

**Multnomah ESD Board of Directors'
Board Regular Session Minutes
Tuesday, September 15, 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, September 15, 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 Jessica Arzate presented the Educational Opportunity and Land Acknowledgement, recognizing the Indigenous peoples and tribal nations whose traditional homelands include Multnomah County and emphasizing the importance of moving beyond acknowledgment toward supporting Indigenous sovereignty, priorities, and communities.

In recognition of Hispanic/Latinx Heritage Month, Director Arzate also shared information regarding the contributions of Hispanic and Latine communities in Oregon and read MESD's Hispanic/Latinx Heritage Month proclamation. The proclamation recognized the cultural, educational, economic, and civic contributions of Hispanic and Latinx communities and

reaffirmed MESD's commitment to equitable opportunities for Hispanic and Latinx students and families.

Chair Doughty also shared information about an upcoming Native American Youth and Family Center (NAYA) annual corn harvest event on September 26 and encouraged members to learn more about opportunities to support and engage with the Native community.

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.

B. Superintendent's Report-

Dr. Paul E. Coakley provided his Superintendent's Report and discussed MESD's continued work to embed equity throughout district programs and operations.

The district's equity work for the school year will focus on three primary areas:

- **Equity Professional Learning:** Ongoing administrator learning focused on restorative justice practices and equity leadership.
- **District Equity Leadership Team (DELT):** Continued collaboration among MESD staff to share expertise and support collective action.
- **Digital and Language Access:** Removing communication barriers through digital accessibility, language access, and multilingual communication.

Dr. Coakley reported that the district will continue using the MESD Equity Lens to guide decisions and will spend the first several months of the school year identifying measures of success, barriers, and supports needed to improve student outcomes.

C. Program Presentation-Title 1C

Nelly Patino Cabrera presented an overview of MESD's **Title 1C Migrant Education Program**, which supports migratory students and families throughout the region.

The bilingual and bicultural team provides supplemental educational and support services designed to reduce barriers associated with mobility, interrupted schooling, transportation, social service needs, and academic support.

The program currently serves approximately **406 students, ages 3–21**, across seven school districts: Centennial, Corbett, David Douglas, Gresham-Barlow, Portland, Reynolds, and Parkrose.

Program services and highlights include:

- Academic tutoring and instructional support.
- Technology access, including devices, headphones, and hotspots.
- College and career readiness workshops.
- Scholarship assistance and postsecondary planning.
- Summer programming and Oregon State University experiences.
- Connections to community resources and social services.
- Food and utility assistance through community partnerships.
- Direct outreach to families experiencing transportation, mobility, or work-schedule barriers.

The program has strengthened community partnerships, including partnerships that provide food and utility assistance to families.

Students also participated in the Close Up program in Washington, D.C., where they learned about government and civic engagement.

Patino Cabrera highlighted that all three recipients of the most recent MESD Board Scholarship were students served through the Migrant Education Program. Board members discussed the impact of the scholarship program and encouraged continued efforts to promote and expand scholarship opportunities.

D. Integrated Guidance Annual Report

Senior Program Administrator Christine Otto presented MESD's Annual Integrated Guidance Report, which is required as part of the district's receipt of state Integrated Guidance funding.

MESD receives funding through programs including High School Success, the Student Investment Account, and limited early intervention funding for eligible programs.

Otto reported that the funding supports goals related to well-rounded education, equity advancement, community engagement, district capacity, and improved student outcomes.

Highlights from the previous year included:

- Expansion of Career and Technical Education opportunities in juvenile detention and youth correction education programs.
- Increased student exposure to career-related learning such as welding, culinary arts, forklifts, tractors, and other technical skills.
- Improvements in program data tracking.

Challenges included the length of time students remain in programs and staff transitions that temporarily affected the pace of program expansion.

The Board also received an update regarding Long-Term Care and Treatment (LTCT) programs. WinnWatts currently qualifies for state funding, while Walden Crossing recently became an LTCT site. MESD also began providing educational programming at New Options, located in connection with NARA's residential treatment program.

Staff reported that additional LTCT sites may become eligible for Integrated Guidance funding in the next funding cycle.

Board members discussed the expansion of LTCT programming and the potential impact of recent changes in regional treatment services. Additional follow-up may occur regarding the effect of treatment facility closures and changes on MESD students.

5. ACTION ITEMS

A. Consent Agenda

1. Approve August 18, 2026 Board Regular Session meeting minutes
2. Resolution 26-044-Approval of September 2026 Personnel Recommendations
3. Approval of the 2026-2027 Superintendent Evaluation Timeline
4. Approval of the 2026-2027 Superintendent Evaluation Tool
5. Resolution 26-047-Approval of New Board Policy KNA-Immigration Enforcement on MESD Property
6. Resolution 26-048-Approval of Amended Board Policy BBE-Vacancies on the Board
7. Resolution 26-049-Approval of Amended Board Policy CBA-Qualifications and Duties of the Superintendent
8. Resolution 26-050-Approval of Amended Board Policy EBB-Integrated Pest Management
9. Resolution 26-051-Approval of Amended Board Policy EBBA-Student Health Services
10. Resolution 26-052-Approval of Amended Board Policy GBN/JBA & JBA/GBN-Sexual Harassment
11. Resolution 26-053-Approval for Re-coding of Board Policy KNA-Cooperation with Private Enterprises
12. Resolution 26-054-Approval of Amended Board Policy JOB-Personally Identifiable Information

Motion: Director Susie Jones 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. Resolution 26-045-OSBA Board of Directors Candidate Nomination

Motion: Director Danny Cage moved to approve the nomination of Katrina Doughty to run for OSBA Board position 17.
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.

2. Resolution 26-046-OSBA Legislative Policy Candidate Nomination

Motion: Director Katrina Doughty moved to nominate Danny Cage to run for the position 17 on the OSBA Legislative Policy Committee. Director Amanda Squiemphen Yazzie 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- Finance Committee Chair Susie Jones reported that the committee would like to increase funding available for the MESD Board Scholarship Program in order to provide scholarships to additional students.

The Finance Committee plans to provide more regular scholarship updates and encourage Board participation in fundraising efforts.

Director Cage shared information regarding a potential future funding opportunity involving unspent Multnomah County commissioner office funds. He indicated that he would assist in exploring the process for potentially seeking these funds for the scholarship program in a future funding cycle.

Chair Doughty requested that the process be documented in writing and shared with the Finance Committee and district finance staff so the district can determine whether and how to pursue the opportunity.

- C.** Board Policy Committee-Board Policy Committee minutes were provided with the meeting materials. No additional committee highlights were presented.
- D.** Superintendent Evaluation Committee- Chair Doughty reported that the Superintendent Evaluation Committee has met and is on schedule for the 2026–2027 Superintendent evaluation process.

The Board completed a 360-degree evaluation during the previous year; this year's process will follow the regular evaluation format and established calendar.

- E.** OAESD- No Update
- F.** OSBA-Chair Doughty provided a brief update regarding OSBA's ongoing governance review and noted that additional information about proposed governance changes will be available through upcoming OSBA events, including the Fall Regional Meeting and OSBA Convention.

7. **ACTIVITY CALENDAR-** Board members were reminded to review the activity calendar and respond to calendar invitations. Timely RSVPs are particularly important for meetings and events because attendance numbers affect catering, facilities, and other logistical arrangements.
- A. September 24, 5:00 p.m.-OSBA Fall Regional Dinner-Sheraton Portland Airport
 - B. October 8, 12:00 p.m. Board Policy Committee-Virtual
 - C. October 8, 1:00 pm. Board Finance Committee-Virtual
 - D. October 20, 6:00 p.m.-Board Executive Session meeting-Virtual
 - E. October 20, 6:30 p.m.-Board Regular Session meeting-Virtual

Upcoming Activities

- Heather Severns reported that registration for the OSBA Convention in November had opened and that Board members interested in attending should notify her. Registration is available through October 19 before additional fees apply.
- The Board was reminded that next month's Board meeting will include an Executive Session beginning at 6:00 p.m. HR Director Bernadette Adeniran will join the Board for a discussion regarding bargaining. The Regular Session will begin at 6:30 p.m.

Follow up/Action Items

- **Board Members:** Continue promoting and supporting the MESD Board Scholarship Program.
- **Danny Cage:** Provide information regarding the process for potentially accessing unspent Multnomah County commissioner office funds.
- **Finance Committee/District Finance Staff:** Review the potential county funding opportunity and determine appropriate next steps.
- **Board Members:** Review the activity calendar and RSVP promptly to upcoming meetings and events.
- **Board Members:** Notify Heather Severns if they plan to attend the OSBA Convention no later than October 18th.
- **Heather Severns:** Coordinate OSBA Convention registration for interested Board members.
- **Board Members:** Note the October meeting schedule: Executive Session at 6:00 p.m. and Regular Session at 6:30 p.m.

8. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 6:49 p.m. The next Board meeting will be held at 6:00 p.m. on Tuesday, October 20, 2026.

Heather Severns
Executive Assistant/Board Secretary