

Board Finance Committee

Thursday, February 13, 2025



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>

The meeting was called to order at 1:30 p.m. on Thursday, February 13, 2025

Present: Jessica Arzate (Chair)
Renee Anderson
Danny Cage

Absent: none

Administration: Bernadette Adeniran, Director of Human Resources
Doana Anderson, Director of Business services
Sara Bottomley-Business Services Senior Program Administrator
Jamie Campos, Grants Manager
Heather Severns-Board Secretary

Guests: none

Call to Order Committee Chair Jessica Arzate called the meeting to order.

1. Review Financial Report

- a. A negative cash balance under contracted services for Fund 2 was discussed. This is due to pending reimbursements from grants and contracts (approximately \$10 million in accounts receivable as of December 31).
- b. Revenue is 6.3% above last year in State Sources. This is in large part due to timing on receipt of Student Success Act technical assistance and the shift of Rivercrest from component district funding to state funding.
- c. The State School Fund estimate for next year is still unknown, as it is expected to be released in late February or early March.

2. Budget Planning for 2025-26

- a. Current budget planning parameters are based on known expenses such as COLAs, debt service, and PERS rates.
- b. The federal funding situation remains uncertain, which could impact overall state allocations.
- c. The Governor's proposed budget includes an \$11.36 billion allocation for education, which is assumed to follow a 49-51 funding split over the biennium.

3. Impact of Special Education Funding Caps

- a. A recent OSBA article raised concerns about Special Education funding caps, which could limit districts' ability to purchase services from MESD.
- b. Districts may need to allocate additional general fund dollars to cover service costs.
- c. Smaller districts may face greater financial strain due to limited funding sources.

4. Grant Updates

- a. Introduction of New Grant Manager
 - i. Jamie Campos was introduced as the new Grant Manager. She brings extensive experience from Columbia Gorge ESD and will oversee grant management and reporting.
- b. New Grant Report Template
 - i. A new grant tracking report was presented, detailing:
 1. State, federal, and private grant funding
 2. Total grant award amounts
 3. Year-to-date spending and received funds
 4. Pending reimbursements and financial gaps
- c. The Finance Committee agreed that a quarterly grant report would be sufficient.
- d. Future large grants or funding delays may be flagged for board updates and potential advocacy efforts

5. Scholarship Fund Update

- a. The scholarship fund balance remains low, with minor increases from Bottle Drop donations.
- b. A fundraising push will take place until April to increase funds for student scholarships.
- c. Scholarship applications will open in April, with awards announced in mid-May.
- d. Board members are encouraged to promote donations and remind stakeholders about Bottle Drop contributions.

6. Next Steps & Action Items

- a. Budget Resolution Presentation: The budget planning parameters will be presented to the Board next week.
- b. Scholarship Fundraising: Jessica will announce the scholarship fundraising push at the next Board meeting.
- c. Grant Monitoring: Jamie will refine the grant tracking report for quarterly updates.
- d. Financial Monitoring: The team will continue tracking federal funding developments and state appropriations.

Meeting Adjourned.

Adjourn

There being no further discussion, the meeting was adjourned at 1:58 p.m. The next meeting of the Finance Committee will take place on Thursday, March 13 at 1:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Heather Severns
Executive Assistant/Board Secretary