

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

May 11, 2026

7:00 p.m. | District Office | 107 NW 10th Street, Pendleton, OR 97801

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

Absent: Julie Smith, Director of Special Programs (with prior notice)

The meeting was in person and offered virtually.

1. Opening and Call to Order *Board Chair*

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

2. Approve Board Agenda *Board Chair*

Director Gregg motioned to approve the May 11, 2026, Regular Board Meeting agenda. Director Lehnert seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

3. Consent Agenda *Board Chair*

3.1. Board Meeting Minutes

April 7, 2026 Work Session

April 13, 2026 Regular Board Meeting

3.2. April 30, 2026 Financial Report

Expenditures:

Expenditures for the month of April are within expectations.

Revenue:

Revenues for the month of April are within expectations.

3.3. Grants

Granting Agency	Recipient	Purpose	Amount
OSAA Foundation	PHS Track	Medicine balls for track program	\$500

A letter of appreciation will be sent to each donor.

3.4. Human Resources Report

Below is the revised HR report.

NEW HIRE	Certified	Melissa Nitz	Special Education Teacher (2026-27 SY)	MES
		Lauren Roberts	Grade 3 Teacher (2026-27 SY)	MES
		Laura Reed	Special Education Teacher (2026-27 SY)	PELC
		Keri Kunz	Math Teacher (2026-27 SY)	PHS
		Margaretta Howey	Science Teacher (2026-27 SY)	SMS
		Maggie King	Behavior Support Specialist (2026-27 SY)	PSD
	Classified	Noah Eckstine	Paraprofessional (Temporary-finish out 2025-26 SY)	PHS
		Mallory Dieu	Library/Media (2026-27 SY)	SHES
		Tonya Cortes	Bookkeeper (2026-27 SY)	SMS
CONTRACT		Bailey Sorey	Special Education Coach (.75 FTE 2026-27 SY)	PSD
EXTRA DUTY	Swim	Bethany Van Cleave	Head Coach (2026-27 SY)	PHS
	Dance	Elissa Franks	Head Coach (2026-27 SY)	PHS
	Basketball	Ryan Sams	Assistant Boys Coach (2026-27 SY)	PHS
RESIGNATION	Administration	Kevin Dinning	Director of Human Resources (Effective 6/30/2026)	PSD
	Certified	Alexis Keene	Special Education Teacher (Effective 6/8/2026)	SHES
		Dana DeCasas	Special Education Teacher (Effective 6/8/2026)	WES
		Chrissy Nelson	Special Education Teacher (Effective 6/8/2026)	WES
	Classified	Hannah Estock	Paraprofessional (Effective 4/13/2026)	PELC
		Alesha Walker	Paraprofessional (Effective 4/24/2026)	PELC
		Karli Hagebusch	Paraprofessional (Effective 6/5/2026)	PELC
		Heidi Dinning	Library/Media (Effective 6/5/2026)	WES
	Extra Duty	Rachel Burrows	Assistant Swim Coach (2026-27 SY)	PHS

Director Lehnert motioned to approve the May 11, 2026, consent agenda as presented. Director Pace seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Director Gregg appreciated and thanked Kevin Dinning for the time and effort he put into the district to support our students. It is a loss to the district. Chair Harrison appreciates his hard work and professionalism.

4. **Recognition & Good News** *Superintendent*

4.1. Teacher Appreciation Week – May 4-8, 2026

Our teachers bring diverse skill sets and exuberance. Mrs. Jensen wanted to take a second to deeply talk about the value of our teachers and the impact they have on students' lives.

The Retiree Celebration was a nice, well put together, efficient event that was inspiring.

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

5.1. Pendleton Association of Teachers *PAT Representative*

Hollie Chay did not have a report.

5.2. Oregon School Employees Association *Tammy Hillmick*

Tammy Hillmick took this last opportunity to address the Board as the OSEA President with items important to her. Tonight, she is specifically representing the paraprofessionals who work in our schools. She went into detail about the items that have been talked about all year. Safety matters. She thanked the Board for listening and appreciated their time and effort to continue the work to make our schools safer for kids and staff.

The new OSEA Executive Team for next year is:

President – Liesl Follett

Vice-President – Mary Coleman

Secretary – Aleshia Chandler

Treasurer – Yvonne Carnes

Chair Harrison thanked Tammy for her candor, the heart for her profession, and perspective.

Director DeGrofft thanked Tammy for having the courage to bring the comments forward.

5.3. PL974/Indian Education *Kendall Rosario*

No report.

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

No comments.

7. **Superintendent's Report**

District Updates:

- PHS Library – grant monies used to refresh the environment and new books.
- District Art Show – phenomenal, diverse, fantastic, creative student artwork.
- Outdoor School – 5th grade students doing traditional activities
- Annual Trips to the Coast – AP Bio Class

8. **Reports & Discussion**

8.1. Committee Updates

8.1.1. Safe Schools *Director Lehnert*

Director Lehnert shared that the Safe Schools meeting was productive, with a diverse group of people who went over the emergency response protocols and did an exercise using decision-making roles. Director Keeler appreciated the update from Officer Zaugg, our school's SRO.

8.1.2. Negotiations *Director Murphy*

Director Murphy started with the reminder that the first rule of negotiations is not to talk about negotiations. He wanted to highlight the work of Mr. Dinning in the negotiations, striking a good balance in all the parties' needs. He will definitely be missed.

8.1.3. Key Communicators *Director DeGrofft*

Director DeGrofft said the slideshow that Michelle had tonight was presented to the Key Communicators. A question posed to the group has positive feedback about the district.

8.2. Special Education Report Card *Matt Yoshioka*

The Special Education Report Card was released to the public on May 7, 2026. It will be posted on the PSD website. Matt Yoshioka provided an overview of key elements, thresholds, and protocols followed in the flagged areas. He was available to answer questions from the Board.

9. Board Business – Action Items

9.1. Human Resources *Kevin Dinning*

9.1.1. Approve Oregon Schools Employee Collective Bargaining Agreement 2026-2029

The proposed agreement is the result of collaborative and good-faith negotiations aimed at maintaining competitive compensation for our classified staff while ensuring the long-term fiscal stability of the District. It covers a three-year term, effective July 1, 2026, through June 30, 2029.

Director Gregg moved that the Board of Directors approve the 2026-2029 Collective Bargaining Agreement between the Pendleton School District 16R and OSEA Chapter 115 as presented. Director Pace seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

9.2. Business Services *Michelle Jones*

9.2.1. Approve Audit Services Proposal 2027-2031

The current audit services proposal with Cockburn & McClintock, LLC, expires with the audit of the 2025-26 school year. The new proposal to continue to provide audit services to the District through the 2030-31 school year audit outlines a 0% increase for year one and a 3% increase for each year after, which is in line with prior agreements.

Director Pace moved that the proposal from Cockburn and McClintock, LLC, for audit services be approved as presented. Director Murphy seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

9.2.2. Approve Healthy and Safe Schools (HASS) Plan Annual Statement

In 2017, the legislature passed SB 1062, which required that every school district, ESD, and public charter school develop a Healthy and Safe Schools Plan (HASS Plan). The original plans were drafted and approved by ODE in September of 2017. Due to additional requirements since the passage of SB 1062, each district was required to update its plan (PSD Board approved on May 13, 2019) and obtain board approval prior to July 1, 2019. Beginning SY 2019-20, each district is required to provide an annual statement to the governing body and parents/students certifying that the district plan is current and that we are in compliance with all plan requirements.

Director Pace moved to approve the Healthy and Safe Schools Annual Statement as presented. Director Gregg seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

9.3. Director of Curriculum, Instruction, and Assessment *Matt Yoshioka*

9.3.1. Approve Curriculum Adoption

Each adoption cycle, the Oregon Department of Education accepts programs from curriculum companies for consideration for the ODE approved list of curriculums that school districts may choose from. Teacher committees met this school year to review the approved ODE programs and make their recommendations as to which programs they would like to adopt. The recommendations come directly from the teacher committees.

Grade K: No adoption at this time. State standards around Social Sciences at the kindergarten level are met through the health curriculum, social lessons from teachers, and other lessons taught by the Child

Development Specialist. Social Sciences are taught through cross curricular means via reading, art, science, and math lessons.

Grades 1-5: **Social Studies Essentials by Discovery Education** (not on ODE approved list of approved programs. Company never submitted their program for consideration. This would be an independent adoption).

Grades 6-8: **myWorld Interactive by SAVVAS** (on ODE approved list of programs that “Meet” all requirements)

Grades 9-12: **Oregon Civics by McGraw Hill** (on ODE approved list of programs that “Meet” all requirements)

*No adoption for US History or World History. Teachers will continue to use the previous adoption from 2019 from McGraw-Hill, which is one of the ODE approved list of programs.

Director Gregg moved that the Social Sciences curriculum adoption recommendation for the 2026-2033 school years be approved as presented. Director Pace seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

9.4. **Board** *Board Chair*

9.4.1. **Board Officer Nominating Committee**

Every year, the outgoing Board Chair nominates one or two people from the school board to act as the nominating committee. In June, the nominating committee brings forth the names of the incoming Board Chair and incoming Vice-Chair who are best suited to run and who agree to run for those officer positions. The vote goes before the Board at the July regular board meeting.

Chair Harrison moved that Ryan Lehnert be appointed to the board officer nominating committee. Director Gregg seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

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

Director Lehnert appreciated the job Kevin Dinning has done and thanked him for his service.

Chair Harrison wished Kevin Dinning and his family well and will be missed. The Crystal Apple awards were inspiring.

11. **Adjournment** *Board Chair*

With no further business brought forward for the good of the order, the meeting adjourned at 7:37 p.m.

Beth Harrison, Board Chair

Michelle Jensen, PhD, Superintendent

Ronda Thornburg, Executive Secretary

Date