

School Board Report

At the January 9, 2020 School Board Meeting:

Superintendent Report – Superintendent Aaron Miller told the Board he intends to continue in his position with the District for at least one more year. Miller is eligible for retirement at the end of this school year and had previously indicated to the Board he is considering either retirement or a move to another position in another District.

Miller told the Board the District will form a curriculum committee to work on upgrading the District's textbooks; Miller said the District has fallen behind on current curriculum due to a lack of funds.

Miller said District enrollment is holding steady at 570.

Miller informed the Board that Charolette Koch and Summer Gonzalez have been hired as Structured Learning

Instructional Assistants.

Miller told the Board that the Rainier School District has hired Jamie Hamsa to serve as a regional Mental Health Coordinator. Hamsa will split her time between the Rainier, Vernonia, and Clatskanie districts to meet the needs of trauma-impacted students.

Miller told the Board the District will be sharing the cost of a reader board with the City of Vernonia, the Vernonia Rural Fire Protection District, and the Vernonia Boosters, which will be located at Spencer Park on Bridge Street.

Miller provided the Board with a schedule for the Community Engagement portion of the process to access Student Success Act funds, along with samples of surveys the community and students will be asked to participate in.

Bus Service Contract – Superintendent Miller updated the Board on the pro-

posed renewal of the District's contract with Curl School Bus Service to provide transport services for the District. Miller said Curl has offered to extend their contract for five more years and reduce the cost of service for the first two years of the contract. Miller said the contract will come back to the Board next month for approval.

Board Approves Revised Human Sexuality Policy – The Board approved a change to the way the District delivers Human Sexuality curriculum to high school students. The previous policy called for students to receive Human Sexuality during two school years between 9th and 12th grades. At the request of School Board member Brittanie Roberts, the Board reviewed the policy and approved a revised policy which now requires students to receive the instruction in all four years of high school.

Board Approves New 5th Grade Teacher – The Board approved the hire of Natalia Balduras to teach 5th grade; the previous instructor resigned prior to the winter break. Balduras is a first year teacher and a graduate of Pacific University; she had substituted in the Vernonia 5th grade class several times before being hired permanently.

Board Approves Division 22 Standards – The Board approved the District's Division 22 Standards report, which is required annually and shows that the District is in compliance with all Oregon Administrative Rules.

Next Board Meeting – The next School Board Meeting will be held on February 13 at 6:00 pm in the Schools Library.

Schools Update: The Need for Substitutes

By Superintendent Aaron Miller

As the largest employer in Vernonia, there are 88 staff members working in the Vernonia School District (VSD), and the need for quality substitutes to fill in when people are ill or working on professional development activities is great.

Currently there is a real shortage of people available to fill these needs for substitute employees in a variety of positions within the VSD. These same issues are being felt in neighboring school districts as well.

The VSD is in need of dedicat-

ed, quality people willing to substitute in our schools. We are looking for people willing to sub in all departments, at all levels, kindergarten through 12th grade.

The district anticipates this issue will only get worse as all school districts in the state will be hiring next year with the onset of increased funding from the Student Success Act. If you are interested in learning more about subbing or working in schools, please contact Superintendent Miller at (503) 429-5891.

Substitute teachers are one need, but other substitute employees (teaching assistants, custodians, food service

workers) are also very hard to find on a regular basis. Substitutes are a daily part of life for students and school staff. Each day there is some position that needs to be filled due to illness, scheduled appointments, or other life happenings. The issue, however, is usually not whether a substitute employee will be needed in the building, but whether there will actually be a person available to fill this need.

The number of people willing to substitute in schools is dwindling, whether it be as a teacher, an assistant, a custodian, or an employee in the cafeteria. This problem is even larger for a community like Vernonia, given the distance from here to other communities

of size where more substitutes may live. Substitutes in the education field are becoming harder and harder to come by these days.

Substitutes in the VSD are hired through the NW Regional Educational Service District (NWRES), and are called through an automated system run through their offices. Anyone interested in subbing for the District needs to register through the NWRES Human Services department, who can be reached at (503) 614-1428. You can also call the Vernonia School District Office at (503) 429-5891, if you have questions you would like answered about potential sub jobs here in Vernonia prior to applying through the ESD.

Vernonia School Board Meetings are held on the second Thursday of each month. The next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, February 13 at 6:00 pm in the Schools Library.

Vernonia Exchange Student Earns Spot on Local Soccer Club

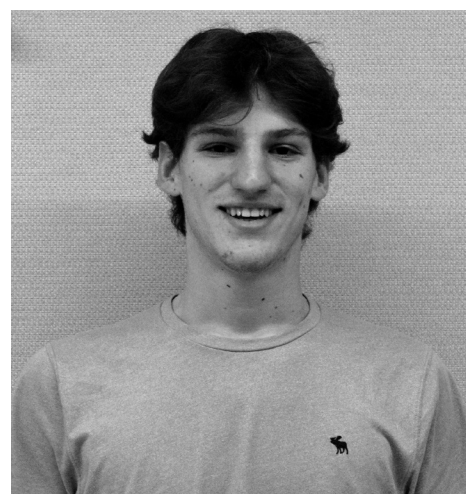
Leonardo Corebetta, an exchange student at Vernonia High School, is getting a chance to experience playing soccer at a fairly high level in the United States.

Leo, an Italian student who is spending this school year in Vernonia, has joined the Westside Timbers, a prestigious local soccer club affiliated with the Portland Timbers, the local professional soccer organization. He is living with Tyler and Erin Sweptson in Vernonia.

Because Corebetta is a foreign player, he has only been training with the Westside Timbers' U19 team, while awaiting clearance from FIFA, soccer's international governing body, to play in competitive matches. His clearance is expected at any time.

Corebetta, who will turn 19 this year, plays as a midfielder. He has played in two non-league games, scoring a goal in each game. Westside Timbers play from November through June, so hopefully Corebetta will have a chance to play competitively this spring.

Westside Timbers provides youth soccer players with the oppor-



tunity to pursue soccer at the highest levels of competition. Corebetta's U19 team is coached by Marc Evans. Evans is a professional coach who won a USYSA National Championship with a U18 Eastside United team. He has won 10 Oregon State Cups and numerous other tournament victories, and has produced 25 Division I players and several professional players.

Corebetta thanked his host family for making this opportunity happen for him, especially his host mom who drives him to practice and games in Portland.

Vernonia Students of the Month

December 2019

David Strack Grade 8

David is known as a hardworking student, who tries his best daily and hands in his assignments on time and done well. His teachers say he is kind and is the first to help his classmates if they need help. David plays football, wrestling, baseball, and plans to do track and field. He plays the trombone in the band and is going to learn guitar. In his free time he likes to draw.



Leigha Dolan Grade 12

Leigha is a hardworking and good student. She has played the flute in the band and was also in the choir. She is currently working part-time in her mother's business. In her spare time she likes to draw and paint and is currently working with mentor Tony Hyde on art for her Senior Project. Leigha says she plans to take classes at PCC before transferring to the University of Oregon to study English or Life Sciences.

Sponsored by Vernonia's Voice