

**Multnomah ESD Board of Directors'
Board Regular Session Minutes
Tuesday, August 18, 2026**

2022-2028

Areas of Focus

#1 – Create a high quality learning environment for all

#2 – Operationalizing systems that engage and empower communities

#3 – Build a culturally responsive workforce

MESD Board Equity Lens- <https://www.multnomahesd.org/board-equity.html>

i.

1. CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL

Board Chair Katrina Doughty called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. on Tuesday, August 18, 2026 in accordance with the agenda and public notice of the meeting.

Board Members Present: Renee Anderson
Jessica Arzate
Danny Cage
Katrina Doughty
Susie Jones
Denyse Peterson
Amanda Squiemphen-Yazzie

Board Members Absent: none

Administrative Staff Present: Dr. Paul Coakley, Superintendent
Doana Anderson, Director of Business Services
Angela Hubbs, Director of Curriculum & Instruction
Bernadette Adeniran, Human Resources
Heather Severns, Board Secretary
Marifer Sager, Director of Strategic Communications and Public Affairs

Guests: none

2. **EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITY/LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT**-Board member Renee Anderson presented the Educational Opportunity and Land Acknowledgement with a focus on tangible ways to support Native American and Indigenous communities.

She highlighted the Northwest Native Chamber and other community resources supporting Native-owned businesses, farms, restaurants, marketplaces, events, and community programs. Particular attention was given to currently available scholarships for Native American students, including a scholarship opportunity valued at \$5,000.

Board members discussed the importance of ensuring that district staff working with high school students are aware of scholarship opportunities and other resources available to Native American students.

The Chair thanked Renee for moving beyond acknowledgment toward identifying specific ways that board members, staff, and community members can support Native and Indigenous communities.

Community and Wildfire Impacts

Chair Doughty acknowledged the significant impact of recent wildfires across the state on students, staff, school board members, families, and communities.

She encouraged members to remain mindful of the emotional and practical impacts of evacuation, displacement, poor air quality, and loss. She also emphasized the importance of supporting affected individuals and communities when possible, including providing masks during periods of poor air quality.

3. **PUBLIC COMMENT-** There was no public comment

4. REPORTS TO THE BOARD

A. Union Representative Report

1. There were no representatives from AFSCME
2. There was not a representative from MESDEA at the meeting to give a report.

B. Superintendent's Report- Dr. Paul E. Coakley thanked staff members who worked throughout the summer to prepare schools, programs, and facilities for the upcoming school year. He also thanked the Board for its participation in the recent board retreat and noted that the conversations established a positive foundation for the year ahead.

Dr. Coakley reported that MESD's equity work continues to evolve toward an integrated, system-wide approach. He emphasized the district's commitment to incorporating equity into:

- Service design
- Decision-making
- Resource allocation
- Partnerships
- Planning
- Implementation
- Evaluation

He noted that the MESD Equity Lens will continue to be used to support more consistent and intentional decision-making, particularly in service of students who have historically been marginalized.

Dr. Coakley concluded by sharing professional and leadership guidance for the beginning of the school year, emphasizing reliability, responsiveness, consistency, kindness, solution-oriented thinking, doing what is best for students, and considering who is affected by organizational decisions.

5. ACTION ITEMS

A. Consent Agenda

1. Approve July 21, 2026 Board Regular Session meeting minutes
2. Resolution 26-043-Approval of August 2026 Personnel Recommendations

Motion: Director Danny Cage moved to approve the Consent Agenda.
Director Renee Anderson seconded the motion.

Discussion: None

Action: The motion carried with Directors Anderson, Arzate, Cage, Doughty, Jones, Peterson and Squiemphen-Yazzie voting aye. Motion passed 7-0.

B. Action Agenda

1. Approval of 2026-2027 Board and Superintendent Working Agreement

Motion: Director Susie Jones moved to approve the 2026-2027 Board and Superintendent Working Agreement.
Director Renee Anderson seconded the motion.

Discussion: None

Action: The motion carried with Directors Anderson, Arzate, Cage, Doughty, Jones, Peterson and Squiemphen-Yazzie voting aye. Motion passed 7-0.

2. Approval of the 2026-2027 Board Communications Agreement

Motion: Director Danny Cage moved to approve the Consent Agenda.
Director Susie Jones seconded the motion.

Discussion: None

Action: The motion carried with Directors Anderson, Arzate, Cage, Doughty, Jones, Peterson and Squiemphen-Yazzie voting aye. Motion passed 7-0.

6. BOARD BUSINESS

- B. Board Finance Committee- This committee did not meet in July or August. Reports are available in the online agenda packet.
- C. Board Policy Committee-This committee did not meet in July or August
- D. Superintendent Evaluation Committee- This committee did not meet.
- E. OAESD- There was no report.

- F. OSBA-Nominations for the OSBA Board and Legislative Policy Committee will be on the agenda for the September Board meeting. These are due to OSBA no later than September 30.

7. ACTIVITY CALENDAR-

- A. August 19, 9:00 a.m. MESD Back to School Event, Mt. Hood Community College
- B. September 7-MESD Offices are closed for Labor Day
- C. September 10, 12:00 p.m. Board Policy Committee-Virtual
- D. September 10, 1:00 pm. Board Finance Committee-Virtual
- E. September 15, 6:00 p.m.-Board Regular Session meeting-Virtual
- F. September 24, 5:00 p.m.-OSBA Fall Regional Dinner-Sheraton Portland Airport

Upcoming Activities

Board members were reminded of the upcoming back-to-school event.

Members attending the event were asked to:

- Wear the new teal district T-shirt.
- Participate in photographs with staff and colleagues.
- Review the district activity calendar.
- RSVP for upcoming events so accurate attendance and food counts can be prepared.

8. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 6:19 p.m. The next Board meeting will be held at 6:00 p.m. on Tuesday, September 15, 2026.

Heather Severns

Executive Assistant/Board Secretary