

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

August 17, 2026
6:00 p.m. | District Office | 107 NW 10th Street, Pendleton, OR 97801

Present: Anne Keeler, Board Chair
Beth Harrison
Ryan Lehnert
Jill Pace
Ryan DeGrofft
Mason Murphy (virtual)
Patrick Gregg
Michelle Jones, Director of Business Services
Ronda Thornburg, Executive Secretary
Michelle Jensen, PhD, Superintendent
Matt Yoshioka, Assistant Superintendent

Absent:

The meeting was in person and offered virtually.

1. Opening and Call to Order *Board Chair*

Chair Keeler welcomed everyone and called the regular board meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

1.1. Pledge of Allegiance

The group stood and recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

1.2. Meeting Audio and Video Recorded

Chair Keeler stated that this meeting is being audio and video recorded.

2. Approve Board Agenda *Board Chair*

Director Gregg motioned to approve the August 17, 2026, Regular Board Meeting agenda. Director Pace seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

3. Approve Consent Agenda *Board Chair*

3.1. Board Meeting Minutes

July 13, 2026 Regular Board Meeting

3.2. July 31, 2026 Financial Report

Expenditures:

Expenditures reported under Substitutes are the compensation for the CTUIR summer school program, for which the district is reimbursed. All other expenditures for the month of July are usual and customary. Any discrepancies between Monthly/Actual and Monthly/Budget are invoice timing differences. (Monthly/Budget amounts are based on prior year expenditure history.)

Revenue:

Revenue for the month of July is in line with current projections. Please note that the negative amount reported under Miscellaneous revenue is due to an audit-required journal entry at the end of each fiscal year to 'zero out' any liabilities on the books on June 30th. We then reinstate those liabilities after July 1. This entry is

required because the District operates on a cash basis of accounting and cannot have any outstanding liabilities at year-end.

3.3. Human Resources Report

NEW HIRE	Administration	Frances Hall (1 Year Interim)	Assistant Principal	SHES
	Certified	Julie Muller	Grade 2 Teacher	WES
		Brieann Baker (Temporary 1 Year Contract)	Special Education Teacher	SMS
		Natalie Crowder (Temporary 1 Year Contract)	Kindergarten Teacher	PELC
	Classified	Kiersten Roe	Grade 5 Teacher	SHES
		Adrienne Pace	Paraprofessional	SHES
		Hadley Marshall	Paraprofessional	WES
		Ashleigh Velasquez	Paraprofessional	WES
		Rachel Montee	Paraprofessional	PELC
		Jill Wynder	Paraprofessional	SHES
		Maysa Haws	Paraprofessional	MES
		Claudia Valtierra De Wolf	Paraprofessional	SMS
CONTRACT RENEWAL		Wesley Armstrong	Student Liaison	PHS
		Jill Gregg	ASPIRE	PHS
		Stacey Jacobs	TAPP	WES
		Crystal Kirkie	TAPP	SMS
RESIGNATION	Certified	Kristin Olson	Special Education Teacher	SMS
		Bryan Huber	PE/Health Teacher	PHS
	Classified	Brieann Baker	Paraprofessional	SMS
RESCIND RESIGNATION	Classified	Adrienne Espinoza	Paraprofessional	SHES
EXTRA DUTY	Baseball	Justin Speer	Head Coach	PHS
	Basketball - Boys	Ron Murphy	Head Coach	PHS
	Basketball - Girls	Tim Foster	Head Coach	PHS
	Catering Manager	Kaden Clark	Manager	PHS
	Cheerleading	Shawna Van Sickle	Head Coach	PHS
	Cross Country	Madelyn Naughton	Head Coach	PHS
		Tony Nelson	Assistant Coach	PHS
		Madison Parker	Head Coach	SMS
		John Summerfield	Assistant Coach	SMS
	Culinary Arts	Kaden Clark	Advisor	PHS
	Drama	Shannon O'Rourke-Hudson	Director	PHS
		Carly Walker	Director	SMS
	Elementary Strings	Emily Muller-Cary		Grades 1-5
	FFA	Dan McCarty	Advisor	PHS
		Marty Campbell (Paid with Measure 98)	Advisor	PHS
	Football	Erik Davis	Varsity Head Coach	PHS
		Fred Phillips	Varsity Assistant Coach	PHS
		Aaron Schmidt	Varsity Assistant Coach	PHS
		Josh Linehan	Varsity Assistant Coach	PHS
		Ron Murphy	Varsity Assistant Coach	PHS
		Wes Armstrong	Varsity Assistant Coach	PHS
		Tyrone Hutchins (Linebacker Stipend)	Assistant Coach	PHS

		Tim Cary	JV2 Head Coach	PHS
		Rick Kelm	JV2 Assistant Coach	PHS
		Jake Hales	JV2 Assistant Coach	PHS
	Golf - Boys	Marc Sokoloski	Head Coach	PHS
	Leadership	Kiana Rickman	Advisor	PHS
		Michael Swanson	Advisor	SMS
	Link Crew	Kiana Rickman	Advisor	PHS
	Middle School Music	Carly Walker		SMS
	National Honor Society	Danielle Blanc	Advisor	PHS
	Robotics	Zach Gaulke	FTC Coach	PHS
		Kirk Case	FTC Coach	SMS
	Soccer - Boys	Brian Ramirez	JV Coach	PHS
	Soccer - Girls	Bethany Van Cleave	JV Coach	PHS
	Softball	Tim Cary	Head Coach	PHS
	Track	Andrew Sneed	Head Coach	PHS
	Volleyball	Jodi Primus	Head Coach	PHS
		Sami Spriet	Assistant Coach	PHS
		Bailey Weinke	JV Coach	PHS
		Katie Hall	JV2 Coach	PHS
		Tina Williams	8th Grade A Coach	SMS
		Lance Zaugg	8th Grade B Coach	SMS
		Nicole Kuza	7th Grade A Coach	SMS
		Jan Zaugg	7th Grade B Coach	SMS
	Wrestling - Boys	Trevor Hancock	Head Coach	PHS
	Yearbook	Julie Murphy	Advisor	SMS
		TJ Haguewood	Advisor	PHS
VOLUNTEER	Cheerleading	Lisa Foust	Coach	PHS
		Grace Grant	Coach	PHS
	Cross Country	Devin Vaquero	Coach	SMS
	Football	Marc Sokoloski	Coach	PHS
		Aiden Paterson	Coach	PHS
		Shaw Jerome	Coach	PHS
		Tim Foster	JV2 Coach	PHS
	Soccer - Girls	Ty Burchard		PHS
10 EXTRA DAYS	Counselor	Karen Demianew		PHS
		Ron Murphy		PHS
		Madeline Stuvland		PHS
		Kimberly Gonzalez		SMS
		Nancy Vert		SMS
		Rick Scheibner		SMS
5 EXTRA DAYS	Dean of Students	Erik Davis		SMS

Director Harrison motioned to approve the August 17, 2026, consent agenda as presented. Director Pace seconded. Director Gregg recused himself as his wife's contract renewal is on the personnel report. Motion carried unanimously.

4. **Recognition and Good News** *Superintendent*

Superintendent Jensen highlighted the effort that goes into the Pendleton High School and Sunridge Middle School registration events.

5. **Board Communications** *Board Chair*

5.1. Pendleton Association of Teachers *PAT Representative*

No report.

5.2. Oregon School Employees Association *OSEA representative*

Liesl Follett introduced herself as the OSEA President for 2026-27.

5.3. PL874/Indian Education *Kendall Rosario*

No report.

6. **Public Comment** *Board Chair*

No comments.

7. **Superintendent's Report** *Michelle Jensen*

Emily Williams, IMESD Communications Coordinator, produced a short behind-the-scenes video of the Pendleton School District.

8. **Reports & Discussion**

8.1. English Learners in Oregon, Annual Report 2024-25 *Rebecca Marshall*

ODE requires every school district to review data on English learners and make the report available to the public. The state provides data and average outcomes for the following areas: demographics, participation in special programs, language development, English language arts assessment, mathematics development, graduation, attendance, and revenues and expenditures. ODE asks districts to compare themselves to the state averages and report this information to the public and the school board.

We are at or above ODE for most outcomes measured. We are slightly below the expenditure to revenue ratios for ODE average. The average expenditures-to-revenues ratio increased on a statewide average from 0.87 in 2023-24 to 0.95 in 2024-25 (p. 4). Our percentage of students that are on track to meet English Language Proficiency (as measured by the English Language Proficiency Assessment, or ELPA) is lower than the state average, in Elementary and Secondary. We have higher Regular Attendance rates than the state for Elementary and Secondary English Learner Students. Our academic outcomes, as measured in reading and math, for current English learners have exceeded the state average. We had a small cohort for 9th Grade on Track not meeting the minimum n size to report on this outcome. Four Year graduation rates and Five-year Graduation rates exceeded the state average. Secondary cohorts for Pendleton are very small causing graduation rate percentages to vary widely from year to year.

8.2. Restraint & Seclusion Report *Rebecca Marshall*

ODE requires districts to report annually on the number of restraints and seclusions broken down by student demographic (ORS 326.051, OAR 581-022-2267). Restraint or seclusion happens in very rare circumstances where there is imminent risk of serious bodily injury to self or others. Our district has a limited number of students who need this and therefore the report contains aggregated data to protect the identity of individual students.

When a student has multiple incidents of restraint or seclusion, a multi-disciplinary team meets to discuss prevention and intervention strategies to reduce the need for restraint or seclusion. That team conducts or reviews a Functional Behavior Analysis to make behavior support recommendations in developing or revising behavior support plans.

Rarely, an emergency arises resulting in untrained staff needing to conduct restraint to prevent serious bodily injury to the student or staff. When this happens, a team debriefs the incident and staff are provided training at the earliest opportunity. We attempt to have as many staff trained as possible to prevent these situations.

Mrs. Marshall was available for questions from both reports.

Pendleton School District Committee Memberships & Schedules 2026-27

Standing Committee	Members	Date	Time	Location
Executive Committee	Beth Harrison Patrick Gregg Anne Keeler	As Needed		
Key Communicators Network (Thursdays)	Jill Pace Beth Harrison	October 15, 2026 February 11, 2027 May 6, 2027	12:00 p.m. 12:00 p.m. 12:00 p.m.	District Office District Office District Office
Long Range Planning	Pat Gregg Beth Harrison	TBD	TBD	District Office
Strategic Planning	Ryan DeGrofft Jill Pace	TBD	TBD	District Office
Policy	Mason Murphy	TBD	TBD	District Office
Safe Schools (Tuesdays)	Ryan Lehnert	October 20, 2026 January 26, 2027 April 27, 2027	4:00 p.m. 4:00 p.m. 4:00 p.m.	District Office District Office District Office
Liaisons	Members	Date	Time	Location
Education Foundation Maureen McLaughlin - President	Anne Keeler			
ESD Budget Committee	Beth Harrison	May 2027	TBD	IMESD

Adopt-A-School

Anne Keeler - All Schools

School

PELC
McKay
Sherwood
Washington
Sunridge MS
PHS/Hawthorne

Member

Ryan DeGrofft
Beth Harrison
Pat Gregg
Jill Pace
Mason Murphy
Ryan Lehnert

Director DeGrofft should be listed on the policy committee. He wants to participate, not lead the committee.

9. Board Business – Action Items

9.1. Superintendent *Michelle Jensen*

9.1.1. Policies – Second Reading & Approval

- 9.1.1.1. AC – Nondiscrimination and Civil Rights
- 9.1.1.2. DBEA – Budget Committee
- 9.1.1.3. EBB – Integrated Pest Management
- 9.1.1.4. JEBA-AR – Early Entrance

Director Harrison moved to approve the above-listed policies and AR as presented. Director Gregg seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

9.1.2. Approve OSAA Collective Sponsorship Application (Nixyaawii – Track & Field)

Nixyaawii Community School (NCS) has boys' and girls' track and field teams and coaches but does not have facilities to practice. They seek to use the facilities and to practice alongside the Pendleton High School (PHS) teams. NCS and PHS are great partners in all areas of school and have an excellent working relationship.

Collective Sponsorship, as defined in the OSAA Handbook:

1) Definition. Schools in a collective sponsorship share resources, but students from these schools must compete as representatives of the school they attend in all competitions, including district and state championships.

PHS and NCS are applying for a Collective Sponsorship for four (4) school years, spanning 2026-27 through 2029-30, in the following sport:

Track and Field

Director Pace moved to approve the OSAA Collective Sponsorship between Pendleton High School and Nixyaawii Community School to use facilities for boys' and girls' track and field for the 2026-27 through 2029-30 school years. Director Lehnert seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

9.1.3. Approve OSAA Cooperative Sponsorship (Helix & Nixyaawii – Baseball)

Nixyaawii Community School (NCS) and Griswold High School (GHS) in the Helix School District have students who would like to play interscholastic sports and are looking for a neighboring school district to provide them with this opportunity. They do not have enough student/athletes to field their own teams.

NCS, GHS, and Pendleton High School (PHS) are great partners and have a long-standing relationship of collaboration and support. This sponsorship will not have any negative impacts on any of the schools. It will not impact our 4A classification status.

NCS, GHS, and PHS are applying for a one (1) year Cooperative Sponsorship, 2026-27, for the following sport:

Baseball

This amends the GHS only approval on July 13, 2026, as this will now be a three (3) school co-op.

Director Lehnert moved to approve the OSAA Cooperative Sponsorship between Nixyaawii Community School, Griswold High School, and Pendleton High School for Baseball for the 2026-27 school year. Director Gregg seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

9.1.4. Approve OSAA Cooperative Sponsorship (Nixyaawii – Football)

Nixyaawii Community School (NCS) has students who would like to play interscholastic sports and are looking for a neighboring school district to provide them with this opportunity. They do not have enough student/athletes to field their own team.

NCS and Pendleton High School (PHS) are great partners and have a long-standing relationship of collaboration and support. This sponsorship will not have any negative impacts on either school. It will not impact our 4A classification status.

NCS and PHS are applying for a four (4) year Cooperative Sponsorship, 2026-27 through 2029-30 school years, for the following sport:

Football

Director Gregg moved to approve the OSAA Cooperative Sponsorship between Nixyaawii Community School and Pendleton High School for football for the 2026-27 through 2029-30 school years. Director Lehnert seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

9.2. Board Board Chair

9.2.1. Strategic Plan

In 2017, the Pendleton School District engaged a consultant to facilitate a strategic planning process that resulted in a district strategic plan with four identified goals. The plan was established as a multi-year plan and was scheduled to conclude in 2022.

In 2022, the Board elected to continue the four existing strategic goals rather than undertake a new strategic planning process. The current strategic plan therefore carries forward the goals established through the 2017 planning process and is scheduled to expire at the conclusion of the 2026–27 school year.

As the district approaches the conclusion of the current strategic plan, this provides an appropriate opportunity for the Board to engage in a comprehensive strategic planning process that reflects the current needs, priorities, and aspirations of Pendleton School District students, staff, families, and community members. Beginning the process during the 2026–27 school year will allow the district to thoughtfully gather community input, establish a shared vision and priorities, and develop a new strategic plan to guide the district beyond 2027.

Director Gregg moved that the Pendleton School District Board of Directors direct the Superintendent to begin the Request for Proposal (RFP) process to identify and engage a qualified consultant to facilitate a comprehensive strategic planning process during the 2026–27 school year, including meaningful engagement of students, staff, families, and community stakeholders, with the goal of developing a new district strategic plan to succeed the current plan upon its expiration in 2027. Director Harrison Seconded.

After discussion, Director Gregg brought forth an amended motion. Director Gregg moved that the Pendleton School District Board of Directors direct the Superintendent to begin the Request for Proposal (RFP) process in collaboration with the Board to facilitate a comprehensive strategic planning process during the 2026-27 school year, including meaningful engagement of students, staff, families, and community stakeholders, with the goal of developing a new district strategic plan to succeed the current plan upon its expiration in 2027. Director Pace seconded. The amended motion carried unanimously.

10. Professional Development Opportunities *Board Chair*

10.1. OSBA Annual Conference November 12-14, 2026

Welcome Back Breakfast – Tuesday, August 25, 2026 at 7:45 a.m. at PHS. All board members are welcome to attend.

11. Board Member Comments *Board Chair*

12. Adjournment *Board Chair*

With no further business brought forward for the good of the order, the meeting adjourned at 7:03 p.m.

DRAFT

Anne Keeler, Board Chair

Michelle Jensen, PhD, Superintendent

Ronda Thornburg, Executive Secretary

Date