

ADMINISTRATIVE SCHOOL DISTRICT 47J
475 BRIDGE STREET
VERNONIA OR 97064

BOARD OF DIRECTORS REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

September 11, 2008

- 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, Chair; Tammy Jennings, Ernie Smith, Cari Levenseller, Vice Chair; Tim Bamburg, and Greg Kintz. Jim Krahn was in attendance via speaker phone. BOARD PRESENT
- Staff present:** Ken Cox, Superintendent; Brent McClain, Middle School Principal; Aaron Miller, Elementary School Principal; Nate Underwood, High School Principal; Barb Carr, Administrative Assistant; Deb Park, Middle School Counselor, Joanie Jones, Cathy Ward, Kari Hansen, James Brookins, Judy Gingerich, and Ashley Rogers, Teachers; Heidi Brown, School Nurse, and Todd Hicks, Head Football Coach. STAFF PRESENT
- Visitors present:** Rebecca McGaugh, Amanda Sebring, Maddie O’Leary, Ryan Sandstrom, John Jackson, Sam Potter, Amy Cieloha, Jon Steward, Dezi Roberts, Gavin Roberts, Tera Roberts, Brittine Roberts, Mason Roberts, and Michael Roberts. VISITORS PRESENT
- 1.1** The Pledge of Allegiance was recited. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE
- 1.2** A moment of silence was held in remembrance of September 11, 2001 and for all the service men and women fighting on behalf of our country. MOMENT OF SILENCE
- 2.0 AGENDA REVIEW:** None AGENDA REVIEW
- 3.0 PUBLIC COMMENT ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS:** Sam Potter, Vernonia resident, announced that he is a parent of a high school senior and that they would like to take a senior trip to California again this year. Mr. Underwood stated that last year’s trip was successful and he would support them going again this year. The Board was in consensus that they be allowed to go and begin their fundraising efforts. Official approval of the trip will occur at a future meeting.
- John Jackson, Supervisor for Outdoor School Program of NWRES D introduced himself and noted that he will be attending our meetings this year.
- 4.0 CONSENT AGENDA:** CONSENT AGENDA
- Tammy Jennings moved to approve and Cari Levenseller seconded the consent agenda as presented.
- 4.1** Minutes of 08/14/08 Regular Meeting and 08/20/08 Workshop. MINUTES APPROVED
- Motion passed unanimously.
- 5.0 REPORTS & DISCUSSION**
- 5.1 Financial Report:** Dawn Plews was not in attendance. Two reports were provided for the board. One for fiscal year 2007-08 and the other for 2008-09. There are some minor changes from last month in the 07-08 report. The funds have slightly changed to assure correct expenditures. FINANCIAL REPORT
- \$69,300 is being added in to balance the food service account. This is of concern. Cari Levenseller felt the number might be less than in years past. Kim Wallace asked if is this a normal amount? Does this include FEMA reimbursement? Ken Cox will check on questions.

Greg Kintz asked how far are we extended in overdue accounts? Ken Cox does not know exactly but believes it is around \$2,000. He spoke with his administrators about looking into hiring a collection agency to help recover these funds.

2008-09 fund – please feel free to ask questions. Colored cells indicate estimates.

5.2 Student Reports:

STUDENT REPORTS

Middle School: Amanda Sebring, Ryan Sandstrom, and Maddie O’Leary middle school leadership students updated the board:

- PBS will be starting at the middle school
- Planners have been provided to all students and will be used this year
- Alternate bell system is in place – Ms. Rogers blows an air horn at the beginning and end of class.
- Some classrooms have received new furniture
- There is a variety of electives this year which is more positive
- Football & Volleyball are underway
- Outdoor school will start next week
- DC trip will be held Apr 13- 16, 2009
- There is a dance next Friday - “Welcome to the Jungle”

Kim Wallace asked how parents will be notified about the DC trip. A letter will be going out.

High School: No report

Building Reports:

BUILDING REPORTS

Elementary: Mr. Miller reported that the year is off to a good start. Kim Wallace commented on the organization of the morning drop off and afternoon pick up. Ernie Smith commented that we may want to get another sign regarding no skateboards on school property. The new asphalt is an attraction for skateboarders.

Middle School: Mr. McClain had nothing new to add to his written report. He introduced Deb Park, the new Middle School counselor. This is Deb’s 13th year of counseling. She was instrumental in helping to implement the Oregon School Counseling Organization.

High School: Mr. Underwood indicated that the high school is focusing on attendance this year. Mr. Whiteman and Mrs. Roberts are key players on helping with truancy and attendance issues. Cari Levenseller stated that she has seen a large attitude change at her home since school started. Moral amongst the student seems to be better. Mr. Underwood said that they will be naming the mods. This will help kids take ownership.

Tammy Jennings asked about the “no failing grades” policy. Why is this only happening in honors classes? Mr. Underwood indicated these classes will be test piloting the program to help get buy in from staff, support from parents, etc.

Ken Cox stated that it will take more work on the part of teachers and you must have teachers willing to do this. The honors teachers are on board. Ken also reminded the board of their roles and the roles of administration.

5.3 Insurance Report / Check: Ken Cox reported that a \$500,000 check came in last week. He has asked the insurance company for more information but hasn’t received it. PACE believes they will pay approx. 3.3 million. The check received last week is the first money the District has received – prior monies have gone directly to contractors.

INSURANCE REPORT

5.4 Substitute Reports: Ken Cox was unable to prepare this report.

SUBSTITUTE REPORT

6.0 INFORMATION & DISCUSSION

- 6.1 Foreign Exchange Student – Policy JECBA:** Mr. Underwood mentioned that having foreign exchange students at our school is a benefit. He has been approached about possible placement of additional students. He is asking the board for their consideration. Ernie Smith asked if there has ever been issues with foreign exchange students? Yes, a few years back. If they violate any of our rules or the foreign exchange company rules they are sent home. Ken Cox suggested making the change to district policy at the discretion of the administration instead of the board. Policy JECBA will go to the policy committee for review. Greg Kintz asked who handles paperwork for these students? The foreign exchange representative contacts schools and handles all placement paperwork.
- 6.2 PR Committee:** Ken Cox stated that Oregon Solutions asked that we use our PR committee as their PR committee. Ken Cox agreed to this. Oregon Solutions recommended that Kim Wallace be set up as our PR committee Chair which would give her a seat on the Oregon Solutions executive committee. Kim Wallace stated that she would like to do this. Tim Bamburg, Cari Levenseller, and Greg Kintz were the original members on our PR Committee. With the addition of Kim Wallace this now creates a quorum. Someone will need to resign. Amy Buringrud, Media Savvy Communications, will be calling members in the community. She will develop a communication strategy for the District. Ken Cox would like to set up a public relations committee meeting for Tuesday, Sept 23rd 5:30 p.m. at the District Office.
- 6.3 Policy Committee Mtg. Schedule:** The policy review committee will be receiving suggested updates from OSBA. The packet will be mailed tomorrow. The next policy review committee meeting was scheduled for Tuesday, September 30th 10:00 a.m.
- 6.4 District T-Shirt Logo Samples:** Ken Cox shared with the board the T-shirt samples and his thoughts on providing a shirt for every staff member.
- 6.5 District Vision Logo Review:** Ken Cox reviewed the school house logo. He will adjust the foundation to be a bit larger.

FOREIGN EXCHANGE STUDENTS

PR COMMITTEE

POLICY COMMITTEE MEETING SCHEDULE

DISTRICT T-SHIRTS FOR ALL STAFF

DISTRICT VISION LOGO REVIEWED

7.0 ACTION ITEMS

- 7.1 Allow two addition foreign exchange students to attend VHS this year:** Ernie Smith moved to allow two additional foreign exchange students to attend VHS this year if requested. Motion seconded by Tammy Jennings. Motion passed unanimously.

ADDITIONAL FOREIGN EXCHANGE STUDENTS APPROVED FOR 08-09

8.0 SUPERINTENDENT & BOARD COMMUNICATION CORRESPONDENCE

- .Construction projects update
- Vernonia High School Gym
- Vernonia High School East Wing Demolition - network down on Friday.
- Oregon Solutions Team & District Facilities Committee
- Public Relations & Ford Family Foundation Visit

SUPERINTENDENT REPORT

9.0 RECESS TO EXECUTIVE SESSION under O.R.S. 192.660 (2) (b) and O.R.S. 332.061 at 6:56 p.m. 332.061:

Kim Wallace made sure that everyone in attendance was there at the request of the district or the parents. She reminded all that this is an executive session and all information discussed in this meeting is confidential and is not to be discussed outside this meeting to protect the student. Kim Wallace explained the procedure; Dr. Cox will speak first, then the parents, and then any comments from those in the audience.

Testimony was given by Dr. Cox, the parents, and audience members.

Chair Wallace indicated that expulsion of a child can be voted on in executive session. The vote would be to uphold the previous decision of Superintendent Cox to expel the student in

question. Cari Levenseller indicated she would be abstaining from the vote due to a conflict of interest.

Chair Wallace called for the vote:

Yes votes: Jim Krahn, Tim Bamburg, Greg Kintz, Tammy Jennings, Kim Wallace. No votes: Ernie Smith. Abstain: Cari Levenseller. The decision of Superintendent Cox to expel the student in question was upheld.

All audience in attendance during the first part of executive session were excused.

192.660 (2) d.

Dr. Cox shared with the board recent events involving a staff member.

Discussion was held.

Reconvened to regular session at 8:13 p.m.

Upcoming Dates:

- HS Work Party - September 13
- OSBA Labor & Negotiations Conference - September 26-27
- Next board meeting - October 9

10.0 Meeting adjourned at 8:13 p.m.

ADJOURNED

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

Board Chair

District Clerk