

School Board Report

At the February 11, 2016 School Board meeting:

Strategic Planning Process Ready to Begin – Superintendent Aaron Miller told the Board that the Strategic Planning Process is ready to be implemented (See full story on page 12)

Board Approves School Calendar Adjustment – At the request of Superintendent Aaron Miller the Board approved a change in the instructional calendar, trading a snow make-up day originally scheduled for March 4 for May 15. Miller noted that March 3 is the start of the high school basketball state tournament. With both the girls and boys teams performing so well this year there is the possibility that both teams will be traveling to Pendleton that weekend to compete and numerous players, students, staff and families could miss that day.

Board Approves Teacher Contract Extensions – Following an Executive Session held under ORS 192.660 (2)(i) and 192.660 (2)(b), the Board adopted Resolution #1516-03 and extended teacher contracts as amended.

Board Accepts Teacher Retirement – The Board accepted the retirement of VES teacher Rebecca Louder, effective July 1, 2016.

Board Approves Budget Calendar – The Board approved the 2016-17 Budget Calendar as presented. The Budget Calendar calls for Budget Committee meetings on May 5 and May 12 with the

final Budget Hearing and adoption of the budget scheduled for June 9. According to District staff there are several openings for citizen members on the Budget Committee.

Board Approves Title I Policy – Following a brief review with Title I reading teacher Deb Stahlnecker, the Board approved the annual Title I Parent Involvement Policy that states how the program will be implemented in consultation with parents.

Board Receives Report on VES Reading, Math Progress – The Board received a detailed report from Instructional Coach Michelle Eagleson, who shared mid-year reading and math assessment results for K-5 students. Eagleson told the Board she is focused on increasing improvement progress in reading fluency and comprehension.

Board Sets Student Transfer Limits – As a requirement of state HB 3681, the Board set a limit of 15 for students that can transfer into the district under certain guidelines for the 2016-17 school year.

Board Hears Policy Updates – The Board heard the first reading of numerous policy updates recommended by the OSBA and reviewed by the Vernonia School Board Policy Committee.

Superintendent Report – Superintendent Aaron Miller told the Board that the Columbia County CTE Hub has applied for a summer grant to build greenhouses to be sold, using high school students who would also mentor middle school

students; the project would provide employment and job training for students.

Miller told the Board he is exploring Oregon Virtual Education (ORVED) as an online option through the NWRESA. Currently costs per class are free to Vernonia students and Miller said he is developing a plan to offer more courses for students. He said he hopes this option might attract students back to the District.

Miller told the Board he is working with both employee unions to revise insurance coverage; the change could increase benefits for employees and provide cost savings for the District.

Enrollment on the Rise – Dawn Plewes told the Board during her financial report, and Superintendent Aaron Miller confirmed, that enrollment has continued to rise and is now up by over 21 students since last month. Miller told the Board enrollment was at 554 as of February 10 after reaching a low of 530 in November.

Family Math Night – Superintendent Aaron Miller told the Board that almost 25 parents participated in the VES Family Math Night on January 19. Teachers spent the evening helping parents understand the Engage NY math curriculum so they can more effectively help students work on math skills at home.

Student Reports: Quentin Skanes of the leadership class told the Board about the recent Blood Drive, updated the Board about the success of the high school basketball teams and robotics programs, and said there would be an upcoming assembly for students with good grades.

Jessika Goodman, also of the leadership class, told the Board that the Winter Formal was a big success, updated the Board on the wrestling team, and told the Board that senior speeches had been completed.

WOEC Offers Scholarships

The Sam Hearing scholarships and the VOLTA scholarship are both part of the scholarship program provided by West Oregon Electric Cooperative, Inc. (WOEC). There will be two Sam Hearing scholarships of \$1,000 and one VOLTA scholarship of \$1,500 awarded to deserving graduating seniors who reside in a home served by WOEC. WOEC seeks to invest in the lives of our local youth by awarding these scholarships to

students wishing to attend a college, university, or vocational/trade school.

Applications and instruction forms are now available online on WOEC website or by visiting our office or your school's Scholarships Coordinator. All applications must be received by April 15, 2016. Please contact Angela Hadley, WOEC's Executive Assistant at 503-429-3021 or email angelah@westoregon.org if you have any questions.

VHS Band Fundraiser Music & Movies!

Feb 25th, 7pm on the VHS stage

\$5
at the door

Movies & Music

Come listen to your favorite show tunes and attend a red carpet event provided by the VHS band.

Specially made desserts will be available for table side purchase, and the paparazzi will be on hand to take your photo. Put on your best Fred Astaire or Ginger Rogers attire and join us for this annual event. You won't want to miss it!

Vernonia Students of the Month

January 2016



Koa Leininger Grade 1

Koa is a great example of a good student citizen. He says he has received the most reward tickets in the VES; he had 124 at one time and currently has 70. He says his favorite subject is reading where he likes to do the workbooks and color. He plays soccer and is going to play baseball this year. Koa says he will sing in the school talent show and perform his favorite song, "Run Away Baby" by Bruno Mars.

Gabby McAdams Grade 7

Gabby is a student who takes pride in doing high quality work and has a real thirst for learning and wants to understand the concepts being presented. Gabby says her favorite subject is math. She plays club soccer and says she likes to draw and create video recordings in her spare time.



Nichole Gardner Grade 12



Nichole is an active member of the Cheer Squad that just took 2nd place at the State Championship; she also performed an individual routine. As a member of the Cheer Squad she has volunteered at Vernonia Cares and also helped locally organized runs. She is a part of the VHS leadership class and also volunteers at the Vernonia Library. Nichole says her favorite subjects are literature and science and she plans to attend the International Air Hospitality Academy.

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