

Vernonia School Board Report

At the June 11, 2015 School Board Meeting:

Board Approves Budget – Following a Public Hearing, the School Board approved Resolution 1415-07, adopting the 2015-16 budget, making appropriations, and imposing and categorizing taxes. The total adopted budget is \$13,220,984.

Board Approves Teacher Agreement – The Board approved a one-year agreement with the Vernonia Education Association, setting expectations pertaining to teacher wages, hours, and conditions of employment.

Superintendent's Report – Superintendent Aaron Miller told the Board that, because of changes at other School Districts, the State Legislature will make changes to funding and the Vernonia application to become a Charter School is unlikely to be accepted.

Miller told the Board that the dust collection system needed for the completion of the shop facility has arrived and will be installed.

Robert Watts will begin construction on the new softball field, which is expected to cost \$35,000 and is being funded through the Vernonia Education Foundation. The field is expected to be ready for use next spring.

The PTA will be installing the second phase of the play equipment after receiving a grant from the manufacturer.

Board Members Recognized – Board Chair Bill Langmaid and Board Member Tim Bamburg were thanked by Superintendent Aaron Miller for their service on the Board. This was their last meeting; both chose not to run in the most recent election. Bamburg has served on the School Board for eight years; Langmaid has served for five years.

Miller Announces New Hires, Resignations – Superintendent Miller announced two new hires.

Thor Ware has been hired as a High School math instructor and will also become the head football coach. Ware comes to the Vernonia School District from Rainier High School and has seventeen years of experience as a math teacher. He led Rainier to a state title in 3A football in 2010.

Casandra Hilton has been hired as the new K-12 Special Education Life Skills instructor. Hilton comes from the St. Helens School District and has ten

years of experience as an instructional aid.

Miller also announced that Jeana Gump has resigned as instructional aide to pursue a master's degree and that Coni Hodgson is retiring as an instructional aide at the Mist School.

Board Approves Financial Resolutions – The Board approved a revision to Resolution 1314-04, making an adjustment to which line item approximately \$10,000 was placed in the 2014-15 budget. The Board also approved Resolution 1415-06, appropriating unanticipated revenue in the 2014-15 fiscal year.

Board Discusses Smarter Balance Testing – For the second meeting in a row Board members expressed frustration with the new Smarter Balance Assessment Testing. Board member Jim Krahn questioned the amount of time students spend in the classroom preparing for the testing. Chair Bill Langmaid noted that the Federal Department of Education has threatened to remove funding from the State if they make it easier for students to opt out of the testing. Instructor Juliet Saffier said she spends about four days of class time specifically preparing students for taking the test and that students took an average of 13 class periods to complete the testing. Superintendent Miller said he believes Common Core teaching makes sense but disagrees on how much time is spent on assessment testing. Krahn suggested that the District begin making their feelings about the testing process heard to State and Federal legislators.

Hands On Art Donations – Board Chair Bill Langmaid announced that Hands On Art has donated \$1,650 to school activities. The funds were raised as part of the annual Jr. Salmon Auction. Hands On Art donated \$50 to the VHS softball program for their help with set up, \$100 to the band program for providing entertainment, and \$1,500 to the art program for supplies and scholarships.

Public Comment – Cici Bell thanked Bill Langmaid for his

service on the School Board and his dedication to the school and the community.

Kelly Hawker, a service coordinator with Columbia County Developmental Facilities Program, asked for information about changes in the special education department at the school. Hawker was told the District is replacing a staff member who is resigning and will continue to provide above average services for special education students.

Camyrin Eyrick told the Board that she and Nicole Larke will head up the FIRST Robotics FRC program for the Loggerbots team in the upcoming school year. Chair Langmaid commented that the program has been a successful in encouraging students to pursue studies in the engineering field.

Gail Law asked if it was possible for the Special Education program to hire an additional teacher and retain Eric Urban as the Life Skills instructor. Urban submitted his resignation at the end of the school year. Law was told that the District already has four teachers employed in Special Education, plus

a Behavioral Specialist, and have hired a teacher to replace Urban. Law expressed "heartbreak" at the loss of Urban and concern about the difficulty in the transition for the students.

Principal Reports – With the end of the school year just complete, the Principal Reports were fairly brief. Elementary School Principal Aaron Miller updated the Board on state testing, Focus School work, spelling bee winners and the return of David Spackman from medical leave. Miller also provided a Discipline Report that showed most grades achieving the goal of over 90% of students with either 0 or 1 major referrals.

Middle and High School Principal Nate Underwood reported on the Class of 2015 graduation ceremony. The class had five Valedictorians: Makayla Adams, Dylan Taylor, Summer Snow, Emilee Easlon, and Jeffrey Goodman. Summer Snow won the Senior Cup, Makayla Adams was the recipient of the Wallace McCrear Award, Winter Snow received the PEO Community

continued on page 14

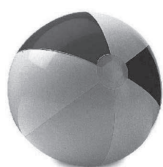
PUBLIC NOTICE BEFORE THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS FOR COLUMBIA COUNTY, OREGON

In the Matter of the Rate Adjustments for Solid Waste Curbside Collection Services in Unincorporated Columbia County)
) NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING
) (PUBLICATION)

1. The Board of County Commissioners will hold a public hearing on Wednesday, June 24, 2015, at or after 10:00 a.m. in the Commissioners' Meeting Room, Room 308, at the Columbia County Courthouse, 230 Strand Street, St. Helens, Oregon.
2. The purpose of this hearing is to consider proposed rate adjustments for curbside garbage and recycling services for residents and businesses in rural Columbia County (i.e., outside city limits), effective July 1, 2015. The Columbia County Solid Waste Advisory Committee is recommending that the Board adopt a rate increase for rural Rainier (6%). This area is serviced by Waste Connections, dba Hudson Garbage Service. Residents and businesses in all collection franchise service areas within the County will be subject to a Transfer State disposal rate CPI pass-thru adjustment calculated as provided in Section 5.04B of the Columbia County Solid Waste Ordinance. The proposed rate adjustments also affect drop box services in the aforementioned areas.
3. This is a public hearing. Interested parties may appear and be heard. Columbia County does not discriminate on the basis of disability and will provide reasonable accommodations in accordance with the County's ADA Policy. To request accommodations or to review the County's ADA Policy, please contact the Board of Commissioners' Office at 503-397-4322.
4. The hearing will be held according to the procedures established in the Columbia County Solid Waste Ordinance.
5. For additional information regarding the proposed rate adjustments, please contact Todd Dugdale, LDS Director, at 503-397-7207 or by visiting the County's website at www.co.columbia.or.us/lds/.

Dated this 5th day of June, 2015.
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