



EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Meeting Date:	September 3, 2026
Agenda Item:	Introduction of New MSD Leaders
Item Type:	Information
Administrator:	Jeanne Grazioli
Objective:	Introduce new MSD Leaders

New Medford School District Leaders:

Doris Ellison, Chief Academic Officer

Dr. Ellison joins us from Klamath Falls, where she has served for the past 5 years as a Director, leading work in elementary curriculum, federal programs, and student wellness. Prior to that, she held similar director-level roles across K–12 systems in Washington, Arkansas, and Alaska. Her experience also includes serving as a school administrator in Alaska, Nebraska, and Texas, as well as several years as an adjunct professor at Arkansas Tech. She began her career in the classroom in Arizona and has presented at both state and national conferences.

One of Dr. Ellison’s standout accomplishments includes leading a comprehensive curriculum rollout grounded in the science of reading. Through a focus on vertical alignment and coaching principals as instructional leaders, her team achieved impressive increases in 3rd-grade reading in a short period of time.

Dr. Ellison brings a depth of knowledge and experience that will help us build capacity and successfully implement our next strategic plan. I am confident she will be an excellent fit for our CAO role.

Kelly Soter, Director of Federal Programs and School Improvement

Kelly returns to MSD after serving the past four years in the Phoenix-Talent School District as Director of Community Care and Early Learning. Prior to that role, she served as a building principal for 11 years, including seven years at Jackson Elementary, three years at McLoughlin Middle School, and one year at Crater Renaissance Academy in Central Point.

Kelly brings extensive experience in educational leadership, school improvement, support systems, and community partnerships. Her background in aligning resources to support students and schools makes her an excellent fit for this role.

Itzel Galindo, Washington Elementary Principal

Itzel brings an impressive and diverse background in educational leadership. Throughout her career in Wisconsin, she has served as the Executive Director of a national nonprofit organization, an elementary principal, and an instructional coach. She began her career as a dual language kindergarten teacher, an experience that continues to shape her commitment to high-quality instruction, strong relationships, and educational equity for all students.

Itzel is excited to join the Washington Elementary community and continue her leadership journey alongside its dedicated staff, students, and families.

Dr. Kelly Smith, Roosevelt Elementary Principal

Dr. Kelly Smith came to us as an experienced and successful principal of Lincoln Elementary where she served over the last six years in Grants Pass. She recently finished her Doctorate of Educational Leadership with a focus on Special Education and Counseling.

Dr. Smith started her career as a teacher in Medford at Abraham Lincoln, teaching multiple grade levels. Additionally, she worked as one of Medford's first Social Emotional Advocates (SEAs) serving multiple buildings, including Roosevelt. Kelly is excited to continue her leadership journey alongside staff as Roosevelt's principal, starting the 2026-27 school year! We are thrilled to welcome her back to the Medford School District!