

# Schools Update: Vernonia Family Academy Moves to K-12

By Superintendent Aaron Miller

Continuing on its quest to meet the needs of a diverse population of students and families, the Vernonia School District (VSD) is excited to announce the addition of grades 9-12 to the Vernonia Family Academy (VFA) alternative education program.

To support the program's increase in population and course offer-

ings, an additional teacher has been added to the VFA team. Ms. Laura Blacker brings with her a wealth of experience and resolute dedication to the students and families in the Vernonia community.

As a team, Ms. Blacker and Mrs. Taylor will collaborate to create a sustainable and rigorous high school program while continuing to enhance the success of the Kindergarten-8<sup>th</sup> grade VFA students.

As students in the Vernonia School District, the VFA high school students will have access to Vernonia High School (VHS) services such as college guidance counseling, extra-curricular opportunities, and rigorous online programs with advanced placement and college ready courses.

The Vernonia Family Academy works together with the Vernonia School District to prepare students to be college

and career ready by opening the doors for all to discover the world of endless possibilities.

If you would like more information about the Vernonia Family Academy, you may contact Debbie Taylor at dtaylor@vernoniak12.org, Laura Blacker at lblacker@vernoniak12.org or Superintendent Aaron Miller at (503) 429-5891.

# The Hobo Corner: Oh The Hobo Hubris

By Jack Kauppila



Hey Everyone – It's Jack here, from the Hobo Bakery in Vernonia, my new hometown.

How's your Starter? Were you inspired by my last column to start your own bubbling mass of yeasties? Is it a healthy, growing triumph, or are you looking at a grey gob of goo, wondering if you can ever use the bowl again?

Well, either way, good on you for trying. And if you didn't try, good on you too – I don't know if I can stand the competition!

Because...

The VERY NEXT DAY, after I shared my VERY EXPERT OPINION on starting YOUR VERY OWN STARTER, I returned to the bakery to find a VERY UNHAPPY HOBO STARTER standing in the middle of the kitchen. Wow, this sounds like a really cool children's story: *Jack and the VERY UNHAPPY HOBO STARTER*. I can see the cover with a little one-eyed baker cowering before a huge, gloopy glob of fermenting dough – wait, was this on a Scooby Doo? Lemme get back to you on that later.

For now, I had a bucket of runny, over-active, underfed, hanging-on-for-dear-life yeasties right there on the counter where I left them 12 hours before. OH THE HUMANITY! OH THE HUBRIS! I had gotten cocky, overconfident, excessively prideful, and neglected to feed or water my Hobo Starter

I felt so awful. All those beautiful little creatures that could have built

glorious monuments to gluten, cathedrals to crunch and chew, that is, a Hobo Olive. Or Hobo Garlic. Or anything! What a sad end to the short, frantic life of a yeast! Hold on, I feel another children's book coming on...

And so the recovery began.

I meditated on the lost yeasties. I prayed for the lives of those remaining, and for a strong, healthy Hobo Starter to make beautiful Hobo Boules. And then I freaked out a little, because I just added 12 hours to a process that already takes 20 hours or more and it was all due in 17! I did the math. It did not compute.

Then I found my way back to the breath. I remembered a practice from meditation master Thich Nhat Hanh:

*Breathing in, I am calm.*

*Breathing out I smile to my eyes.*

*Breathing in I am calm.*

*Breathing out I smile.*

*Repeat...*

At this point it only takes a few breaths and I'm smiling to my eyes and thinking myself quite a silly monkey to get so upset. And, since there's nothing to it, but to do it, I got to work on bringing My Hobo Starter back from the brink.

Since I can't seem to throw anything away (just ask my Sweet Sweet Mary) I made one small bucket with my normal proportions of starter, flour and water. Then I made a giant bucket of all the rest and gave it a big drink of water, a good handful of Whole Wheat and Rye flour and a big bunch of Strong White flour. Then I gave it a long, luxurious massage filled with all my best intentions for the yeasties' future and a promise that they would be treated far better than their lost cousins.

Then I had to wait. There's just no rushing it for me, because, as De Niro says of his overcooked steak in *Raging Bull* "It defeats its whole purpose!" So, after a few apologetic phone calls to reschedule deliveries, I settled in for the night.

3 am comes really early. That's why most of the time I sleep till 4, but this particular morning I had to meet my new colony of yeasties and make some bread!

Oh man, those little yeasties came back nice! I used the whole small bucket to catch up on the bread I owed, and borrowed from the big bucket to regrow the small bucket. And, over the last few weeks it has been brilliant! As the big bucket matures and gets more and more sour, I can borrow from it to supplement my regular starter and make up some interesting flavor profiles.

Lesson learned – again! I was so proud, so confident in my starter. I think I even called it bullet-proof. And then I murdered about a bojiillion yeasties because I was too busy thinking I'm ALL THAT, rather than just doing what I'm supposed to.

Since the opposite of Hubris is Humility, I humbly remind myself that if I say I am, I'm not. And that Humility is not thinking less of yourself, but thinking of yourself less.

Well, that's all from the Hobo Corner this month. We're happy to begin reopening with reduced weekend hours and we would love to see you! Let me know if there's anything I can make for you.

Peace and Happy Happy Toasting,  
Jack

Vernonia School Board Meetings are held on the second Thursday of each month. The next School Board Meeting is scheduled for June 11 at 6:00 pm. Please check the District's website for updates/changes at [www.vernonia.k12.or.us](http://www.vernonia.k12.or.us)

FORM ED-1 NOTICE OF BUDGET HEARING			
A public meeting of the Vernonia School District 47J will be held on June 11, 2020 at 6:00 pm as a virtual meeting with options for video or phone access. Please see the district website for details. The purpose of this meeting is to discuss the budget for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2020 as approved by the Vernonia School District 47J Budget Committee. A summary of the budget is presented below. A copy of the budget may be inspected or obtained online at <a href="http://vernonia.k12.or.us">vernonia.k12.or.us</a> . This budget is for an annual budget period. This budget was prepared on a basis of accounting that is the same as the preceding year.			
Contact: Aaron Miller, Superintendent		Telephone: 503-429-5891	Email: <a href="mailto:amiller@vernoniak12.org">amiller@vernoniak12.org</a>
FINANCIAL SUMMARY - RESOURCES			
TOTAL OF ALL FUNDS	Actual Amount Last Year 2018-2019	Adopted Budget This Year 2019-2020	Approved Budget Next Year 2020-2021
Beginning Fund Balance	\$2,919,109	\$3,795,695	\$2,126,859
Current Year Property Taxes, other than Local Option Taxes	3,319,643	3,357,257	3,580,027
Current Year Local Option Property Taxes	0	0	0
Other Revenue from Local Sources	708,068	751,397	773,934
Revenue from Intermediate Sources	99,192	82,800	80,500
Revenue from State Sources	4,608,268	4,912,090	5,620,065
Revenue from Federal Sources	520,203	615,880	644,405
Interfund Transfers	199,626	157,406	184,500
All Other Budget Resources	0	0	0
<b>Total Resources</b>	<b>\$12,374,109</b>	<b>\$13,672,525</b>	<b>\$13,010,290</b>
FINANCIAL SUMMARY - REQUIREMENTS BY OBJECT CLASSIFICATION			
Salaries	\$3,401,571	\$3,846,662	\$4,316,581
Other Associated Payroll Costs	2,074,591	2,589,162	2,731,245
Purchased Services	1,953,766	1,799,147	1,935,090
Supplies & Materials	456,610	991,016	1,038,193
Capital Outlay	1,660,183	2,824,000	1,168,000
Other Objects (except debt service & interfund transfers)	114,958	116,175	160,925
Debt Service*	1,057,267	1,088,957	1,115,756
Interfund Transfers*	199,626	157,406	184,500
Operating Contingency	0	200,000	300,000
Unappropriated Ending Fund Balance & Reserves	0	60,000	60,000
<b>Total Requirements</b>	<b>\$10,918,572</b>	<b>\$13,672,525</b>	<b>\$13,010,290</b>
FINANCIAL SUMMARY - REQUIREMENTS AND FULL-TIME EQUIVALENT EMPLOYEES (FTE) BY FUNCTION			
1000 Instruction	\$4,414,423	\$5,419,375	\$5,990,054
FTE	52.61	69.46	63.97
2000 Support Services	3,009,643	3,481,293	3,731,530
FTE	16.66	6.03	17.88
3000 Enterprise & Community Service	327,194	385,494	388,450
FTE	3.28	3.28	3.69
4000 Facility Acquisition & Construction	1,910,417	2,880,000	1,240,000
FTE	0	0.00	0
5000 Other Uses	0	0	0
5100 Debt Service*	1,057,267	1,088,957	1,115,756
5200 Interfund Transfers*	199,626	157,406	184,500
6000 Contingency	0	200,000	300,000
7000 Unappropriated Ending Fund Balance	0	60,000	60,000
<b>Total Requirements</b>	<b>\$10,918,570</b>	<b>\$13,672,525</b>	<b>\$13,010,290</b>
<b>Total FTE</b>	<b>72.55</b>	<b>78.77</b>	<b>85.54</b>
* not included in total 5000 Other Uses. To be appropriated separately from other 5000 expenditures.			
STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN ACTIVITIES and SOURCES OF FINANCING **			
Contractual increases for salaries and associated payroll costs are reflected throughout the 2020-2021 proposed budget. Other proposed changes include:			
1 additional student contact day paid from the general fund, 2 additional student contact days and 1 additional staff only contract days funded by the Student Investment Account were added to the 2020-2021 School Calendar.			
2 licensed teaching positions have been added to the budget, Vernonia Family Academy & Vernonia High School Math, SIA funded			
The General Fund budget includes a contingency fund and an unappropriated ending fund balance totaling \$360,000, 4.29% of the general fund budget, this represents an increase of approximately 1% from 2019-2020.			
This budget also includes a special section designated for revenue and planned expenditures of the District's \$515,000 Student Investment Account allocation from ODE, through the passage of the Student Success Act.			
PROPERTY TAX LEVIES			
	Rate or Amount Imposed	Rate or Amount Imposed	Rate or Amount Approved
Permanent Rate Levy (Rate Limit 5.0121 per \$1,000)	5.0121	5.0121	5.0121
Local Option Levy	0	0	0
Levy For General Obligation Bonds	980,000	985,000	994,000
STATEMENT OF INDEBTEDNESS			
	Estimated Debt Outstanding on July 1	Estimated Debt Authorized, But Not Incurred on July 1	
General Obligation Bonds	\$18,962,530	\$	-
Other Bonds	\$326,296	\$	-
Other Borrowings	\$0	\$	-
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$19,288,826</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>-</b>

## Thank you to everyone who voted.

Voting is one of our most important civic duties.  
One that many take for granted.

I'd like to thank everyone who voted for and supported me. I look forward to your continued support. I serve all of Columbia County and will continue to work for and listen to you!

# ALEX TARDIF

County Commissioner

Re-elect Alex Tardif Your County Commissioner | [Alex4countycommissioner@gmail.com](mailto:Alex4countycommissioner@gmail.com)

**RESPONSIBLE • TRANSPARENT • ACCOUNTABLE**

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