

Schools Update: Appreciation for Our School Board

By Aaron Miller
District Superintendent

The Vernonia School District will join all other 196 school districts throughout Oregon to celebrate January as "School Board Recognition Month."

Our school board members spend countless hours of unpaid time working to provide the best possible education for our students. They also serve as the corporate board of directors for our community's largest employer. Celebrating School Board Recognition Month is one way to say thanks for all

they do.

School board members represent their fellow citizens' views and priorities in the complex enterprise of maintaining and running the community's public schools. They also reinforce the principle of local control over public education, which is an important, highly valued aspect of education in Oregon. Yet too often the efforts of school board members go unrecognized.

The school board's main goal is to support student achievement. To achieve that goal the board focuses on the following needs:

- Creating a vision for what parents and

citizens want their school district to become and how to make student achievement the top priority

- Setting standards for what students must learn and be able to do
- Assessing whether schools achieve their goals, and whether students are learning
- Accounting for the outcomes of decisions and by tracking progress and reporting results
- Aligning the use of the district's human and financial resources
- Creating a safe and orderly climate where students can learn and teachers can teach
- Collaborating to solve common problems and to support common successes
- Focusing on continuous improvement by questioning, examining, revising,

refining, and revisiting issues related to student achievement.

Board members were recognized for their efforts at the last school board meeting held on Thursday, January 11, 2018 through recognition from the District Office, and through cards and posters produced by our high school leadership class, as well as several elementary classes.

Even though we are making a special effort during January to show appreciation for our school board members, we recognize that those contributions reflect a year-round effort on their part. They are dedicated individuals who are committed to improving student achievement and to fighting for the best for all of our students. We thank them for those efforts each and every day.

Vernonia Senior Awarded Seaside Elks Scholarship



MacKenzie Fassold

Vernonia High School senior MacKenzie Fassold has been awarded a \$500 "Most Valuable Student" scholarship by the Seaside Elks Lodge.

Colton Carter and Jetta Ideue were each awarded \$1,000 scholarships. Logan Gandy, Bryre Babbit and Fassold will each receive scholarships of \$500. Carter, Jetta, Logan, and Bryre are seniors at Seaside High School.

Seaside Elks Lodge Exalted Ruler John Gates said that these "Most Valuable Student" awards are awarded for superior scholastic achievement as well as outstanding qualifications of citizenship and leadership, using judging criteria from the Elks National Foundation.

The applications of all five local winners will be sent to the district competition in Tillamook, January 13 for other possible awards.

For information about the Elks scholarship program, or about the Seaside Elks Lodge, phone (503) 738-6651 or email seasideelks@yahoo.com.

Vernonia High School Athletic Hall of Fame

The Vernonia High School Hall of Fame was established for the purpose of recognizing former Vernonia High School student athletes or coaches for their outstanding achievement in athletics while attending Vernonia High School. Also eligible are outstanding community members that have contributed above and beyond what is generally accepted as normal volunteerism to the Vernonia High School athletic programs, and students that have graduated from Vernonia High School and have gone on to achieve outstanding recognition in athletics after they have graduated.

Categories for Selection

Group One: Older athletes - those nominees that have graduated from Vernonia High School prior to ten years ago.

Group Two: Modern day athletes - those athletes that have graduated from Vernonia High School at least five years previously but not more than ten years.

Community Members: Those members of the Vernonia community that have, over time, exhibited by their volunteerism, dedication to Vernonia athletics, and contributions to Vernonia athletics, gone beyond the normal realm of what is expected for individuals to contribute.

Criteria for selection

Team Sports: Football, Volleyball, Basketball, Baseball and Softball. The inductee must meet the following criteria:

- The inductee must have graduated from Vernonia High School

- The candidate must have been out of school for at least five years before being inducted

- The athlete must have been selected as an all-state athlete on the first or second teams or must have been selected to play in the East-West Shrine Football Game, the state all-star basketball series, or in the state all-star baseball/softball series.

Individual sports: Cross Country, Wrestling, Track and Field, Equestrian, Golf. The inductee must meet any one of the following criteria:

- Place first or second in the OSAA sponsored state meet for their sport
- Place first or second in the OHSET state meets
- Place in the top three in the state Freestyle or Greco Roman wrestling meet
- Be selected to the Oregon Coaches Cultural exchange wrestling team

Process for Selection

Nominees are to be submitted to the Vernonia High School Athletic Director in writing with verifiable qualifications to be considered for induction into the Vernonia High School Athletic Hall of Fame. The Athletic Director will compile all nominations and present them to the selection committee for consideration. After the selection committee has reviewed all nominations they will determine the number and names of those to be selected to enter the VHS Hall of Fame. That number is not to exceed six individuals and one team per year.

Selection Committee

The selection committee shall be made up of the following people:

- The Athletic Director
- The High School Principal or his designee
- The President of the Vernonia Boosters or their designee
- Two community members/volunteers

Induction ceremony

After the selections to the Vernonia High School Athletic Hall of Fame have been made an induction ceremony will be held. The Athletic Director will contact the inductees and inform them of their selection and invite them to participate in the ceremony. Pictures of each inductee will be taken for placement on the Hall of Fame Wall, and commemorative wall plaques will be provided for the inductees. The ceremony will be held away from the school site and will include a ceremonial dinner.

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