

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

December 8, 2025

6:00 p.m. | Washington Elementary School | 1205 SE Byers Ave, Pendleton, OR 97801

Present: Beth Harrison, Board Chair
Ryan Lehnert
Jill Pace
Ryan DeGrofft
Mason Murphy
Anne Keeler, Vice Chair
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
Julie Smith, Director of Special Programs

Absent:

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 December 8, 2025 Regular Board Meeting agenda. Director Lehnert seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

3. Consent Agenda *Board Chair*

3.1. Board Meeting Minutes

November 4, 2025 Work Session

November 10, 2025 Regular Board Meeting

3.2. November 30, 2025 Financial Report

Expenditures:

Overall, expenditures for the month of November are consistent with budgeted expectations. Repair and maintenance costs this month primarily reflect boiler preventative maintenance and related repairs at McKay, Sunridge, and Pendleton High School. Within Curriculum/Nonconsumables, the notable expense was the purchase of the K–8 health curriculum, which was ordered earlier in the year but received after the start of school. Capital Improvements/Equipment expenditures include progressive billing for the heat pump

replacement project at Pendleton High School, as well as continued HVAC work at the Pendleton Early Learning Center.

Revenue:

Overall, revenues for the month of November are consistent with budgeted expectations. The PL 874 – Impact Aid revenue, which is typically received in December, was received earlier than expected this fiscal year.

3.3. Grants

Granting Agency	Recipient	Purpose	Amount
Buck Boosters	PHS Athletic Department	Avantco 30 Hotdog Roller with Canopy and Cabinet	\$499.99
	PHS/Swim Team	Speedo Warmup Jackets	\$2,720.00
	PHS Athletic Department	Muller Therm-X Cold & Compression Therapy Unit	\$10,063.00
Pendleton Wrestling Club	PHS/Girls Wrestling	Program assistance and travel gear	\$3,500.00
YouthLine	SMS/Rick Scheibner	Suicide Prevention and Wellness	\$1,000.00

A letter of appreciation will be sent to each donor.

3.4. Human Resources Report

NEW HIRE	Classified	Andrea Park	Library/Media	PHS
	Certified	Meagan Sims	Temp Special Education Teacher (25-26 SY)	ME
RETIREMENT	Classified	Tammy Hillmick	Paraprofessional	SHE
		(Effective 6/5/2026)		
		Teresa Bermel	Paraprofessional	HAHS
		(Effective 6/5/2026)		
RESIGNATION	Certified	Deena Nelson	Life Skills/Special Education Teacher	SMS
		(Effective 6/8/2026)		
EXTRA DUTY	Wrestling	Jacob Hales	Assistant Coach	PHS
	Leadership	Laurie Cameron	Advisor (12/1/25 - 6/8/2025)	SMS

Director Pace motioned to approve the December 8, 2025, consent agenda as presented. Director Gregg seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

4. Recognition & Good News *Superintendent*

4.1. Native American Student Recognition *Principals*

Native American students were recognized by their Principals based on the criteria set by each school. Students recognized tonight are:

Pendleton Early Learning Center – Lael Moses, Henry Corona

McKay Creek Elementary School – AuryAunna Shining Star

Sherwood Heights Elementary School – Jones Parsons, Samuel Arthur

Washington Elementary School – Kinley Jackson, Kezbah Wildbill, Braelyn Thornton, Rylee Broncheau, Darryl Joe McKay

Sunridge Middle School – Jesse Bevis, Wyatt Tallek Palek, Dazha Joseph

Pendleton High School – Kamia Dick, Ella Lamere

Nixyaawii Community School – Sophie Wilson, Nevaeh Moore

Congratulations, students!

4.2. FFA Student Presentation *Marty Campbell*

Calli Sovince, Gage Olson, and Cade Buchert, with other students and their advisors, attended the National FFA Convention, October 29 – November 1, 2025, in Indianapolis, Indiana. They shared their experiences, including Churchill Downs, Elanco Animal Health, and the National FFA Headquarters. Congratulations to Alison Spratling, Kelli Nelson, and Cray Campbell for being awarded the American FFA Degree, the highest degree possible in the FFA organization. The Convention provided opportunities to meet industry professionals, colleagues, and their representatives, as well as representatives from many different businesses, to discuss career opportunities.

5. Board Communications *Board Chair*

5.1. Pendleton Association of Teachers *PAT Representative*

Sally Ladd did not have a report.

5.2. Oregon School Employees Association *Tammy Hillmick*

Susan Caldwell did not have a report.

5.3. PL974/Indian Education *Kendall Rosario*

No report.

6. Public Comment *Board Chair*

No comments.

7. Superintendent's Report

Goal #1 – Pursuit of Instructional Excellence

System Alignment in Action: Attendance Teams, MTSS Team Meetings, Freshman on Track, and Grade-Level Collaborative Teams (PHS). What does this look like? Educators reviewing student data, adjusting instruction in real time, and targeting interventions based on need. Why does this matter? Provides consistent structures, shared ownership for student outcomes, and timely, responsive supports for students.

Goal #2 – Be Responsive to the Needs of All Students

A districtwide collaborative SEL/Behavior team is relaunched with 40(ish) educators engaging in system alignment with shared language and establishing norms for clarified tiered supports. It matters for consistent practices across all schools, clear pathways of support, and stronger adult collaboration = better student outcomes.

Oregon Department of Education Feedback to the Pendleton School District: “Your outcomes for Native students remain a model across Oregon – academically, culturally, and relationally. The care your staff show up with in classrooms and community spaces is visible, reciprocal, and deeply human. Thank you for showing what TAPP can look like when systems honor sovereignty, community language, and joy.”

8. Reports & Discussion

8.1. Nixyaawii Community School Report *Ryan Heinrich*

Principal Heinrich gave the annual report from NCS. The NCS staff's focus for 2025-26 includes building relationships, weekly positive parent communication, implementing new cell phone policies, freshman on track and regular attenders, and using IXL for student growth data and skill-building. He reviewed graduation rates, current enrollment, cultural activities, community outreach, extended summer learning, and college and career readiness. The Drumming and Dancing performances in November were held at all schools in Pendleton, Pilot Rock, and Athena.

8.2. Curriculum Adoption Plan & Process *Matt Yoshioka*

The state of Oregon requires districts to review, officially adopt, and potentially purchase new curriculum every 7 years. This year is an adoption year for social studies in the Pendleton School District. Mr. Yoshioka explained the process at the state and district levels and answered questions from the board.

9. Board Business – Action Items

9.1. Business Services *Michelle Jones*

9.1.1. Approve Budget Committee Member Appointment/Renewals

The budget committee is comprised of seven board members and seven community members. Michelle Jones recommends that Lynn Lieuallen (Position 7) be appointed and that Lloyd Commander (Position 3) be reappointed to serve on the school district budget committee with terms to expire June 2028.

Director Murphy moved that Lynn Lieuallen (Position 7) be appointed and that Lloyd Commander (Position 3) be reappointed to serve on the school district budget committee with terms to expire as presented. Director Gregg seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

9.1.2. Approve 2026-27 Budget Calendar

Director Pace moved that the following Budget committee Calendar for the 2026-27 school year be approved as presented. Director Gregg seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

BUDGET CALENDAR SCHEDULE 2026-2027

December 8, 2025	REGULAR BOARD MEETING: Approve 2025-2026 budget calendar for 2026-2027 School Year.
January 12, 2026	REGULAR BOARD MEETING
February 9, 2026	REGULAR BOARD MEETING
March 9, 2026	REGULAR BOARD MEETING
March 15, 2026	Deadline for written notice of contract extension to teachers and administrators.
April 13, 2026	REGULAR BOARD MEETING
April 27, 2026	Deliver First Budget Committee Meeting Notice to Local Paper
April 29, 2026	Publish NOTICE OF FIRST MEETING OF THE BUDGET COMMITTEE in local newspaper of general circulation in the District and on the District's Website
May 11, 2026	REGULAR BOARD MEETING
May 21, 2026	BUDGET COMMITTEE MEETING: Presentation of budget message by Superintendent of Schools and delivery of budget document. Election of officers and scheduling of future budget meetings.
May 25, 2026	BUDGET COMMITTEE WORK SESSION (IF SCHEDULED)
May 26, 2026	BUDGET COMMITTEE WORK SESSION (IF SCHEDULED)
May 26, 2026	Delivery of Budget Hearing Notices to East Oregonian
May 27, 2026	Publication of NOTICE OF BUDGET HEARING (ED-1) not more than 30 days, not less than 5 days prior to hearing.
June 8, 2026	REGULAR BOARD MEETING
June 8, 2026	SPECIAL BOARD MEETING – Public Hearing: Meeting to enact resolutions adopting the budget, making appropriations and declare the tax levy. Any fund may be increased up to 10 percent provided the tax levy as published is not increased.
July 13, 2026	REGULAR BOARD MEETING
July 15, 2026	Deadline to certify the tax levy to the county assessor or request an extension.

9.1.3. **Approve 2025-27 Student Investment Account Grant Agreement**

The Student Success Act – Student Investment Account (SIA) grant agreement, which includes the District’s Longitudinal Performance Growth Targets (LPGTs), is required by the Oregon Department of Education to be presented and approved by the School Board biennially. This document will also be available on the district webpage and at the district office. The grant amount for 2025-27 will be \$5,788,822.19 and is used to support class size reduction K-3, elementary behavior support specialists, a heritage language teacher, elementary & secondary special education teachers, middle school counselor & Dean of Students, an online learning coordinator, paraprofessionals (ESL, online, and general classroom). The funds are also used to contract with BMCC for the Next Step Navigator and the Pendleton Police Department for the School Resource Officer.

Director Murphy moved that the SIA Grant Agreement No. 39272 be approved as presented. Director Gregg seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

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

Chair Harrison expressed appreciation for all the work to get set up in a different space to hold the board meeting. She recognizes that, with a new superintendent and board members, there have been a lot of questions and asks, and appreciates all the hard work and expertise of the Cabinet and District Office staff keeping the district moving forward.

11. **Adjournment** *Board Chair*

With no further business brought forward for the good of the order, the meeting adjourned at 7:18 p.m.

Beth Harrison, Board Chair

Michelle Jensen, PhD, Superintendent

Ronda Thornburg, Executive Secretary

Date