

# 47J board told of career classes ideas

Before the April 29 Vernonia Schools Town Hall meeting, the district's board of directors held a workshop and public hearing.

The primary topic of the workshop was career preparation for high school students. Ideas for curricula changes included more construction activities in shop classes (even considering making items for fundraisers), starting senior projects earlier and having them be more career focused, and finding a way to incorporate an automotive shop with classwork. No decisions were made, but the board obviously approved of the direction the discussion was taking.

Taking care of a housekeeping item, the board voted to recall Resolution 10-04 after it was determined that a public hearing should have been held prior to adopting it at an earlier meeting. A public hearing on the new resolution, 10-05, was then held. The public had no comments on the matter and there were no changes, other than the resolution number. The resolution approves use of Construction Manager/General Contractor contracting method for the new schools construction. After the hearing the board returned to the workshop and voted to approve Resolution 10-05.

Another item of business

was to award a Vice Principal/Special Education Director administrative contract to James Brookins. Brookins has been acting as a vice-principal this year while still doing some teaching. Next year he will have administrative duties and no teaching.

The board also accepted the resignation of budget committee member Penny Johnson. Johnson cited a conflict of interest as she has now taken a paid position with the district as an Instructional Assistant.

The next regular board meeting will be held May 13, starting at 6:00 p.m. at the District Office.

## Chalk Talk

Chalk Talk is a column of information about Vernonia schools. This column was provided by Superintendent Ken Cox.



As you may guess I am inundated with meetings. The first two weeks of April I was in Portland or Hillsboro four out of five days. Things have settled down a bit now, but I feel it important to let you know that at least once a week, in at least one of those meetings I can't help but get excited about the future that is being created by so many people who are working with us and on our behalf.

Thanks to the help of Oregon Solutions we have assembled a number of different teams of experts to help us resolve issues before they become roadblocks. I will share a small sampling of the awesome machinery that is working in our behalf. We are having weekly FEMA conference calls connecting staff at the state, regional, and national levels. We have traffic engineers working with ODOT to review our plans for Bridge St. so that, when they are submitted, there will be no question that they will be approved. There are two teams of environmental scientists working to find the most effective solution in wetland mitigation. Our architects and their myriad of consultants have designed a building that will meet the needs of our district well into the next century.

We have assembled teams of experts beyond what I would have ever imagined a year ago. I had no idea we would need such a diversity of scientists, engineers, architects, appraisers, educators, fundraisers, philanthropists, and community leaders, and all of them are doing their best for us, for the citizens of Vernonia, to make our future better.

At our Town Hall Meeting last week we shared a couple of videos highlighting recent activities (now available on our website), got some community input on next year's budget, and reviewed progress on the various aspects of our new schools.

## It's Kindergarten Round-Up time

The Washington Grade School Kindergarten Round-Up will be held Friday, May 14, by appointment. For an appointment, call the WGS Office at 503-429-7941.

For pre-registration please bring immunization records and birth certificate. To enroll in Kindergarten your child must be five years-old on or before September 1, 2010.

# April 2012 is new school move-in date

The latest Vernonia School District Town Hall, on April 29, though not as well attended as earlier ones, still provided new information. Those who attended learned that the Natural Resource Center group is now meeting monthly with grade school Principal Aaron Miller as the district's point person. The group is focusing on a regional outdoor classroom program, an environmental engineering program, a salmon enhancement project and community center activities (including extended

school day summer school opportunities). On April 14, the district held a tree planting day that was coordinated by, and in cooperation with the Upper Nehalem Watershed Council.

The district is still working with the city on wetlands mitigation. Seven acres of wetlands are needed to replace four acres of wetlands at the new schools site, with the old mill site as a likely location.

The newest estimate for students, at least the graduating seniors, to be in the new school

is April, 2012. The latest delay is the result of additional paperwork done to obtain the FEMA waiver that has allowed extra funds for tearing down the existing school buildings.

A new video, prepared to use in fundraising efforts, was shown. The video includes scenes from the flood of 2007 and a statement by Governor Kulongoski, among others. The video can be seen on the district website, <http://www.vernoniaschools.org>.

# Registration is now open for 4-H Summer Camp

The 4-H Camp committee is busy working on making the 2010 camp another great experience for those who attend. The 4-H Summer Camp will be held June 20-23 at Camp Kiwanilong on the North Coast.

The committee hosted "Teen Retreat" early in April and is very pleased with the older youth who have shown interest in serving as Camp Counselors and Camp Staff. The selection of Camp Counselors occurred in April. This early selection allowed time for training, team

building and planning.

Mark your calendars and begin now to prepare your fourth through seventh graders for the 2010 4-H Summer Camp. Registration forms will be distributed through the schools as in years past. Registration forms are due by June 3, 2010 with the \$80.00 registration fee.

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