

VERNONIA SCHOOL DISTRICT 47J
475 BRIDGE STREET
VERNONIA OR 97064

BOARD OF DIRECTORS REGULAR MEETING MINUTES and BUDGET HEARING MINUTES June 11, 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 6:08 p.m. by Jim Krahn. MEETING CALLED TO ORDER
- Board present:** Greg Kintz, Tim Bamburg, Tammy Jennings, and Jim Krahn. Cari Levenseller at 6:15 p.m. BOARD PRESENT
- Staff present:** Ken Cox, Superintendent; Nate Underwood, High School Principal; Aaron Miller, Elementary School Principal; Gordon Jarman, District Athletic Director; Dawn Plews, Business Manager; Barb Carr, Administrative Assistant; Gretchen Lindauer, Food Service; Cathy Ward and Teri Willard, Teachers; and Kathi Fetch and Karen Roberts, Classified Staff. STAFF PRESENT
- Visitors present:** Carol Cox, Heniz Rudolf, Chris Linn, Tobie Finzel, Penny Johnson, Gennifer Hanner, Rebecca McGaugh, Carolyn Keasey, Kelly Marks, Bob Wagner, and John Jackson. VISITORS PRESENT
- 1.1** The Pledge of Allegiance was recited. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE
- 2.0 AGENDA REVIEW:** Revised agendas were distributed to the board. AGENDA REVIEW
- 3.0 RECESS TO BUDGET HEARING:** The board meeting recessed at 6:10 p.m. to open the Budget Hearing. RECESSED TO BUDGET HEARING
- Dr. Cox indicated that since the Budget Committee met two weeks ago and approved the budget the Board and the Vernonia Education Association (VEA) have come to an agreement on a contract. The final budget document reflects these changes.
- Dr. Cox reviewed the final budget document noting the following areas with slight changes. FINAL BUDGET DOCUMENT REVIEWED
- Health Services Nurse – originally cut to 150 from 300 hours. Now back to 200 hours.
 - Special Ed staffing change – person had been put in wrong category; change is clarification only.
 - Supt. Salary – salary freeze through Dec. 2009. Raise will happen in Jan. 2010.
 - Unappropriated ending fund balance – decreased to just under \$109K
 - Middle School electives – changed due to reassigning teachers
 - Outdoor School was added back in at request of the budget committee
 - MS PE staff member moved to HS health – assignment change to reflect actual teacher assignment
 - HS Art position increased from .67 to 1.0 FTE
 - HS Health adjustment due to assignment change
 - Adjusted certified salaries to accommodate new agreement with VEA.
 - Golf & Equestrian sports’ stipends removed. Cross Country is still in budget.
- Cari Levenseller arrived. BUDGET COMMITTEE MEMBERS THANKED
- Jim Krahn asked that all budget committee members in the audience stand to be recognized. Jim thanked them for their willingness to go through the budget process.
- The board opened the floor for public testimony: FLOOR OPENED FOR PUBLIC TESTIMONY

Kathy Fetch, OSEA President, asked the board to consider the ½ hour cut to cooks and secretarial staff.

Jim Krahn indicated that he appreciates the comments but unfortunately decisions had to be made.

There were no other public comments.

Budget Hearing closed at 6:18 p.m.

BUDGET HEARING
CLOSED

4.0 RECONVENE TO REGULAR SESSION: The regular board meeting reconvened at 6:19 p.m.

RECONVENED TO
REGULAR SESSION

5.0 PUBLIC COMMENT ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS: None.

AUDIENCE COMMENTS

6.0 CONSENT AGENDA:

Tammy Jennings moved to approve and Jim Krahn seconded the consent agenda as presented.

CONSENT AGENDA

6.1 Minutes of 05/14/09 Regular Meeting and 05/28/09 Special Meeting

MINUTES APPROVED

Motion passed unanimously.

7.0 REPORTS & DISCUSSION

7.1 BOORA Report: Heinz Rudolf & Chris Linn updated the board on their progress. They indicated that they are very excited to be working with the Vernonia School District. They started at the beginning of April collecting information from staff about existing programs, etc. They got to know our staff, as well as visited other schools and had a town hall meeting.

BOORA PRESENTATION

The timeline was reviewed:

- Planning and Programming – 4 months April 2009 – July 2009
- Set Bond – July/August 2009
- Bond Election – November 2009
- Design & Document – 9 months August 2009 – April 2010
- Site – 3 months April 2010 – June 2010
- Permits / Bids – 2 months May 2010 – June 2010
- Construction – 13 months July 2010 – July 2011
- Move In – August 2011
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The next town hall will be held on Thursday, June 25th.

Final Program Summary:

- K-5 Program – 15,690 SF
- Middle School Program – 9,570 SF
- High School Program – 15,520 SF
- Shared Use Programs (Library, Cafeteria, PE, etc.) – 72,269 SF
- Building Support Areas (Custodial, circulations, etc.) – 37,683 SF
- Total Phase 1 Program – 150,732 SF

Chris Linn shared a draft building layout diagram. He reviewed the site and gave a general idea of a footprint of the property. This has not yet been finalized. They are very concerned with creating a functional site plan for the district. They want to retain as many of the site features as possible. The outdoor spaces if incorporated into the design correctly can become great educational spaces.

They are planning the building with expansion capabilities to accommodate 1000 students. There will be separate drop offs for the different grade levels as well as strong pedestrian & bike connectivity. Sustainability and community use is also an important aspect.

Preliminary / Conceptual Cost Summary: Low / High estimates were given with reasons for the difference

- Building: \$29.60 – \$30.40 million. Costs of energy efficient technologies that are yet to be determined.
- On Site Improvements: \$5.50 - \$5.90 million. Quantity and type of surface on fields.
- Off Site Improvements: \$1.70 - \$2.24 million. Improving Missouri Ave. only vs Missouri and Texas Avenues.
- Soft Costs (furnishings, equipment, permits, inspections, etc.): \$11.04 - \$11.57 million.
- Land Acquisition: \$1.52 - \$1.80 million. Based on information in the TGM Study.
- Total Project Costs \$49.36 - \$51.91 million.

Penny Johnson asked where busses would drop off and pick up students? Busses would loop in front of the buildings. Bus, parent & staff parking would be separate from each other.

Terry Lindauer asked when is it projected that the district would reach 1000 students? Is that 5 or 10 years down the road? Dr. Cox stated that if we build it they will come. He guessed 10 years. Currently our enrollment is at 625 students.

Chris Linn indicated that the cafeteria would be built for 1000 students now. These areas are hard to expand and add on to. Only the classroom wings would be expandable for increased enrollment. The classrooms will be built for a 25:1 ratio. They will be bigger than our current classrooms. The current building design would allow for growth to 750-850 students without needing additional classrooms constructed.

7.2 Student Reports:

STUDENT REPORTS

Middle School Students:

There were no middle school students in attendance.

High School Student:

High school student Sarah Dupree congratulated Mrs. Ward on her retirement. The final THAT meeting was held and they are spreading the word on no smoking. The NHS induction ceremony was last Monday. Things are wrapping up with finals currently happening.

7.3 Building Reports:

BUILDING REPORTS

Aaron Miller had nothing to add to his written elementary report.
Middle School Principal Brent McClain was not in attendance.

7.3.1 VHS Accreditation Report: Nate Underwood reported that every year high school principals are required to fill out an accreditation report stating that they are in compliance with all areas of accreditation requirements. Every 7-8 years a high school will go through a site visit. During these visits a group of administrators from around the state come to the school to review the high school program. Vernonia High School recently went through a site visit. The visiting administrators spent the day with staff, students, and parents evaluating VHS and its programs. The initial site visit was to occur last year during the week of the flood. Needless to say it was postponed until this last April. They were impressed with the 100% staff return, our town, and the resiliency of our community. There were no surprises in the report. There are a couple areas that could be improved upon which they knew. Overall VHS received high marks and positive comments.

VHS ACCREDITATION REPORT

7.4 Spring Sports Report:

SPRING SPORTS REPORT

Gordon Jarman reported to the board on the high school spring sports program.

- Spring sports saw a lot of success however 3 teams struggled with numbers.
- Baseball went to the league playoffs, without seniors (on senior trip). Warrenton hung on to win 6-3.
- Golf had 12 on the team. One very strong golfer – one of the best in the league.

- Equestrian team – qualified their drill team to state.
- Track had a large turnout and a strong team. They sent four individuals to state.
- Softball also had a large turnout. They ended their season in league playoffs.

OSAA has announced some big changes in their program for next year.

- Academic eligibility – an athlete must be on track to graduate. The ruling used to be passing 5 classes regardless if they were on track to graduate or not.
- Dead week during the summer is also new. This year it will be the week of Aug 1-8. Athletes can have no contact with coaches. School facilities can't be open to programs during this time. Fall sports start Aug 24th.
- This next year will be the 4th year of a four-year time block. Every four years districts and enrollment numbers are looked at. Currently, all reports show VHS dropping back to 2A for the 2010-2011 year.

The Middle School program had a huge success with their track program this year. Head coach Justin Ward and assistant coach Kathy Pennington started out the season with 90+ kids in grades 6-8. They ended up with 75 students. Many school records were broken by our middle school athletes.

Free sports physicals to those without insurance or well child exam coverage will happen on August 11th. This is sponsored by Providence Health Center.

Jim Krahn thanked Mr. Jarman for the time he puts into Vernonia athletic programs.

7.5 Financial Report: Dawn Plews reported that there are no surprises for the month of May. District enrollment is holding steady. All flood insurance funds have arrived. Fund 101 shows 1.560 million. Our final check has been received. There were no questions from the board. FINANCIAL REPORT

7.6 Maintenance Report: Nothing to add from written report. There were no questions from the board. MAINTENANCE REPORT

8.0 INFORMATION & DISCUSSION

8.1 Revised 2009-2010 Instructional Calendar: Dr. Cox presented the board with a revised calendar for 2009-2010. Option A shows the approved calendar from the March board meeting. The revised calendar shows 10 days cut for staff and 4 less student days. (Nov. 6, May 28, June 14 & 15) October 9th was added back as a student contact day so ultimately students will lose 3 days total of instruction. 2009-2010 REVISED CALENDAR

8.2 Proposed Agreement with VEA: Jim Krahn spoke on behalf of the negotiations team which included Tammy Jennings, Ernie Smith, Ken Cox, Dawn Plews and Aaron Miller. As he sat through the process it became extremely clear that the teachers and their union representatives are concerned about student contact time and making sure the education of students continues at a high level. There is admiration between both administration and teachers. He thanked all involved in the process. VEA AGREEMENT

Dr. Cox indicated that on the back of the board agenda summary is a list of the changes that were settled upon in the agreement. The Association ratified the agreement earlier this week. The board will be asked later in the meeting to ratify the agreement.

8.3 Proposed VHS Trip to Costa Rica: Teri Willard reported that she has traveled to Mexico with students before. They stayed in hotels for about 10 days. She wanted students to do something different for this trip. She wanted them to live with families and to add a community service element to the program. The company she is going through is a Portland based company. The program would include: VHS SUMMER 2010 TRIP TO COSTA RICA DISCUSSED

- 3 hours each day of intense language classes
- once a week community service at an orphanage, doing park maintenance, working at

a recycling center, or visiting a nursing home.

- Excursions and cultural activities.

She chose Costa Rica for the value of the dollar, safety issues, and that their home stay program is excellent. This program included all the elements she was looking for. The trip would be in the summer of 2010. Length of trip could be 2 or 3 weeks. The 2 week stay would be \$2700 and the 3 week stay \$3200. This includes airfare.

Tammy Jennings asked if this trip would be part of the curriculum or school sponsored? Ms. Willard would use this to enhance her student's education but it is not school sponsored.

Cari Levenseller indicated that since the trip would occur on their own time it is not a school sponsored event. Therefore, it does not need to have board approval. At the recommendation of the district attorney the board won't approve or disapprove these types of trips. However, the board appreciates the information.

9.0 ACTION ITEMS

9.1 Approve Policies – 2nd Reading:

These policies were provided at the last meeting as a 1st reading. Most were minor wording clarifications. Tammy Jennings moved to approve policies 9.1.1 – 9.1.10 as presented. Motion seconded by Tim Bamburg. Motion passed unanimously.

POLICIES AC, ACA, GBA, GBH/JECAC, GCBDA/GDBDA, IGBAG, IGBAH, IGBAJ, JBAA, and JFCM.

9.2 Approved Revised 2009-2010 Instructional Calendar:

Tim Bamburg moved to approve the revisions to the 2009-2010 instructional calendar. Motion seconded by Greg Kintz. Motion passed unanimously.

2009-2010 REVISED INSTRUCTIONAL CALENDAR APPROVED.

9.3 Ratify 2009-2012 Agreement with the Vernonia Education Association (VEA):

Jim Krahn moved to ratify the 2009-12 agreement with the Vernonia Education Association (VEA) as presented. Motion seconded by Tammy Jennings.

2009-2012 AGREEMENT WITH VEA RATIFIED BY BOARD

Jim again thanked everyone for having an excellent attitude and approach. Dr. Cox agreed with this comment.

Motion passed unanimously.

9.4 Approve Resolution #09-04 Adopting the 2009-2010 Budget, Making Appropriations, and Imposing and Categorizing the Taxes:

Greg Kintz moved to approve resolution #09-04 adopting the 2009-2010 budget, making appropriations, and imposing and categorizing the taxes. Tammy Jennings seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

2009-2010 BUDGET APPROVED

9.5 Approve Resolution #09-05 Increase of Appropriations:

Additional money needs to be transferred in to the food service fund to make it balance for the year. Originally \$15,000 was budgeted for this transfer however this amount will fall short approximately \$30,000. Resolution #09-05 authorizes the district to transfer an additional \$30,000 to balance this year's food service account.

\$30,000 ADDITIONAL TRANSFERRED TO BALANCE FOOD SERVICE ACCOUNT

Tammy Jennings moved to approve resolution #09-05 Increase of Appropriations. Motion seconded by Greg Kintz. Motion passed unanimously.

The Board thanked Cathy Ward and Nayan Fleenor for their time and effort to the students and community. Best wishes on your retirement.

BEST WISHES TO RETIRING TEACHERS

10.0 SUPERINTENDENT & BOARD COMMUNICATION CORRESPONDENCE:

Dr. Cox updated the board on the following:

- District Goals: He is looking for direction from board on the goals. Jim Krahn, Cari

SUPERINTENDENT REPORT

Levenseller and Tammy Jennings volunteered to help work on the goals. Something will be brought back to the board for the July meeting. Tammy noted that she is not available on Tuesday or Thursday.

- Negotiations report: As Jim Krahn noted earlier the process went well.
- Chalkboard Project: this grant gives a stipend to those teachers that earn additional endorsements. Cari Levenseller asked if the grant can be used to pay the stipend or only development of the plan. Only the development of the plan. Jim Krahn feels this is a good thing. We want to have teachers that are willing to go beyond the normal status quo. Tammy Jennings indicated this would be good to have something to measure their progress. The board was in support of the Chalkboard Project.
- Final insurance payment has been received. Met today with FEMA folks. They will do an insurance review to see if they can provide money as well.
- Bond Counsel – started process of procuring services.
- Oregon Solutions Team – concluding on the 1st part of the project. They are having a meeting on the 24th at 2:00 pm at the Scout Cabin. The board is invited.
- Project Management Report – Steve Effros was in attendance and was introduced to the board. He is presently applying for grants.
- Next Boora meeting, June 25th at 3:00 p.m. Town Hall meeting at 7 pm in the cafeteria.

DISTRICT GOALS
 NEGOTIATIONS
 CHALKBOARD PROJECT
 FINAL INSURANCE
 PAYMENT RECEIVED
 BOND COUNSEL
 OREGON SOLUTIONS
 PROJECT MGR REPORT
 NEXT TOWN HALL

11.0 Meeting adjourned at 7:45p.m.

ADJOURNED

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

Board Chair

District Clerk