

Compromise Agreement Reached for School Calendar

Vernonia School District Superintendent Ken Cox announced that the School Board has adopted a compromise calendar for next school year.

The adopted calendar version sets the start date for students as September 1, 2011, the Thursday before Labor Day, and the start date for teachers of Monday August 29.

"The proposed 190 Day Instructional Calendar was made possible by the generosity and commitment to the education of our children of our licensed and classified staff members," said Cox in a written statement, distributed after the June 9, 2011 School Board meeting. "Members of both associations have voted to make adjustments to their current contracts to enable additional student contact days next year."

Cox noted that he will be working to draft Memorandums of

Understanding with both the Vernonia Education Association (VEA), the union which represents teachers and the Oregon School Employees Association (OSEA), the union for other school employees. The VEA MOA will adjust the salary schedule for next year so that the funds currently budgeted to cover 180 day contract salaries funds for those salaries will pay for a 190 day contract. The OSEA MOA will keep the current salary schedule with no step and no COLA for next year and add one day to IA calendars.

In an interview, Cox said both unions have agreed to and voted to approve these terms and that the wording of the agreements just need to be finalized.

"This has been a really positive experience for me, working with both these groups to reach a solution," said Cox.

Rock Wins Kaiser Scholarship, Hyde also Honored

Vernonia High School student Megan Rock was the recipient of a \$2,000 Scholarship from Kaiser Permanente, given to a student looking to pursue a career in Health Care. Vernonia Schools employee, Dana Hyde was also honored with a \$5,000 grant in her name to assist with the construction of the new Vernonia School Campus.

According to Dave Northfield, of Kaiser Permanente, a scholarship is given to a student at all schools in the region; Rock was the recipient from Vernonia High School this year.

"We are trying to help build a work force in the health care field," said Northfield. "There is a need for more talent and we are supporting that growth with these scholarships.

Northfield said that Rock had been nominated for the scholarship by Hyde, who guided Rock through the application process.

According to Northfield, the grant in Hyde's name was the first time Kaiser has given this honor. Hyde was recognized for her work in helping all students at Vernonia High School with scholarship applications.



Dana Hyde and Megan Rock accept a grant from Kaiser Permanente for the Vernonia School District.



WGS FIELD DAY

Students at Washington Grade School had beautiful weather on Friday, June 3rd for their annual Field Day. Students played Tug-of-War, held relay races, and even got soaking wet...and didn't seem to mind. With the end of the school year just around the corner, the students got a break from the books and had a chance to get outside and play. And they took full advantage of it!



MIDDLE SCHOOL ASSEMBLY

Vernonia Middle School students spent time with Geoff McLachlan from the Ovation Company. McLachlan works with schools to teach acceptance, understanding, and empathy, and promotes learning about the impact students have on each other. Here McLachlan has students show weird and unusual things about themselves, and celebrates them rather than make fun of them.



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