invoices should be paid as well as all revenue accrued back to June 30. The figures showing on this report are merely estimates at this time. | FINANCIAL REPORT |
| 4.2 | Maintenance Report: The maintenance report was reviewed. It was noted that speakers are now in classrooms and video cameras are in place to help deter and nab vandals. | MAINTENANCE REPORT |
| 4.3 | Project Updates: Aaron Miller gave an update on the following projects:
Spencer Park: Moving forward, dirt is all on site, posts are in for the back stop. Each aspect is on schedule to be completed before the Sept. 1 deadline. Next up is to smooth out and level the dirt, and spread grass seed. The monument has passed the State Historical Preservation Organization (SHPO) requirements and should be installed before Sept. 1st.

Shop: All permits were turned in last week. Approval should be received next week. Clean up on the area has started so construction can begin.

Softball Field: Currently on hold. A meeting was held with local contractor Robert Watts, to see if local trade college class can use our project as a class project. Mr. Miller is waiting for his proposal. | PROJECT UPDATE |
| 5.0 | INFORMATION & DISCUSSION | |
| 5.1 | Student/Staff Handbooks: Student handbook was shared with the board. The Staff Handbook is still under construction and will be available at the next board meeting. | STUDENT HANDBOOK
SHARED |
| 5.2 | Administrative Memorandum of Agreement: Aaron Miller, Nate Underwood, and Bill Langmaid met to review the Administrator Memorandum of Agreement (MOA). Some language was updated and cross referencing to other bargaining agreements was removed. | ADMIN MOA REVIEWED |
| 6.0 | ACTION ITEMS | |
| 6.1 | Administrative Memorandum of Agreement: Jim Krahn moved to approve the 3-year Administrator MOA as presented. Brett Costley seconded the motion.. Motion passed unanimously with those in attendance. | ADMIN MOA APPROVED |
| 6.2 | Cari Levenseller moved to approve the resignation of Andy Morrow as middle/high school band instructor. Greg Kintz seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously with those in attendance. | MORROW
RESIGNATION
APPROVED |
| 7.0 | SUPERINTENDENT REPORT: Aaron Miller introduced Laura Blacker. Laura will be teaching in place of Robyn Richmond who is on leave of absence during the 2014-15 year. | SUPERINTENDENT
REPORT |

The board was updated on the following:

- Classroom / Academics
- Budget
- Facilities
- Student Activities
- Upcoming Board Retreat

Other Issues: Next Thursday, 8/21/14 is the Board Workshop/Retreat at the District Office. Dinner OTHER ISSUES. starts at 5:30 with the workshop beginning at 6:00 p.m.

8.0 MEETING ADJOURNED at 7:28 p.m.

ADJOURNED

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

Board Chair

District Clerk