

Board Finance Committee

Thursday, May 8, 2025



2023-2028 Agency Goals

- #1 – Creating a high-quality learning experience for all
- #2 – Operationalizing systems that engage and empower communities
- #3 – Building a culturally responsive workforce

MESD Board Equity Lens-<https://www.multnomahesd.org/board-equity.html>

The meeting was called to order at 12:04 p.m. on Thursday, May 8, 2025.

1. CALL TO ORDER

Present: Renee Anderson- Chair
Jessica Arzate- Vice Chair
Danny Cage

Absent: Dr. Paul Coakley- Superintendent
Doana Anderson- Chief Financial Officer

Administration: Sara Bottomley- Senior Program Administrator
Jamie Campos- Grant Manager
Nicole Jackson- Subbing in for the Board Secretary

Guests: None

1. **Call to Order-** Board Vice Chair Jessica Arzate called the meeting to order.
2. **Review Financial Report-** Board Chair Renee Anderson raised a concern about the potential impact of upcoming staffing reductions on student access to services. Sara Bottomley noted that the quarterly financial report will be sent out soon. Director Danny Cage inquired about the status of the technical energy audit, asking whether it had been completed. In response, Jamie Campos explained that two sites had been completed so far, with one remaining site still pending. Director Cage followed up by asking if the audit covered all buildings or only specific ones. Jamie clarified that the audit was limited to schools with students located in the Portland region.
3. **Scholarship-** Vice Chair Arzate proposed that the available scholarship funds be distributed equally among the twelve applicants. Board Chair Anderson, who had scored the applications, offered that scholarship amounts could be weighted based on each student's chosen educational pathway, suggesting that students pursuing traditional college degrees might merit more funding than those enrolling in trade schools. Following a thoughtful discussion, the committee reached a consensus to distribute the funds equally, with each applicant receiving \$400. The group also agreed on the importance of strengthening future scholarship efforts, setting a goal to double the total scholarship pool. The committee agreed

to revisit the topic during the upcoming board retreat to refine the approach and develop soft criteria that reflect the diverse needs and goals of applicants.

4. Adjourn

There being no further discussion, the meeting was adjourned at 12:42 p.m. The next meeting of the Finance Committee will take place on Thursday, June 12, at 2:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Heather Severns

Executive Assistant/Board Secretary