



Regular Meeting of the Board of Education

Thursday, December 19, 2024 5:30 PM

Oakdale Middle School Room 230
815 S. Oakdale Ave.
Medford, OR 97501

Michelle Atkinson: Present
Lilia Caballero: Present
Kendell Ferguson: Present
Jeff Kinsella: Present
Suzanne Messer: Present
Michael Williams: Present
Cynthia Wright: Present

A video recording of the Board meeting can be found on the district website at [this link](#). The slide presentation can be viewed by clicking on Extras listed next to the meeting at [this link](#).

1. Call to Order / Pledge of Allegiance / Roll Call

Board Chair Cynthia Wright called the meeting to order at 5:30 PM and led the Pledge of Allegiance. Roll was called.

Chair Wright welcomed the public, stated the district's vision statement, and read the public meeting civility standards for Medford School District (MSD) Board meetings.

2. Agenda Adjustments and Approval

MOTION: I move that we move our January 16th meeting to January 23rd. This motion, made by Suzanne Messer and seconded by Lilia Caballero, Passed.

Roll call vote:

**Kinsella: Yea, Caballero: Yea, Messer: Yea, Atkinson: Yea, Ferguson: Yea,
Wright: Yea, Williams: Absent**

Yea: 6, Nay: 0, Absent: 1

Motion carried.

Hearing no objections, the agenda was approved by unanimous consent.

3. Citizen Comments

Chair Wright shared the citizen comment guidelines. The following patrons came forward to speak.

Board Director Michael Williams arrived at 5:34 PM, during the guideline instructions for citizen comments.

Penny Blaisdell/Patron/Shared disappointment with local media coverage of recent Board events and expressed support for Superintendent Bret Champion.

Nathanael Swan/Parent/Expressed dissatisfaction with current Board events and actions. He was asked to end his comments after mentioning an employee by name on multiple occasions.

Paul Cynar/MEA Grievance Chair/Spoke regarding numerous grievances and provided detailed examples.

Kari Hensen/ Teacher/Completed Cynar's citizen comment regarding grievances, and noted the statement would serve as the official written Oregon Government Ethics Commission grievance in compliance with HB2805.

Lisa North/Teacher/Spoke regarding dissatisfaction with lack of coherency, trust, safety, and an unhealthy culture.

Chair Wright acknowledged receipt of a written comment from patron Taryne Saunders and thanked everyone who participated in citizen comments.

4. Items for Information & Discussion / Board Action Items

4.a. Potential K-5 Pilot Program of Choice - 2025-26 School Year

Deputy Superintendent Jeanne Grazioli presented a potential pilot program of choice, partnering with home school families to provide instructional materials and access to extracurricular courses and activities. She went on to explain that students would be enrolled with the Medford School District; access to learning support would be provided; and the program would be co-located at an existing school site (to be determined).

Board Directors put forth questions and comments regarding the number of anticipated students; weekly or daily check-ins; current data on when homeschool students typically enter public school and where they are academically; and researching existing models.

4.b. Math Instructional Materials Adoption

MOTION: I move to approve the K-12 Math Instructional Materials as presented. This motion, made by Michelle Atkinson and seconded by Suzanne Messer, Passed.

Discussion: Board Directors expressed an interest in having a deeper discussion on math including culture, test scores, and encouraging teacher and community support. A suggestion was made to also include an emphasis on English Language Arts.

Roll call vote:

Messer: Yea, Caballero: Yea, Atkinson: Yea, Ferguson: Yea, Kinsella: Yea, Williams: Yea, Wright: Yea

Yea: 7, Nay: 0

Motion carried unanimously.

4.c. Cell Phone Policy Revision(s) / JFCEB Student Use of Personal Electronic Devices and Social Media

Grazioli shared she spent time talking with secondary principals, the student leadership groups, and the Medford Education Association leadership regarding the proposed revisions to the policy. She reminded the Board that the revisions would not impact elementary and middle schools. Grazioli went on to share that high school principals suggested implementing the policy revisions beginning next school year to allow time to update student handbooks and reteach students the new rules regarding electronic device use before enforcement. She directed attention to the proposed revisions.

Board Directors put forth questions and comments regarding the timing of the policy change (beginning of 2025-26 school year); student access to cell phones for medical needs; grade specific or K-12; student access to cell phones if curriculum requires it; and Chromebooks provided by district.

It was determined the revisions would move forward with a second reading of the policy at the January 23 Board meeting.

4.d. 2025-26 School Year Calendar Proposal

Grazioli directed attention to the proposed 2025-26 school year calendar, noting it was similar to the current calendar with the exception of shifting the staff inservice week to Monday through Thursday instead of Tuesday through Friday. A request was made to include the Board meeting dates on the calendar.

4.e. Budget Committee Applications and Next Steps

Board Chair Wright acknowledged receipt of three applications for the three vacancies on the committee and suggested the Board appoint the applicants at the January Board meeting. Board Directors were in agreement.

4.f. School Board Policies - *second reading*

MOTION: I move to approve the December 19th policy packet with the removal of EBBA, EBBA-AR, EBBAA, and EBBB. This motion made by Kendell Ferguson and seconded by Michael Williams, passed.

Roll call vote:

Atkinson: Yea, Messer: Yea, Kinsella: Yea, Williams: Yea, Caballero: Yea, Ferguson: Yea, Wright: Yea,

Yea: 7, Nay: 0

Motion carried unanimously.

4.g. Board Resolution: August 2024 Complaint against Board Member

Chair Wright reminded the Board they approved a list of restrictions for Board Member Michael Williams following the results of the investigation report which they adopted at the December 5 meeting. She also noted at that meeting she requested that legal counsel draft a formal resolution incorporating the restrictions to present at the next Board meeting for adoption. Chair Wright read the resolution.

Board Directors put forth questions and comments regarding pocket knife exclusions/ORS 166.360 definition, and if there was any communication from Board Directors Williams' legal representation.

MOTION: I move that we adopt the Resolution with the following change - revise paragraph 5(B)(iii) to read Board Director Williams' participation in school visits, in-person attendance at Board meetings, or any other school district function that the entire board has been invited to participate in, and parent visits are conditional upon his compliance with the same District safety policies that apply to other members of the public entering MSD property, including not carrying any weapons, including but not limited to a knife, as defined in ORS 166.360(10), on his person. Law enforcement will be contacted as a result of any violation of this directive. This motion, made by Kendell Ferguson and seconded by Suzanne Messer, Passed.

Discussion: A request was made to hear from Board Member Williams. Williams responded that he disagreed with the premise of the complaint, the behavior of the administration, and the bias determination of the investigator.

Roll call vote:

**Messer: Yea, Caballero: Yea, Kinsella: Yea, Atkinson: Yea, Ferguson: Yea,
Williams: Nay; Wright: Yea**

Yea: 6, Nay: 1

Motion carried.

5. Consent Agenda

5.a. Staff Assignment Report

5.b. Minutes from previous meeting

Hearing no objections, the consent agenda was approved by unanimous consent.

6. Announcements

6.a. December 23 - January 3 - Winter Break - District Closed

6.b. January 6 - OSBA Southern Region 2025 Legislator's Reception - Phoenix High School at 6:30 PM

6.c. January 16 - Board Meeting at Oakdale Middle School - 5:30 PM

Chair Wright acknowledged the winter break, January 6 OSBA regional meeting, and the next Board meeting rescheduled for January 23.

7. Adjournment

There being no further business before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 6:35 PM.

Chair of the District School Board
Medford School District

ATTEST:

Superintendent-Clerk