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

October 12, 2026
6:00 p.m. | District Office | 107 NW 10th Street, Pendleton, OR 97801

Present: Anne Keeler, Board Chair
Beth Harrison
Ryan Lehnert (virtual)
Jill Pace
Ryan DeGrofft (virtual)
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 moved to approve the October 12, 2026, Regular Board Meeting agenda. Director Pace seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

3. **Approve Consent Agenda** *Board Chair*

   3.1. Board Meeting Minutes
   September 8, 2026 Work Session
   September 21, 2026 Regular Board Meeting

   3.2. September 30, 2026 Financial Report
   Expenditures:
   Salary and benefit expenditures for the month of September are within expectations. The flow-through Charter School payment and the August transportation invoice were both delayed due to Round-Up break and other timing issues; both payments will be reflected within the October financials.

   Revenue:
   Revenues for the month of September are within budgeted projections.

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3.3. Grants

Granting Agency	Recipient	Purpose	Amount
Altrusa International Foundation Pendleton	Washington/Jessica Stephen	Echo Field Trip	$350
	Washington/Haley Robinett	Hoe Ec Supplies	$350
	Washington/Analiese Oertwich	Class Book Set	$350
	McKay/Stephanie Smith	Battle of the Books Supplies	$350

A letter of appreciation will be sent to each donor.

3.4. Human Resources Report

NEW HIRE	Certified	Kyle Humphreys *(Temporary Contract 9/4 - 12/15/2026)*	Special Education	PHS
	Classified	Mariah Mcatee	Paraprofessional	SHES
		Kimberly Minthorn	Paraprofessional	WES
EXTRA DUTY	Enrichment	Hadley Marshall	After School K-2 Coordinator	District
		Hadley Marshall	After School 3-5 Coordinator	District
	Tennis	Keri Kunz	Head Girls Coach	PHS
		Chris Demianew	Assistant Coach	PHS
	Swim	Jon Jennings	Assistant Coach	PHS
		Perry Jennings	Assistant Coach	PHS
	Wrestling	Hailey Ahsmuhs	Assistant Girls Coach	PHS
VOLUNTEER	Volleyball	Lindsay Lambert	Freshman Coach	PHS

Director Harrison motioned to approve the October 12, 2026, consent agenda as presented. Director Pace seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

4. **Recognition and Good News** *Superintendent*
Celebrating 26 school days included a walk-to-school day on October 7; Sunridge Middle School added more class offerings; the FFA Alumni Dinner and Auction; professional development for certified staff to strengthen instructional practice; and 500 elementary students received perfect attendance awards.

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

5.1. Pendleton Association of Teachers *PAT Representative*
Stephanie Smith did not have a report.

5.2. Oregon School Employees Association *OSEA representative*
Liesl Follett, OSEA President, did not have a report and welcomed anything to bring back to the union members. The Board recognizes and appreciates all the important work classified employees do, being the first and last people students and parents see every day.

5.3. PL874/Indian Education *Kendall Rosario*
No report.

6. Public Comment *Board Chair*
No comments.

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7. Superintendent's Report *Michelle Jensen*

Time is deferred to the student reports.

8. Reports & Discussion

8.1. CTE Student Interviews *Curt Thompson*

Each student introduced themselves and their program of study. They are:

Evelyn Hayes - Ag Science
Vandren McCarty – Engineering
Sascha Quaempts – Hospitality and Tourism
Annaliese Somnis – Hospitality and Tourism
Meadow J. Tahkeal-Edsal – Digital and Media Arts
Alexander Warneking – Engineering

Students took turns speaking candidly, answering questions from Mr. Thompson.

1. Why did you select the path/program you are on?
2. What do you find is the most rewarding part of the CTE classes?
3. Do you have any plans after high school related to your CTE classes?
4. What recommendations do you have to expand the CTE classes?

Mr. Thompson thanked the students for taking the time to come to the meeting and asked the Board if they had any follow-up questions. Director Gregg complimented the students on a wonderful job with public speaking in front of strangers. He found it fascinating to hear their perspective on the CTE programs and thanked them for sharing this evening. Director Pace concurred. Director Harrison asked what prompted them to sign up for CTE classes when going to PHS. Chair Keeler expressed thanks for bringing their perspective to the board meeting. The Board cares about your experience, input, and advice.

Mr. Thompson announced that on April 14-16, 2027, the Oregon Association for Career and Technical Education state conference is coming to Pendleton. They are expecting 400-500 attendees. Tours are being arranged for the Pendleton Woolen Mills, the UAS Range, Tamatslikt, CTUIR, Wildhorse, and Yellowhawk.

8.2. PHS Athletic Report *Mike Somnis*

Mr. Somnis updated the Board on fall sports, including boys' and girls' soccer, football, volleyball, and cross country.

Pendleton High School was honored with a $1000 check from the OSAA Foundation and Kristie Patterson Fund. Kristie was a long-time employee of OSAA who lost her battle with cancer in 2022. The OSAA Foundation was very important to Kristie because it directly impacts students' lives and helps break down barriers to participation that many take for granted. In addition, she was born and raised in Eastern Oregon, and the schools in that region always held a special place in her heart. Mr. Somnis called and spoke with Peter Weber, OSAA Foundation President, asking for two to three things Kristie loved or was passionate about to utilize the $1000 donation in her honor. Her three boys who all played football, the military, and the outdoors. Coaches Wes Armstrong, a retired Marine, and Erik Davis are working on a day in late spring/early summer with the Marine Corps leadership to come to campus and put on a day with coordinated events and leadership, problem-solving, and mindset growth activities for the student athletes at PHS.

Mr. Somnis was available for questions.

8.3. PHS Activities Report *Kiana Rickman*

Mrs. Rickman teaches leadership and is the advisor at PHS. Leadership is a student- based class, so she brought Miracle Edmiston and Avery Pitner, seniors and four-year leadership students, to share the activities and traditions during homecoming week and the leadership class. They spoke with much enthusiasm and did an amazing job.

8.4. Division 22 Compliance *Matt Yoshioka*

As required by the State of Oregon, Mr. Yoshioka, Director of Curriculum, Instruction, and Assessment, presented the Division 22 Standards Assurance for the 2025-26 School Year (SY) to the Board of Directors. He explained the Division 22 Standards, rule categories, requirements for each rule, the assurances, why they matter, and what happens if the district is out of compliance. The Division 22 Waivers for 2025-26 are 581-022-2115(3) Assessment of Essential Skills, and OAR 581-022-2120 Essential Skill Assessment for English Language Learners through the end of the 2027-28 SY. Educational Equity Advisory Committee is a rule now in effect for the 2025-26 SY that requires districts to establish a committee composed of parents, employees, students, and community members to be selected by the school board and superintendent. Rule revision as a result of House Bill 2453 is that the Educational Equity Advisory Committee now advises the superintendent, is no longer subject to public meeting requirements, and the superintendent now selects committee members; board approval is no longer required. Rule revision in effect for the 2025-26 SY is regarding the administration of state assessments: added SEED surveys a required OSAS component, added mention of ELPA screener as a required OSAS component, and added clarification that districts must abide by ODE decisions regarding student test records. New TAG requirements for 2025-26 for the identification of academically talented and intellectually gifted students is any person may recommend a student they know to be screened throughout the school year, and a definition of "screen" has also been added to the rule. Division 22 added a temporary rule to implement Executive Order 26-06 Preserving Student Instructional Time. Districts that reduced student instructional time levels during the 2025-26 or 2026-27 school years must submit to ODE a plan to restore student instructional time by the 2027-28 SY or evidence of the district school board approving the decision to not restore student instructional time and a public posting of the justification for that decision. A district may not reduce student instructional time during the 2026-27 SY.

The Pendleton School District Office Administrative Team reviewed each of the 62 standards and determined that for the 2025-26 SY, the Pendleton School District complied in every area.

Looking ahead, compliance for the 2026-27 SY brings new/revised requirements. They include required student instructional time reported annually, revised graduation requirements for 2027, and revised safety requirements.

The Pendleton School District Report on Compliance with Public School Standards 2025-26 School Year will be posted on the district site and submitted to the Oregon Department of Education by November 1, 2026.

Mr. Yoshioka was available for questions.

9. **Board Business – Action Items**

9.1. **Superintendent** *Michelle Jensen*

9.1.1. Policies – Second Reading & Approval

9.1.1.1. EBBA – Student Health Services

9.1.1.2. JEC – Admissions

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

9.1.2. Policies – Deletion

JEC – Admissions

Delete current policy due to so many updates.

Director Gregg moved to approve the deletions of the above-listed policies as presented. Director Pace seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

9.2. **Business Services** *Michelle Jones*

9.2.1. Approve Long-Range Facility Planning Consultant Contract

On August 10, 2026, the District issued a Request for Proposals (RFP) for Long-Range Facility Planning Services to include district-wide facilities assessments. The district received three responses to the request for proposals. Consertus + HMK Company was the successful proposer recommended by the RFP evaluation committee. The evaluation of the proposals was conducted and scored in accordance with the terms and conditions outlined in the solicitation document. The contract period for these services is October 1, 2026 through September 30, 2027.

Following the approval of Consertus as the consultant to provide long-range facility planning services, we are presenting the professional services contract for execution. The contract establishes a fixed professional service fee of $40,480, alongside a not-to-exceed reimbursable expense budget of $19,700 to cover travel, mileage, meals, lodging (when necessary), and project printing and materials.

Director Harrison moved that the professional services contract with Consertus be approved to provide Long-Range Facility Planning Services for the Pendleton School District as presented. Director Pace seconded.

Voting results:
Anne Keeler - Yes
Beth Harrison - Yes
Ryan Lehnert - Yes
Jill Pace - Yes
Ryan DeGrofft - No
Mason Murphy - Yes
Patrick Gregg - Yes

10. **Board Member Comments** *Board Chair*

11. Adjournment *Board Chair*

With no further business brought forward for the good of the order, the meeting adjourned at 6:57 p.m.

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Anne Keeler, Board Chair Michelle Jensen, PhD, Superintendent

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Ronda Thornburg, Executive Secretary Date