

VERNONIA SCHOOL DISTRICT 47J  
1201 TEXAS AVENUE  
VERNONIA OR 97064

BOARD OF DIRECTORS WORKSHOP MEETING MINUTES

January 29, 2015

**CALL TO ORDER:** A Workshop of the Board of Directors of Administrative School District 47J, Columbia County, Oregon was convened at 6:12 p.m. by Bill Langmaid. MEETING CALLED TO ORDER

**Board Present:** Bill Langmaid, Greg Kintz, Brett Costley, and Jim Krahn. Ernie Smith arrived at 6:17 p.m. and Cari Levenseller arrived at 6:50 p.m. BOARD PRESENT

**Board Absent:** Tim Bamburg BOARD ABSENT

**Staff Present:** Aaron Miller, Superintendent; and Barb Carr, Administrative Assistant STAFF PRESENT

**Visitors Present:** None VISITORS PRESENT

**Agenda Review:** Mr. Miller asked to add an Executive Session under ORS 162.660 (2) (b) at the end of the meeting. VISITORS PRESENT

**Charter School Discussion:** Mr. Miller shared with the board the reasoning behind a possible conversion to a charter school. He provided the following handouts. CHARTER SCHOOL DISCUSSION

- Charter School Discussion Outline
- Potential Timeline – drafted by the Met Group
- Proposal Process Checklist – the order in which steps must be taken to submit a proposal
- Proposal Completeness Rubric – what is required to submit a proposal to ODE
- Proposal Evaluation Rubric – how well the proposal was completed
- Charter School FAQ's

Highlights of converting to a Charter School:

- Potential for additional funding to reduce school debt
- Ability to create more of a niche with our Sustainability Program above and beyond our standard educational model.
- Allows more flexibility is working with community members to help support apprenticeship programs and instruct in non-core courses. Core courses must still be taught by highly qualified teachers.

Questions from the Board:

- Is there still start-up money for Charter Schools available at the Federal level? Greg was told by OSBA that there is not.
- One building in the District must remain a public school. We would still have Mist Elementary as a public school. Will there be an issue not having a public middle or high school?
- Does becoming a Charter School change requirements for standardized testing at ODE? No.
- Does a Charter School have a separate Board? Yes, although some school board members can be on both.
- Does the Met Group feel our chances for donations might increase if changing to a Charter School is made?

**Public Awareness:** Mr. Miller has discussed the Charter School idea with the Board, Scott Laird, and the Union Representatives. Scott will be drafting an article to go out to the public. The VEA Leadership is initially on board however they expressed concerns about the District keeping all contractual obligations, Community members will be invited to join in a task force to begin discussions and sharing of information to the public. Names were mentioned of possible participants who are vested in the community to be on the task force. Brett Costley volunteered to be the board representative on this committee.

All questions should be addressed to Mr. Miller at this time. He will make inquiries on behalf of the District. It was noted that Jim Mabbott, former NWRES D Supt. would be a good resource if needed.

ODE's *Oregon Public Charter School Handbook* is available for review. Please see Barb Carr to review or to request a copy.

An article on the challenges of the Scio School District and the Charter they operate – Oregon Connections Academy – was shared. It was noted that this for profit organization is a very different charter set up than what Vernonia School District is looking at.

Aaron Miller asked for a straw vote in support or against the District moving forward with making an application to convert to a charter school. The board was in consensus with moving forward.

**Superintendent / Principal Position Discussion:** Mr. Miller shared his thoughts on maintaining the current model of part time Elem. Principal and part time Superintendent position for 2015-16. By making a couple adjustments to current staff assignments and the possibility of two teachers as TOSA's Mr. Miller feels his position would become more effective.

SUPT. / PRINCIPAL  
POSITION DISCUSSED  
FOR 2015-16.

**RECESSED TO EXECUTIVE SESSION** under ORS 196.660 (2) (b) at 7:30 p.m.

RECESSED TO  
EXECUTIVE SESSION

Mr. Miller updated the board on two recent staff issues and shared a request for a hearing to appeal a recent decision of the Superintendent. The Board agreed to hold an Executive Session at the end of the next regular scheduled board meeting to hear the appeal.

**RETURN TO REGULAR SESSION** at 7:52 p.m.

RETURN TO REGULAR  
SESSION

**Other Issues:** Mr. Miller shared information on *The Willamette Promise* – a program offering college credits to high school students.

OTHER ISSUES

**WORKSHOP ADJOURNED** at 7:55 p.m.

ADJOURNED

Submitted by Barb Carr, Administrative Assistant

  
Board Chair

  
District Clerk