

VERNONIA SCHOOL DISTRICT 47J
475 BRIDGE STREET
VERNONIA OR 97064

BOARD OF DIRECTORS REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

April 9, 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 6:04 p.m. by Jim Krahn. MEETING CALLED TO ORDER
- Board present:** Jim Krahn, Tim Bamburg, Tammy Jennings, Greg Kintz. Cari Levenseller arrived at 6:13 p.m. BOARD PRESENT
- Staff present:** Ken Cox, Superintendent; Brent McClain, Middle School Principal; Gordon Jarman, District Athletic Director; Paula Mills, Special Services Director; Dawn Plews, Business Manager; Barb Carr, Administrative Assistant; Cathy Ward, Juliet Safier and Ashley Rogers, Teachers; and Karen Roberts, ElDonna Williams & Kathi Fetch, Classified Staff. STAFF PRESENT
- Visitors present:** Rebecca McGaugh, Mike Pihl, Bud Dow, Amy Cieloha, Sharon Bernal, Randy Larson, Matthew Braun, Amanda Sebring, Samantha Wallace, Ryan Sandstrom, Chelsea Patton, Bill Langmaid, Eric Larke, Kim Sebring, Rebecca Clapshaw, John Jackson, and Marie Krahn. VISITORS PRESENT
- 1.1** The Pledge of Allegiance was recited. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE
- 2.0 AGENDA REVIEW:** The following items were added: AGENDA REVIEW
- Information & Discussion #6.5 Kindergarten / Budget Cuts
 - Action item #7.2 Budget Cuts Authorization
 - Action item #7.3 Budget Committee Appointment
- 3.0 PUBLIC COMMENT ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS:** AUDIENCE COMMENTS
- Amy Cieloha commented on the Kindergarten schedule. Over the years the District has made great progress and has gone from AM / PM to full day classes. She feels the current schedule is good. She understands that this upcoming budget is not pretty and she would like to advocate for a good schedule.
- Mike Pihl asked for an update on the new school/site. This was addressed later in meeting during the Superintendent's report.
- 4.0 CONSENT AGENDA:** CONSENT AGENDA
- Tammy Jennings moved to approve and Greg Kintz seconded the consent agenda as presented.
- 4.1** Minutes of 03/12/09 Regular Meeting MINUTES APPROVED
- Motion passed unanimously.
- Director Cari Levenseller arrived.
- 5.0 REPORTS & DISCUSSION**
- 5.1 Student Reports:** STUDENT REPORTS
- Middle School Students:** Samantha Wallace, Ryan Sandstrom, and Amanda Sebring
- Mrs. Ward's class has been cooking
 - Forensics class is new this quarter
 - 8th graders are doing fundraisers for their Wild Waves trip– plant sale ends tomorrow.
 - Holocaust survivor will be speaking tomorrow in Mrs. McSwain's class.
 - DC trip will leave later this month on the 26th
 - Track currently has 71 student participants. 1st meet was yesterday in Banks.

- The school is trying to increase test scores. Awards will be given.

High School Student: Chelsea Patton

- International Club has started up again. Mrs. Willard and Donna Webb are the advisors. Membership is open and they are currently planning fundraisers and field trips. There is a car wash tomorrow from 1:30 – 5p.m. Friday April 24th will be a cultural movie night.
- The THAT group has had meetings and has presented ideas on what they feel needs to be changed within the school.
- Band performed at District competition this week. The Disneyland trip went well.
- OSSOM group is starting up this year. Activities coming up at end of year.
- Prom is April 18th at the Downtown Marriott
- Career expo available on May 7th for Junior class.
- Career day in Vernonia on May 14th

5.2 Building Reports:

BUILDING REPORTS

Washington Grade School: Mr. Miller was not in attendance

Vernonia Middle School: Mr. McClain had nothing to add to the written report. He did invite the board to hear the speakers on the Holocaust tomorrow.

Vernonia High School: Mr. Underwood was not in attendance.

5.3 Financial Report: Dawn Plews updated the board.. The District is holding ground on the ending fund balance. She is waiting to see how much will be needed for transfer. There is currently 1.167 Million in the flood fund. The district is still waiting on a final settlement. Expenditures are down thanks to all. Sub costs are also down. Enrollment is hanging in there.

FINANCIAL REPORT

Jim Krahn asked Dr. Cox to explain what the insurance money will be used for. Dr. Cox indicated that the money will be used to pay for land acquisitions and necessary studies required to be able to move forward with new schools.

5.4 Maintenance Report: Dr. Cox reviewed the newly provided report from Tom Ramsey. The District’s current bleachers at the softball/baseball fields are inadequate. The District used donated money to replace them.

MAINTENANCE REPORT

5.5 Winter Sports Report: Highlights from Mr. Jarman’s report were:

WINTER SPORTS REPORT

- Middle School had girls’ basketball and wrestling prior to winter break and boys’ basketball after winter break. Turnout was a little smaller than in the past.
- High school had successes and disappointments.
- Boys Basketball made the playoffs for the 2nd year in the row. They exited the playoffs after the first round. They had their best record since Mr. Aubin has been the head coach. A highlight for them was beating P.A.A. – they hadn’t done this in 12 years.
- Girls Basketball had tremendous improvement over last year. The Coach has continued to have open gym opportunities since the season ended.
- Wrestling had continued success. 35 athletes initially signed up and they finished the season with 22. The team finished 2nd in the District tournament for the 3rd year in a row behind powerhouse Rainier. They qualified 7 wrestlers for the State meet.
- League play for Baseball and Softball start next week. Track had league competition start last week.

6.0 INFORMATION & DISCUSSION

- 6.1 Special Ed Report Card Review:** Director of Special Services, Paula Mills reviewed with the board the District's special ed report card. SPECIAL ED REPORT CARD REVIEW
- Copies of the report card are available at each building.
 - The dots (asterisk) meant there weren't enough students to report on.
 - High school drop out is lower than state target.
 - Timeline for eligibility (note on 3rd page) they didn't give extra time to get census in but gave the district extra time to get evaluations completed.
 - Post School Outcomes: The feds are now asking the District to ask students when they leave, and to get permission from parents to be able to interview the student about what their plans are when they graduate, as well as follow up in a year.
 - Academic Achievement: How do our students with disabilities perform on statewide assessment. Last year our MS did not meet this area. The District needs to write an improvement plan. This year, in the second round, we will have met our 7th grade math and only need two more students to meet in reading.
 - Parent Survey Results: This is data that the district never sees. They try to get a sampling of parents to respond to a survey. You never know how many parents respond. Therefore, take this information with a grain of salt.
- The Special Ed. Department as a whole is working hard for kids.
- 6.2 BAT Team Organization:** Ken Cox shared that the budget assistance team is when members of the community and staff meet with administration to help with budget cuts. BAT this year will help to develop the add back list in \$50,000 increments in the case that we get more money than what we thought. First budget committee meeting will be May 14th prior to the board meeting. Currently, the biggest challenge is that numbers from the Governor's office continues to drop for what we will get next year. The District will probably build on 5.42 or 5.4. Any community members interested in being on BAT please leave your name with Dr. Cox. The first BAT Meeting will be scheduled for next week. BAT TEAM ORGANIZATION
- 6.3 Project Manager RFP Review:** The RFP for Project Manager was posted on April 1st. Since that initial posting questions have arisen. There will be an Addendum that will be sent out tomorrow. There was question as to our requirement that the person we hire have an architect or engineering license. This requirement will be relaxed. Proposals are due next Friday. The District hopes to have someone on board by the end of the month. PROJECT MANAGER RFP REVIEW
- Audience question: What is RFP? Dr. Cox explained that in order for the District, as a public entity/government agency, we have to hire contractors in a fair manner and are required to follow the procedures of a Request For Proposal. The RFP was published in the Daily Journal of Commerce. This is the standard business publication. Since the initial posting, 30 people have asked for a copy of the RFP. Once a Project Manager is selected they will do RFP's for all future jobs the District may have. The Project Manager will handle development leading up to new construction and then will work with the City and County through an intergovernmental agreement.
- 6.4 BOORA Meeting Schedule:** All meetings with the architects are public meetings. The schedule is available on the District website. The kick off meeting was yesterday. The work done previously by the StEP Committee will help to speed the overall process up. There is a Town Hall meeting scheduled on April 28th. BOORA will present on recent site visitations. BOORA will also make a presentation at the next board meeting on their progress to date. BOORA MEETING SCHEDULE
- 6.5 Kindergarten Budget Cuts:** Dr. Cox discussed issues facing the District with regards to budget cuts. It is possible the district will have to cut up to 20% from the annual budget. There is stimulus money coming our direction but it will come with strings attached. For example within the Special Ed budget there is a stipulation called "Maintenance of Effort". Basically it means that if you spend a certain amount of money on special ed this year you must spend at least that much next year. The problem with this is that if we get stimulus money for this year and spend it for special education the District will be required to maintain KINDERGARTEN / BUDGET CUTS DISCUSSED

that level of spending in the future.

Amy Cieloha asked if the Kindergarten structure will remain the same in the Fall. According to Dr. Cox the budgeting process hasn't happened yet. The Board has to adopt the budget by June 30th.

Jim Krahn commented that two years from now the District may have issues. Hopefully there will be more money in the general fund to offset.

Dr. Cox stated that the District is funded based on ADM - Average Daily Membership. The District gets money this year based on how many students were enrolled had last year.

7.0 ACTION ITEMS

- 7.1 Authorize Superintendent to enter into a contract for Project Manager Services based on the results of the RFP Evaluation:** Tim Bamburg moved to authorize the Superintendent to enter into a contract for Project Manager based on the evaluation of the RFP's. Jim Krahn seconded the motion. There was no discussion. Motion passed unanimously. SUPERINTENDENT AUTHORIZED TO ENTER INTO CONTRACT WITH PROJECT MANAGER
- 7.2 Budget Cuts Authorization:** Jim Krahn moved to authorize the Superintendent to eliminate .5 FTE licensed position as Kindergarten teacher .25 FTE Literacy Coach, and 1.1 FTE classified position as instructional assistant from the general fund budget for the 2009-2010 school year. Motion seconded by Tammy Jennings. There was no discussion. Motion passed unanimously. BUDGET CUTS AUTHORIZATION
- 7.3 Budget Committee Member Appointment:** Dr. Cox introduced Bill Langmaid. Mr. Langmaid has submitted an application to be on the budget committee. Tammy Jennings moved to appoint Bill Langmaid to the budget committee. Jim Krahn seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously. WILLIAM LANGMAID APPOINTED TO BUDGET COMMITTEE

8.0 SUPERINTENDENT & BOARD COMMUNICATION CORRESPONDENCE:

Dr. Cox updated the board on the following:

- April 27th OSBA Regional Meeting at NWRESA at 6:30 p.m.
- Negotiations team met today to review schedules. Dates will be shared with teachers.
- New schools progress: Boot Site – Universal Field Services, will be contacting land owners. They have had appraisers at the site and reports should be back by the end of the month.
- David Evans & Associates has done a wetland review. They walked much of site, and will be providing a report by next week. They are also looking at other rules & regulations, studies such as architectural & environmental review, endangered species review, etc.
- Met yesterday with the architects. They are truly excited. They feel very honored that we chose them. A community member encouraged the architects to include the ability to allow local people to bid on jobs. Instead of a large bid have it go out in small increments which would allow local folks the opportunity to bid.
- Met last week with a group of ladies wanting to have a community garden part of our new schools.
- Oregon Solutions – nothing has changed from last month. Wrapping up the siting portion and will now be moving into the fundraising portion. OS is also expanding to include fundraising not only for schools but also for sewer treatment and bio-mass energy to help offset electric costs.
- Board workshop coming up on the on 30th. Dr. Cox would like to have Carol Samuels from Seattle NW Securities train the board and community on bonds, etc.
- Last month the board was in consensus to form a committee to establish a bond amount. The committee came up with \$13 million. Sharon Bernal was appointed committee chair. At their first meeting they invited a senior citizen, a single parent, a

SUPERINTENDENT REPORT

30 something couple with children in school, invited Dr., a business owner with young kids, also a couple in 50's high income and high assessed home. As a group they started at 10M and went up to 18M. It was a great meeting. Everyone had input. The group felt Vernonia could handle \$13M. No body wanted to go up into \$2.00 per thousand. Whether or not we have new schools or not we have to pass the bond. If we don't move to another site we will have to fix up what we have.

- Amy Cieloha asked if any unemployed people were interviewed. Yes. The bond would include all property owners within the boundaries of the Vernonia School District not just within the city limits. As a note of interest Sharon indicated that as soon as your tax bills come out in mid October you can petition your assessed value up to Dec. 30th.

Thank you Mrs. Ward for the goodies provided to the board.

9.0

Meeting adjourned at 7:20 p.m.

ADJOURNED

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

Board Chair

District Clerk