

Vernonia School Board Report

At the March 13, 2014 Vernonia School Board Meeting:

Miller Named Interim Superintendent- Vernonia Grade School Principal Aaron Miller was named the Interim Half-Time Superintendent, replacing current Superintendent Dr. Ken Cox, whose contract expires June 30. Miller will be given a one year contract. (See full story on front page.)

Snow Days- Superintendent Dr. Ken Cox informed the Board that the District will make up two snow days on April 18 and May 9.

Administrators Contracts Extended- After recessing to Executive Session under ORS 192.660(2)(i) "To review and evaluate the performance of the chief executive officer or any other public officer, employee or staff member..." the Board returned to open session and voted unanimously to approve Resolution 1314-03, extending the contract of high school principal Nate Underwood and grade school principal Aaron Miller for three more years.

Lower Columbia College Partnership- Dr. Cox informed the Board that the District is close to reaching an agreement with Lower Columbia College (LCC), located in Longview, WA, to provide dual credit and college credit courses for high school students. Cox reported that several schools are already using LCC for this purpose; LCC will graduate sixty high school seniors with Associates Degrees this year. Rainier High School already has a contract with LCC. The program could offer distance learning

and possibly local classes, along with college credit for current students as well as students who have already graduated. Cox said LCC currently has eighty-seven classes available on-line. When asked why the District is looking at partnering with LCC and not Portland Community College, Cox responded that LCC is actively working to expand their student base by making these classes available to high schools in Oregon.

Green Globes Certification- Dr. Cox asked the Board to approve an application for the new school building to become Green Globes Certified. Dr. Cox told the Board it could cost the District a total of about \$25,000 to submit the paperwork for the needed evaluation and become certified. Cox told the board that a Green Globes certification would allow the District to approach members of the timber industry and ask for fundraising donations. When asked, Cox told the Board he believes there is \$37,000 in donations currently pending from the timber industry. After a discussion in which Board member Ernie Smith expressed reservations, the Board voted unanimously to approve spending up to \$25,000 for Green Globes certification.

Board Authorizes Project Management Contract- The Board voted to authorize the Superintendent to negotiate a contract for construction project management services, not to exceed \$16,000, for the remainder of 2014. Board member Ernie Smith voted against the motion.

Superintendent Report- Dr. Cox told the Board the Town Hall held on February

25 was a success with over sixty people in attendance. Topics of discussion included: The CTE Revitalization Grant, plans for the new shop building, progress on new sports fields; establishing a four-day school week.

Cox told the Board the greenhouse is now fully enclosed thanks to the help of Dan Titus, a parent and local contractor. Titus will also be working on the trenching for new electrical lines to the shop building. Cox also thanked Earl Davis for helping the District by felling some dangerous trees at the District office. The Forestry class will do clean up and sell the firewood as a fundraiser.

Dr. Cox told the Board the RFP for completing Spencer Park is available for review. He told the Board he hopes to have the RFP approved by the City of Vernonia and Columbia County this week.

Principal Reports- In addition to a written report which gave details of Family to School Week and a Focus School update, Elementary School Principal Aaron Miller also provided the Board with an Attendance Report. Miller noted that of 207 students at VES, 63 had missed 4 days of school and received a call from a teacher; 57 had missed 8 days and received a call from

the Councilor and a letter was sent; 15 had missed 12 days and received a call from the principal and a second letter- an initial truancy report had been filed concerning those 15 students and 2 had a mandatory meeting with the principal and the truancy officer. At Mist Grade School, Miller reported of 24 students, 9 had missed 8 days.

The Board received a written report from High School Principal Nate Underwood which explained the Synergy Parent VUE and Blackboard Connect systems which allow parents and students to access midterm grades from a computer; gave updates on the VHS Red Cross Blood Drive and the VMS plant sale March 7-April 10; and announced All League recognition for winter athletes. The Report also noted that the next Sustainability Day will be May 13; that the first round of state testing has been completed; and both VMS and VHS held their mid-year dances.

Underwood also presented the Board with a proposal to reduce the elective graduation requirement by 1.0. Underwood explained that VHS requires 26.5 credits to graduate, with 7.0 credits considered electives. The state requires 24 credits to graduate. Because of reduced staff, VHS is unable to offer as

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Hello Columbia County:

My name is Jean Marie Martwick. I have been blessed and honored to be appointed by the Governor to the position of Columbia County Circuit Court Judge.

I'm a lifelong Oregon resident and grew up in rural Clackamas County. As a divorced single parent, I supported my three children as a waitress while working my way through Portland Community College, Portland State University and the University of Oregon, School of Law.

In 1997, my legal career in public service began at the Multnomah County office of Metropolitan Public Defenders Inc. In 2001, I transferred to the Washington County office to handle a busy trial caseload of major felonies.

In 2008, I opened an office in St. Helens to represent indigent children and adults in civil and criminal matters in the Circuit and Municipal Courts. As a



Judge Jean Martwick

certified mediator, I also mediated small claims cases.

I'm presently Judge for Juvenile Drug Court and a member of Columbia River Partners for Change and serve on the Local Public Safety Committee.

I live in Scappoose and own a cabin in Birkenfeld. As an avid outdoors person, I often kayak in Scappoose Bay and hike the Scappoose-Vernonia linear trail.

As the first person in my family to graduate from college, my passion is education. To help our youth understand our court system, I have assisted with

high school and law school trial and Constitutional competitions.

As a Judge, I am honored to continue my commitment to public service and will work hard for Columbia County. I will fairly apply the laws of Oregon and honor the Constitutional rights of our citizens.

**Most sincerely,
Judge Martwick**

Paid for by Elect. Judge Jean Marie Martwick, Committee
judgejeanmartwick.org

Kindergarten Registration Information



March 10th thru April 19th

During this time registration papers will be available

at the school main office

7:30 am – 4:00 pm (M-F)

Please bring Birth Certificate and current Immunization at time of registration.

There will be a

Kindergarten Open House

April 29th 6:30 pm – 7:30 pm

Visit classrooms and meet teachers

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