

School board accepts new grant funds

Grade School Principal Aaron Miller reported to the Vernonia School Board that eight people from Portland Community College (PCC) recently came to discuss the district's natural resource and sustainability projects. PCC responded favorably and Miller expects that they will partner with the district on landscaping and greenhouse projects.

Principal Nate Underwood

provided a copy of a letter from Susan Castillo, State Superintendent of Public Instruction, who congratulated Vernonia High School for being one of 426 Oregon schools to receive an "Outstanding" rating on this year's Oregon School Report Card.

In other business, the board:

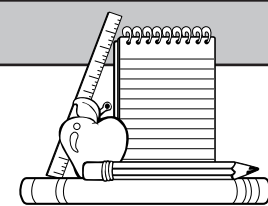
- Reviewed the first reading of 17 policy changes, and
- passed Resolution 10-9 to

accept additional grant funds of \$10,776 from Rural Education Assistance Program (REAP), \$10,000 from a Moving Science Forward grant, and \$8,600 from a grant extension from the Chalkboard Project. The resolution was needed to formally receive the funds and enter them into the budget.

The next district board meeting will be January 13, 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.



We had a very successful groundbreaking ceremony earlier this month. As you probably have heard, the governor announced that ODOT will take on a \$3.8 million roads project for the district. When Steve Effros and I met with ODOT last week, they said "We don't want the District to spend any more funds on transportation." I was not only impressed with their willingness to help, but that they will take over the entire project from this point on. I couldn't stop smiling through the whole meeting! I can't say enough about the way so many have stepped up to help our community.

In addition to the governor's announcement, an additional \$100,000 in foundation gifts were announced, and we had the opportunity to thank the many foundations and individuals who have already contributed to our cause, including all of you who are contributing through your property tax payments.

The Vernonia Education Foundation (VEF) and Oregon Solutions co-sponsored the Appreciation Reception that was held in the VHS Gym. I would especially like to thank Ronda Lennen, a VEF board member and chair of their Events Committee, and her volunteer friends for catering the refreshments for that event. The VEF is a group of individuals who are interested in making a difference in the education of our children. The current focus is to help fund the new schools. Dr. Chris Scheurman is in his second year as VEF Board Chair. If you are interested in the VEF and its activities please feel free to contact the district office.



Mr. Izzett conducting the 5th grade band as they perform during the December 7 Vernonia Holiday Program.

Jarman tells the good and the bad of 2010 fall sports season

by Gordon Jarman,
Vernonia Athletic Director

The 2010 fall sports seasons saw the Loggers meeting new competition in a new league for football and volleyball. In cross country we were in the same special district as in previous years, competing against 1-A, 2-A and 3-A schools. With the new league, the volleyball team stepped up to the net and earned themselves a shot at the league play-offs. The football team remained winless, however they were much improved over last season and showed it in most games. The cross country team did not qualify any runners for the state meet, but did have one boy finish ahead of all Rainier runners, who qualified as a team for the state meet. A new format, put out by the OSAA this year, meant to conserve money for various school districts did not bode well for the Vernonia runner and he did not qualify this year where in years past he would have.

In cross country we had approximately 18 boy and girl athletes finish the season. With All

League honors going to Nathan Fleck, as a second team selection, and Honorable Mention All League going to Rowan Cheney. We were a few athletes short of having a full team for the girls side, but the boys had a full team until about halfway through the year, when we lost one of our athletes to injury. Both boys and girls teams trained and strived hard and, under the direction of first year head coach Byron Brown, with only a few seniors on the team and both of the all-league athletes returning next year, the outlook for cross country looks good.

Second year coach Brad Baker is still looking for his first win as head coach of the Loggers football program. A turn out of under thirty mostly younger or inexperienced athletes hurt the Loggers chances of coming up with their first victory. We had only nine seniors and four of them were foreign exchange students who had never played organized football before. We started the season with 27 athletes and ended the season with 25. Injuries played a big part in the lack of success

this year. An example of this can be seen by the fact that our two top running backs were injured for the majority of the season. Additionally, having one or two key linemen out of one game or another makes it very difficult to come up with wins. In spite of the winless year three of our athletes still earned all league honors. Junior Joe Benes, senior Alex Barber and foreign exchange student Daniel Delarosa were all named second team All League athletes. The team was also awarded the Sportsmanship Award when the league meeting was held last month, which was a positive end to the season.

Volleyball was the highlight of the fall sports season. With 21 girls starting the season and ending with 20, the girls were a force to contend with in the Northwest League. For the first time in several years, the girls made it to the league play-offs. This was not an easy task, being down 2 games to none in a play-in game held at Banks High School, our girls came back to win the next three games and advance to a play-

off game at Knappa. With just three seniors graduating and a returning all league player, the Lady Loggers look forward to the challenges of the Northwest League next year. Sarah McMahon and Ariel Rock were All League selections for the Loggers this year. With Sarah returning and some talented athletes surrounding her, the

girls will look to improve their third place finish in league and perhaps host a league play-off game for the coming season. There are plans to hold a camp/clinic for younger players next year to try and get the younger girls more experience and knowledge in the game of volleyball.

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