

MINUTES
Pendleton School District 16R Board of Directors
REGULAR BOARD MEETING

November 10, 2025

6:00 p.m. | Pendleton Room at Hamley's Steakhouse | 8 SE Court Ave, Pendleton, OR 97801

Present: Beth Harrison, Board Chair
Ryan Lehnert
Jill Pace
Ryan DeGrofft
Anne Keeler, Vice Chair
Patrick Gregg
Kevin Dinning, Director of Human Resources
Michelle Jones, Director of Business Services
Ronda Thornburg, Executive Secretary
Michelle Jensen, PhD, Superintendent
Matt Yoshioka, Director of Curriculum, Instruction, and Assessment

Absent: Julie Smith, Director of Special Programs (with prior notice)
Mason Murphy (without prior notice)

The meeting was in person and offered virtually.

1. Opening and Call to Order *Board Chair*

Chair Harrison welcomed everyone and called the regular board meeting to order at 6:25 p.m.

1.1. Pledge of Allegiance

The group stood and recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

1.2. Meeting Audio and Video Recorded

Chair Harrison stated that this meeting is being audio recorded and thanked CTUIR for hosting.

2. Approve Board Agenda *Board Chair*

Director Gregg motioned to approve the November 10, 2025 Regular Board Meeting agenda. Director Lehnert seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

3. CTUIR Education Department *Jaimie Crane*

Jaimie Crane, Education Director of CTUIR, introduced herself, welcomed everyone, and thanked the board for allowing them to host tonight. One of the best things when traveling for work is to share the great working relationship between CTUIR and the Pendleton School District. Supporting admin and school staff makes a difference. An invitation was extended to visit the CTUIR education department.

4. Consent Agenda *Board Chair*

4.1. Board Meeting Minutes

October 7, 2025 Work Session

October 13, 2025 Regular Board Meeting

4.2. October 31, 2025 Financial Report

Expenditures and Revenue for October are within expectations.

4.3. Grants

Granting Agency	Recipient	Purpose	Amount
Altrusa Foundation Pendleton	Sherwood/Hailey Stuvland	Family Literacy Night	\$350.00
	SMS/Chris Demianew	Student Planners	\$350.00
	SMS/Cathy Walters	Battle of the Books	\$350.00
	Hawthorne/Tim Foster	Attendance Rewards	\$350.00
	PHS/Blakely Rudolph	Classroom Earplugs	\$250.00
	PHS/Kathryn Youngman	U of O Foreign Language Trip	\$350.00
	Washington/Jordyn Lambert	Sensory Table for Students	\$350.00
	McKay/Stephanie Smith	Battle of the Books	\$350.00
Education Foundation of Pendleton	PHS/Jill Gregg	ASPIRE Fall College Tour	\$4,130.70
	PHS/Abbey Prevot	Art & CTE Field Trips	\$478.40
	PHS/Emily Cary	Nosferatu Live Performance	\$500.00
	Sherwood/Hailey Stuvland	Battle of the Books	\$792.68
	Sherwood/Jacey Dirisu	Family Literacy Night	\$300.00
	SMS/Cathy Walters	Battle of the Books	\$750.00
	SMS/Chris Demianew	Leadership OSU Trip	\$1,050.00
	SMS/Matthew Baty	7/8 Grade Zoo Trip	\$940.00
	Hawthorne/Tim Foster	Learning Opportunities	\$1,430.00
	District/Matt Yoshioka	PSD Annual Art Show	\$4,150.00
Pendleton FFA Alumni Association	PHS FFA Program	National Convention Assistance	\$2,000.00
	PHS FFA Program	Assistance with Western National Rangeland	\$1,500.00
STCU	McKay/Emma Norquist	Classroom Supplies	\$200.00
The Jarvis Family	Sherwood Elementary	Donation for Student Use	\$200.00

A letter of appreciation will be sent to each donor.

4.4. Human Resources Report

NEW HIRE	Classified	Rhonda Bigger	Paraprofessional	MES
		Sarah Butler	Paraprofessional	MES
		Sunthalee Larsen	Paraprofessional	MES
RESIGNATION	Classified	Alicia Lancaster	Paraprofessional	MES
	Extra Duty	Marques Johnson	Assistant Boys Basketball Coach	PHS
		Kirk Case	Assistant Track Coach	PHS
RETIREMENT	Certified	Sally Ladd (Effective 1/1/2026)	Special Education Teacher	MES
EXTRA DUTY	Wrestling	Fred Phillips	Girls Head Coach	PHS
		Jake Hales	Assistant Coach	PHS
		Tyler Arbogast	Assistant Coach	PHS
	Basketball	Chance Norquist	JV Boys Coach	PHS
		Rick Kelm	JV2 Boys Coach	PHS
		Ryan Sams	8th Grade A Coach	SMS
		Michael Swanson	8th Grade B Coach	SMS
		Ian Rivera	7th Grade A Coach	SMS

		Brie Baker	7th Grade B Coach	SMS
		Tim Cary	7/8th Grade C Coach	SMS
VOLUNTEER	Basketball	Marques Johnson	Boys Coach	PHS
	Dance	Elissa Franks	Coach	PHS
	Wrestling	Tyler Miler	Coach	PHS
		Carson Moore	Coach	PHS
		Kenai Huff	Coach	PHS
	Baseball	Gabriel Umbarger	Coach	PHS

Director Pace motioned to approve the November 10, 2025, consent agenda as presented. Director Keeler seconded. Director Gregg recused himself from the grant portion. Motion carried unanimously.

5. Board Communications *Board Chair*

5.1. Pendleton Association of Teachers *PAT Representative*

Nichole Erwin shared that she had nothing to share.

5.2. Oregon School Employees Association *Tammy Hillmick*

Tammy Hillmick also shared that she had nothing to share.

5.3. PL974/Indian Education *Kendall Rosario*

The presentation Kendall Rosario shared can be found on the CTUIR website under youth services. She introduced herself as the Title VI Youth Services Manager and named the staff at each building and the surrounding districts. Because of the new board members, she detailed what Title VI is and how it is implemented in our schools. Kendall answered questions from the board.

6. Public Comment *Board Chair*

No comments.

7. Superintendent's Report

Goal #1 – Pursuit of Instructional Excellence

Mrs. Jensen spoke at the National Honor Society induction at Pendleton High School.

Goal #2 – Be responsive to the Needs of All Students

The City of Pendleton and Pendleton School District collaborated to improve safety for our middle school students. New crosswalk signal lights have been installed at the bottom of the hill of SW Runnion and Tutuilla Road.

Goal #4 – Maintain the Pendleton Brand

Lots of deep traditions around Homecoming week.

Making the Grade Newsletter is a physical flyer that will be sent to all mailboxes in Pendleton.

8. Reports & Discussion

8.1. Nixyaawii Community School Report *Ryan Heinrich*

Due to Ryan Heinrich not being able to be at tonight's meeting, his report is being moved to the December regular board meeting.

8.2. Native American Equity Report *Matt Yoshioka*

As part of the Impact Aid policy, Pendleton School District reports key areas where perhaps our Native American students are not given the same opportunities as other students. It is important to note that this is data, not judgment. It does not provide an explanation as to why a course has a low percentage of Native

American students, or, conversely, why a particular class has a high percentage of Native American students. The Pendleton School District uses this information to ask more questions and work to remove any existing barriers that may or may not be limiting student access or success in a particular course or category of courses. Mr. Yoshioka reviewed the Semester 1 data report, which includes AP Courses, Dual Credit & Honors Courses, CTE Courses, and Other Indicator Courses.

8.3. TAPP Report *Matt Yoshioka*

The Tribal Attendance Promising Practices (TAPP) Grant came out of a 2013 study comparing Native American student attendance with that of all other students. 33% of all American Indian/Alaskan Native students are chronically absent (missing 10% or more of a school year) as compared to all other students, who are chronically absent at a 19% rate. Mr. Yoshioka shared the purpose, attendance strategies, and other details on how it is working in our district.

9. Board Business – Action Items

9.1. Superintendent *Michelle Jensen*

9.1.1. Policy – Second Reading and Adoption

OSBA recommends/requires that the following policy be adopted by the school board.

- DDB – Native American Impact Aid Funds

Director Gregg motioned to approve the above-listed policy as presented. Director Keeler seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

9.1.2. 2025 OSBA Elections *Board Chair*

The Oregon School Board Association (OSBA) is organized as one general state association with up to 24 regionally elected representatives established across 14 geographic regions to support member participation and representation. In odd-numbered years, an election is held for the even-numbered positions on the OSBA Board of Directors.

9.1.2.1. Board of Directors Position 2

Director Keeler moved to elect Nichole Schott, Condon SD, for Position 2 (Gorge Region) with the OSBA Board of Directors and submit the official ballot by December 15, 2025. Director Gregg seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

9.1.2.2. Legislative Policy Committee Position 2

Chari Harrison moved to elect Jose Aparicio, North Wasco County SD 21, for Position 2 (Gorge Region) with the OSBA Legislative Policy Committee and submit the official ballot by December 15, 2025. Director Pace seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

10. Board Member Comments *Board Chair*

Director Keeler gave a detailed report of her visit to Pendleton High School and the CTE programs at Hawthorne. Super impressed with Tim Foster and Wes Armstrong at Hawthorne, saying they are the true embodiment of the motto 'every student, every day.'

Chair Harrison attended a Hawthorne graduation in the past, and Hawthorne is life-changing for the students. She also thanked Jaimie Crane and Kendall Rosario for hosting, and looks forward to celebrating the Native American students in December.

11. Adjournment *Board Chair*

With no further business brought forward for the good of the order, the meeting adjourned at 7:20 p.m.

Beth Harrison, Board Chair

Michelle Jensen, PhD, Superintendent

Ronda Thornburg, Executive Secretary

Date

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