Ontario School District 8C
Regular Session of the Board of Directors
October 26th 2026 at 5:00 PM PM at the Ontario School District Board Room

This meeting was broadcasted via Zoom to the public, the Board of Directors met in person at the Ontario School District Boardroom, with an audience of about 20

Board Members Present:
Mike Blackaby
Jenna Mejia
Lisa Reeser
Bret Uptmor

Abby Apodaca joins via Zoom

Administrators in Attendance:
Director of Personnel Eric Norton
Director of Public Relations and Communications Taryn Smith
Director of Student Services Jose Marquez
Director of Federal Programs Anabel Ortiz-Chavolla
Director of Facilities Andrew Kressly
Director of Technology Kenneth Monson
Director of Finance Devin Collins
Administrative Assistant to the Superintendent/Board Andrea Salazar

Call to Order/Welcome to Visitors

Chair Uptmor begins the meeting and welcomes everyone in the room and on Zoom, then leads the room in the flag salute.

Agenda Change

There are no agenda changes for the October 26th 2026 Regular Session

Consent Items

Director Blackaby makes a motion to approve the consent items, Director Reeser seconds the motion.

Chair Uptmor votes yes.
Director Blackaby votes yes.
Director Mejia votes yes.
Director Reeser votes yes.

OMS Student Report – Brock Heninger

Student at Ontario Middle School Brock Henninger shares some of the events going on at OMS. FCA is getting ready to start back up and is looking forward to another great year. LIA has its first two

fundraisers, and they just finished a resume-building workshop. Fall sports have finished up for this school year; cross country had over 30 participants, and volleyball showed up this season. Winter sports have begun, which means basketball and wrestling are underway. Student council has their new members, and we encourage anyone and everyone to donate food to the OMS annual food drive.

OHS Student Report – Lily Bini Acheson

OHS Student Lily Bini Acheson did not attend the regular session and was not able to present their report.

October Student Recognition – Safety

Principal at May Roberts Primary Mr. Capps, introduces teacher from May Roberts Primary Ms. Ontiveros. Ms. Ontiveros honors student Rosario Mendoza Mendoza, “Rosario is a first grader who is always making safe choices and spreading kindness everywhere she goes at school. She can always be seen smiling! Even though she is soft-spoken, her choices speak loudly. She loves to show kindness by quietly sharing and helping her classmates. Rosario always uses her walking feet, keeps her hands to herself, respects personal space, sits correctly in her seat, and uses her school supplies for their intended purpose. She is a great model of being safe in our classroom family. Thank you for being safe at all times Rosario. Ms. Ontiveros” Ms. Ontiveros translates the message to Spanish, “Rosario es una estudiante de primer grado que siempre toma decisiones seguras y transmite amabilidad a dondequiera que va en la escuela. ¡Siempre se le ve sonriendo! Aunque habla en voz baja, sus decisiones dicen mucho. Le encanta demostrar amabilidad compartiendo tranquilamente y ayudando a sus compañeros de clase. Rosario siempre camina con cuidado, mantiene sus manos consigo misma, respeta el espacio personal, se sienta correctamente en su lugar y usa sus útiles escolares para su propósito. Es un gran ejemplo de comportamiento seguro en nuestra familia del salón de clases. Gracias por mantenerte segura en todo momento, Rosario. Sra. Ontiveros”

Principal at May Roberts Primary Mr. Capps honors student Dallin Winsor, “Dallin is a first grader who makes safe choices in our classroom and on the playground. He follows our school expectations and is a great example to his friends. He is also a safe friend. He is kind, fun to be around and the kids in our class know that they can trust Dallin to treat them well. I am so glad to have Dallin in our class this year!”

Principal at Aiken Elementary Ms. Huddleston introduces teacher from Aiken Elementary, Ms. Montoya. Ms. Montoya honors student Andre Lehnerz, “Andre does a great job of being safe in class and at recess. He walks on the sidewalks and runs on the grass. He also makes sure to remind students that we don't run in the classroom. He is a sweetheart and I am so grateful to have him in class this year! Mrs. Montoya, 2nd Grade Teacher.”

Principal at Aiken Elementary Ms. Huddleston honors Kaylee Mendez, “Kaylee always follows the safety rules, looks out for her classmates, and lends a helping hand whenever someone needs it. Thank you, Kaylee, for leading by example and being a true third-grade safety role model. Your careful eyes and kind heart make our school a better place every single day! -Mrs. Ward, 3rd Grade Teacher” Director of Federal Programs Anabel Ortiz-Chavolla translates the message to Spanish, “Kaylee siempre sigue las normas de seguridad, vela por sus compañeros y ofrece su ayuda siempre que alguien la necesita. ¡Gracias, Kaylee, por ser el ejemplo y ser una verdadera modelo a seguir en cuanto a seguridad para tus compañeros de tercer grado! ¡Tu atención constante y tu buen corazón hacen que nuestra escuela sea un lugar mejor cada día!”

Principal at Alameda Intermediate Ms. Buchholz honors student McKenna Apodaca, “Today, we want to recognize McKenna Apodaca for her outstanding dedication to keeping our school community safe, respectful, and welcoming. True leadership is about caring for the well-being of everyone around you. Through her proactive attention to campus safety and consistent commitment to upholding our school rules, McKenna leads by example every single day. Thank you for your high standard of responsibility and for making our school a safer place for everyone. ~Mrs Buchholz & Mr Tackman”

Principal at Alameda Intermediate Ms. Buchholz, presents Teacher at Alameda Intermediate Ms. Contreras. Ms. Contreras honors student Leah Becerril, “Leah is the ideal model of what it means to be an outstanding student. Day in and day out—whether she is focused on her work in the classroom or playing with friends at recess—Leah consistently makes thoughtful, positive choices. She exemplifies responsibility, kindness, safety, and respect in everything she does. I am tremendously proud of her, and I am so grateful to have her in my class.~ Mrs Contreras”

Teacher at Ontario Middle School Ms. Herrern honors student Amilio Dominguez, “ Tonight, I am proud to present the October Safety Award to 6th grader Amilio Dominguez! Amilio is an active, dedicated member of the Ontario community. Whether he’s playing soccer, spending time with family and friends, or representing his peers on Student Council, Amilio leads by example. Above all, he takes great personal pride in being safe, responsible, and supportive every single day. Congratulations, Amilio!”

Teacher at Ontario Middle School Ms. Herrern honors student Joy Wolfe, “Joy Wolfe is the recipient of the Safety Award at Ontario Middle School. Joy consistently demonstrates a commitment to all of the safety expectations at OMS. As a result of an ongoing awareness of her own safety, as well as the safety of others, she continues to set the standard for exemplary student behavior at OMS. Joy is a leader with her respectful interactions with her teachers and peers, but also with her commitment to modeling what quiet, consistent leadership looks like. Thank you Joy for helping to make our campus a safe place. Your contributions to OMS are appreciated greatly by both staff and students. Congratulations on this well-deserved award!”

Teacher at Ontario Middle School Ms. Herrern honors student Anthony Hernandez, “Anthony has truly shone as an outstanding student by consistently modeling safety physically, mentally, and emotionally. Anthony maintains control of himself, follows classroom guidelines, and looks out for the well-being of his classmates—never engaging in rough-housing or verbally putting others down. His calm attitude, responsible choices, and generous spirit create a safe, positive learning environment for everyone, whether he is demonstrating excellent listening skills or patiently helping peers grasp classroom concepts.”

Principal at Ontario High School Mr. Martinez honors student Peyton Erlebach, “Peyton has earned this recognition for all the extra work she puts in before and after school. In the welding shop, she sets the standard for safety. She wears her PPE correctly every time, keeps her station clean and organized, and checks her equipment before she strikes an arc. Her careful habits protect her and her classmates, and her dedication shows in both the quality of her welds and the example she sets for others.”

Principal at Ontario High School Mr. Martinez honors student, Johnny Pechie, “Johnny exemplifies a deep commitment to the safety and well-being of the OHS student body. Serving as a firefighter, he brings incredible dedication, awareness, and real-world experience to our school community. Johnny consistently watches out for his peers, keeps a vigilant eye on school safety, and

stands ready to step up and assist immediately whenever an emergency arises. His proactive approach, leadership, and willingness to protect others make him deserving of Student of the Month."

Board Bits

Director Blackaby states that he watched some football and volleyball games online and attended the candidates fair; they were all great! Director Reeser states she attended an OMS site council meeting, and it was great to be there. Director Mejia states she went to some volleyball games and passed out some awards at May Roberts Primary School. Chair Uptmor states he attended the OSBA regional meeting in Vale, it had some great information that I would love to share with the rest of the Board.

Finance Report – Devin Collins

Director of Finance Devin Collins states that as discussed we have the 4.8% PERS Bond on the agenda, this will help the rising interest rates to stay steady for the future.

Superintendent Report – Nikki Albisu

Superintendent Albisu states she shared her piece during the work session.

Public Comment

There was a public comment submitted during the Work Session by Kirstin Wheeler, "OEA is currently working on preparing for our upcoming bargaining session. Two members received training in Eugene last month. The bargaining team will be determined by the end of next week. OEA continues to advocate for students by providing teachers with grants for Promising Practices, a grant designed to help teachers access money for a variety ways to improve their instruction. Teachers are also accessing grants to meet student needs from the Ed Foundation grant. Please save the date for the OOEA retirement/awards banquet. It will be May 6th."

November and December Board Meeting Dates

Chair Uptmor states that moving these two board meeting dates were to not have them during the holiday season. The Board Meetings for November would be on November 16, and the December Board Meeting will be on December 14. Director Mejia makes a motion to approve moving these two Board Meeting dates, Director Blackaby seconds the motion.

Chair Uptmor votes yes.
Director Blackaby votes yes.
Director Mejia votes yes.
Director Reeser votes yes.

Approval of Resolution 26-17 for the PERS Bond

Director Reeser makes a motion to approve Resolution 26-17, Director Mejia seconds the motion.

Chair Uptmor votes yes.
Director Blackaby votes yes.
Director Mejia votes yes.
Director Reeser votes yes.

Approval of Vehicle Surplus

Director Blackaby makes a motion to approve the vehicle surplus, Director Mejia seconds the motion.

Chair Uptmor votes yes.
Director Blackaby votes yes.
Director Mejia votes yes.
Director Reeser votes yes.

Second Reading of Policy ECAA and BCB

Director Mejia makes a motion to approve the second readings of policies ECA and BCB, Director Reeser seconds the motion.

Chair Uptmor votes yes.
Director Blackaby votes yes.
Director Mejia votes yes.
Director Reeser votes yes.

First Reading of Policies GBCBA and GBEC

Director Blackaby makes a motion to approve the first readings of policies GBCBA and GBEC. Director Mejia seconds the motion.

Chair Uptmor votes yes.
Director Blackaby votes yes.
Director Mejia votes yes.
Director Reeser votes yes.

Superintendent Retirement Notice

Chair Uptmor states that he has known Superintendent Albisu a very long time and has been doing this job for a long time. Chair Uptmor states he has always known Superintendent Albisu was the right person for this job. Director Blackaby states he joined the School Board when Superintendent Albisu stated and is very grateful to have worked with Superintendent Albisu. Superintendent Albisu reads her retirement letter to the public,

“Members of the Board of Education: After 31 rewarding years in public education—including 15 years as superintendent, and 28 dedicated years serving the Ontario School District—I am writing to share my intention to retire. My final day with the district will be Wednesday, June 30, 2027. Serving as your superintendent has been both the greatest honor and the most challenging endeavor of my professional career. With nearly three decades in Ontario, I have witnessed firsthand the resilience, dedication, and heart of our educators, support staff, administrative team, and families. If my years in administration have taught me anything, it is that leading a school system requires both heart and thick skin. Leaders feel the weight of every recommendation we make because we know there are real children, educators, and families on the receiving end. We devote endless hours collaborating and carefully weighing every detail, exhausting every avenue to protect our students' learning environment while honoring our solemn commitment to manage public funds with vision and integrity. Standing at the helm,

though, means accepting that tough calls will inevitably draw public scrutiny. It is easy to offer opinions when you aren't the one carrying the ultimate duty of care for thousands of students and staff. Authentic leadership isn't about seeking approval; it's about doing right by our kids, period.

You can be deeply compassionate, transparent, and collaborative, and still arrive at an outcome that some will challenge. That opposition isn't a mark of failure—it is simply the reality of making principled, courageous choices for the future of our schools. I want to be clear: every choice, recommendation, and action of my superintendency has been grounded in that single, unyielding commitment—putting the needs, safety, and future of our students above all else, without hesitation, compromise, or political pretense. As I prepare for this transition over the coming school year, I do so with profound gratitude and a firm belief that the Ontario School District is stronger, more cohesive, and better equipped for the future than when my journey began. Together, we have built a foundation centered on sustainable, systems-based improvements designed to give every child in our schools the opportunity to thrive. My deepest hope for the Ontario School District is that its future leadership will continue to embrace this systems-focused approach—aligning operations, culture, and instruction around long-term excellence—while never wavering from the ultimate mission of putting kids first in every room, meeting, and vote. Above all, I hope the district continues to fiercely support and empower our staff, ensuring they have the tools, trust, and resources needed to serve our students exceptionally well. Looking ahead, our schools cannot carry this vital mission in isolation. Reshaping how our district is viewed is a journey that extends far beyond the superintendent's office.

Our schools reflect the evolving story of Ontario—a community with rich diversity, unique challenges, and changing demographics that take time for everyone to navigate. Transforming perception isn't a single-person task; it occurs when citizens, leaders, and families choose to actively engage, embrace our present, and build the future of our schools together. Strong schools are the cornerstone of a thriving community. I strongly encourage our citizens, civic leaders, and local partners to rally around our public schools with renewed vision and commitment. Investing in our local education system is the single most powerful way to secure a bright, prosperous future for all of Ontario's youth. The work of education is ultimately about relationships, and what I will cherish most are the extraordinary people who make up the Ontario School District. To our school board members, teachers, classified staff, administrative team, families, and community partners: thank you for your partnership, your shared commitment to youth, and your friendship over the years. I look forward to serving throughout the remainder of the 2026–2027 school year and assisting the Board in ensuring a smooth, thoughtful, and seamless leadership transition." Director Mejia makes a motion to approve the Superintendent Retirement Notice, Director Reeser seconds the motion.

Chair Uptmor votes yes.
Director Blackaby votes yes.
Director Mejia votes yes.
Director Reeser votes yes.

Topics for Future Meetings

Superintendent Albisu states the district will start looking at the next steps for a Superintendent Search, also having Mr. Redmond from the Malheur ESD present what was shared at the OSBA training.

Adjourn

Director Reeser makes a motion to adjourn the meeting, Director Mejia seconds the motion.

Meeting Ends at 5:53 PM

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Chairman

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Clerk