

ADMINISTRATIVE SCHOOL DISTRICT 47J  
475 BRIDGE STREET  
VERNONIA OR 97064

BOARD OF DIRECTORS REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

January 8, 2009

- 1.0 CALL TO ORDER:** A Regular Meeting of the Board of Directors of Vernonia School District 47J, Columbia County, Oregon was called to order at 6:02 p.m. by Kim Wallace. MEETING CALLED TO ORDER
- Board present:** Kim Wallace, Greg Kintz, Tim Bamburg, Jim Krahn, Cari Levenseller, and Tammy Jennings. Absent: Ernie Smith BOARD PRESENT
- Staff present:** Ken Cox, Superintendent; Dawn Plews, Business Manager; and Barb Carr, Administrative Assistant. STAFF PRESENT
- Visitors present:** Rebecca McGaugh, Carol Cox, and John Jackson. VISITORS PRESENT
- 1.1** The Pledge of Allegiance was recited. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE
- 2.0 AGENDA REVIEW:** Remove items 5.1 Student Reports and 5.2 Building Reports. There was no school today. Add information item 6.3 Lobbyist Proposal and Action item 7.4 Federal Lobbyist Consortium. AGENDA REVIEW
- 3.0 PUBLIC COMMENT ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS:** None AUDIENCE COMMENTS
- 4.0 CONSENT AGENDA:** CONSENT AGENDA  
Tammy Jennings moved to approve and Cari Levenseller seconded the consent agenda as presented.
- 4.1** Minutes of 12/04/08 Regular Meeting MINUTES APPROVED  
Motion passed unanimously.
- 5.0 REPORTS & DISCUSSION**
- 5.1 Student Reports:** removed during agenda review. STUDENT REPORTS
- 5.2 Building Reports:** removed during agenda review. Mr. McClain and Mr. Underwood were not present as they are returning rented trucks and equipment. Mr. Miller has been excused due to a death in the family. BUILDING REPORTS
- 5.3 Financial Report:** The ending fund balance is maintaining. The district's audit has been received and the final audited figure is noted in the July column. Flood account 101 has a balance of \$1,414,275.22. There is a balance of \$35K left to pay on the high school renovation. Flood fund 102 was created for future use although not in use at this time. This fund can be deleted if not used. There were no questions from the board. FINANCIAL REPORT
- 5.4 State Standards (Division 22) Report:** Ken Cox reported that Division 22 has a large list of requirements we must meet as a school district. The form received by the board in their packet states that we have met these requirements with the exception of our media program. We do have a staff member taking media coursework. We had lined up a retired Librarian out of Clatskanie that was willing to work with us but due to budget constraints the District did not proceed with a contract. DIVISION 22 REPORT  
DISTRICT IN COMPLIANCE IN ALL AREAS EXCEPT MEDIA
- Kim Wallace asked for a completion date to come into compliance regarding the media area. According to Dr. Cox the plan should be in place by the end of this school year. He believes

that our staff person will be certified by next year.

## 6.0 INFORMATION & DISCUSSION

**6.1 Budget Shortfall Discussion:** Last month Dr. Cox presented information to the board on the Governors budget reduction and our District's budget shortfall. Dr. Cox's previous recommendation to deal with the shortfall was to cut days out of our calendar. This would have cut staff pay as well. His revised proposal recommends taking the shortfall out of the District's Capital Reserve fund. The board was in consensus with this decision feeling it would be appropriate to take the shortfall from the Capital Reserve fund.

BUDGET SHORTFALL  
DISCUSSED

Cari Levenseller asked for clarification. Dr. Cox explained that the amount will be taken out in June. By waiting until the end of the year this gives the District more time to look at options and to be able to get a more accurate amount.

**6.2 Calendar Adjustment to Make-Up Snow Days:** To date students have missed a total of seven school days. The five days before winter break and then the Monday and Thursday of the first week back. Dr. Cox proposed adding three days at the end of the year adjusting the last school day from Tuesday, June 9<sup>th</sup> to Friday, June 12<sup>th</sup>. After discussion, it was decided that Friday, Feb. 13<sup>th</sup> and Friday, May 22<sup>nd</sup> will also be changed from non school days to school days. There was no discussion of eliminating early release on Friday.

CALENDAR  
ADJUSTMENT OPTIONS  
DISCUSSED

Tammy Jennings mentioned that the Seniors are graduating on the 6<sup>th</sup> of June therefore they wouldn't be able to attend on the 10, 11, and 12<sup>th</sup>. Do they have enough hours? Dr. Cox will check. If this is an issue a suggestion would be to add 5 minutes to each school day.

Discussion was held on how to deal with classified staff pay.

Kim Wallace is concerned that our students have missed many instructional days over the last three years. She wants to ensure that the Seniors have enough seat time. Depending on what Dr. Cox finds out for the high school the board will consider adding 5 minutes to the daily schedule.

Dr. Cox indicated that notification to parents will happen immediately regarding any calendar changes. This item will be voted on later in the meeting.

**6.3 Lobbyist Proposal:** Tony Hyde gave a presentation to the board on the benefits of securing a federal lobbyist in Washington DC to work on behalf of the district. President elect Obama's stimulus package is mentioning tax breaks, infrastructure and school funding. Currently the movement is all by lobbyists. Bottom line, the district needs people on the ground. Once it becomes a legislative concept the lobbyist's work is done. For the district to benefit they need someone to babysit this all the way through to the end.

PRESENTATION GIVEN  
BY HYDE ON FEDERAL  
LOBBYIST

As a board he recommends drafting questions and then arrange a conference call with a firm. Jameson Sullivan is a good group. Mr. Hyde has worked with them for 18 years and they have had big successes in Polk and other counties. He recommends getting other names and quotes however.

Dr. Cox asked how long is the process? Mr. Hyde suggested that this would be a good question for the lobbyists. The City & County are interested in working on this as well. It would be best to work in collaboration. The district project needs to be shovel ready; permitting done, architects done, etc. Can the district become part of the stimulus package? Good questions to ask.

Jim Krahn felt comfortable that if Mr. Hyde recommends the Jamison Sullivan group he feels the District should go with them. It is imperative that we have a conversation with this group to see what route the money would take. Mr. Krahn suggests as soon as possible arrange some questions and get in contact with them. Tim Bamburg agreed. Mr. Hyde asked that the

City Council and School Board get together to hold a conference call.

Kim Wallace would like the board to email their questions to Jim Krahn by Monday or Tuesday of next week. He will touch base with Tony Hyde once questions come in. Dr. Cox will get with Jim Johnson to schedule the conference call with the City Council by the end of next week (preferable Fri morning the 16<sup>th</sup>). Ken Cox, Kim Wallace and Jim Krahn will participate in the conference call.

## 7.0 ACTION ITEMS

- 7.1 **Budget Shortfall Adjustment:** Cari Levenseller moved to approve the use of capital reserve funds to make up the shortfall in the budget for the 08-09 school year. Motion seconded by Tammy Jennings. Motion passed unanimously. BUDGET SHORTFALL ADJUSTMENT APPROVED
- 7.2 **Calendar Adjustment:** Tammy Jennings moved to change the calendar by adding five days ,Feb 13, May 22, June 10, 11, 12, to the calendar. Motion seconded by Jim Krahn. Motion passed unanimously. CALENDAR ADJUSTMENT APPROVED
- 7.3 **Retirement of John Lewis:** Greg Kintz moved to accept the retirement of John Lewis effective March 31, 2009. Motion seconded by Cari Levenseller. Jim Krahn indicated the value of John Lewis and how much money he has saved the district. Kim Wallace said thank you to Mr. Lewis on behalf of the board. Motion passed unanimously. LEWIS RETIREMENT APPROVED
- 7.4 **Federal Lobbyist Consortium:** Tammy Jennings moved to authorize the Superintendent to enter into an agreement with the City of Vernonia and Columbia County to obtain the services of a federal lobbyist with the District's contribution not to exceed \$2500 per month. Cari Levenseller seconded the motion. FEDERAL LOBBYIST CONSORTIUM APPROVED

Discussion was held. Cari Levenseller was concerned that \$2500 was not enough. Jim Krahn suggested making a gross amount instead of monthly amount such as not to exceed \$50,000. If the City and County don't come on board the District will still go forward. There was no further discussion and Chair Wallace called for a vote. Motion defeated unanimously.

Jim Krahn moved to authorize the Superintendent to enter into an agreement to obtain the services of a federal lobbyist with the district's contribution not to exceed \$50,000. Motion seconded by Greg Kintz. No further discussion. Motion passed unanimously.

- 8.0 **SUPERINTENDENT & BOARD COMMUNICATION CORRESPONDENCE:** SUPERINTENDENT REPORT
- Dr. Cox reviewed the District's recent flood preparation.
  - There is an Oregon Solutions team meeting tomorrow to go over the preliminary Transportation Growth Management Report. He will email the draft to the board.
  - District Facility Committee is currently doing site visitations. Greg Kintz indicated he is meeting with the facility manager at Tillamook Forestry Center next week.
  - Vernonia Education Foundation paperwork was filed Dec. 31. Federal IRS paperwork is about ready to be filed. The VEF Tax ID will be coming within a couple days. Dr. Cox will be President, Barb Carr the Secretary. The first action of the board would be to name Dawn Plews as Treasurer.

Kim Wallace thanked Dr. Cox for his recent flood scare efforts and for keeping the children safe.

- 9.0 Meeting adjourned at 7:45 p.m. ADJOURNED

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

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Board Chair

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District Clerk