



Work Session of the Board of Education

Thursday, February 5, 2026 6:00 PM

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

Board members present: Lilia Caballero, Kendell Ferguson, Erik Johnsen, Sandra LaNier McHenry, Sunny Spicer, Michael Williams, and Angela Zbikowski

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 Kendell Ferguson called the meeting to order at 6:07 PM, led the Pledge of Allegiance, and confirmed a quorum through roll call. She welcomed attendees and read the district's vision statement.

2. Agenda Adjustments and Approval

No objections were raised. The agenda was approved by unanimous consent.

3. Recognitions

3.a. Launching Medford School District (MSD) Motivators

Community Engagement/Communications & Partnerships Director, Marisa Poling presented details of a new recognition program designed to highlight staff members who exemplify a motivator mentality through their actions and ability to inspire others. She introduced two key nomination categories: "Mountain Mover" and "Magic Maker." Additionally, the program will recognize staff for milestone achievements, honoring individuals for their years of service with MSD.

4. Work Session Items

4.a. North Medford High School Gymnasium Update

Assistant Superintendent of Operations Brad Earl provided an update on the North Medford High School gymnasium rebuild, reporting that work crews are onsite completing additional shoring and demolition and that the insurance company had approved the final reconstruction plan. He shared photos and a 3D rendering of the

completed gymnasium and thanked the engineers, designers, construction teams, insurance representatives, the City of Medford, school administrators, and the district facilities manager for their collaboration.

Earl also provided an update on the field house noting that the Black Tornado Booster Club has raised funds to upgrade equipment and install artificial turf on a portion of the floor.

Board Directors asked questions and shared comments regarding the projected completion timeline, community concerns related to the roof design and the importance of ongoing communication with families regarding project progress and next steps.

4.b. Board Priority: Financial Stewardship - Fiscal Stability Study Group Update

Assistant Superintendent of Operations Brad Earl provided an update on the state funding forecast, noting that it remains favorable and expressed hope that the Legislature will not make reductions to the current school year budget. He also provided an update on the work of the Fiscal Stability Study Group, which has met twice to date. The first meeting focused on the fiscal outlook and state funding, and the second addressed enrollment forecasts and trends. Earl shared that the group's next meeting will examine building trends with input from the City Planning Department, and that the final meeting will focus on long-range facilities pre-planning to guide district needs over the next 20 years.

4.c. Recess

The Board opted not to take a recess at this time.

4.d. Board Priority: Curriculum Optimization — K-8 Mid-year Assessment Update

Director of Literacy, Curriculum & Assessment Megan Young and Executive Directors of Teaching & Learning Kirk Kolb and Jennie Snow presented a mid-year K-8 update on i-Ready assessment data in reading and mathematics. They reviewed how i-Ready data is used as a mid-year checkpoint to monitor student progress toward end-of-year expectations and to inform instructional planning, intervention, and resource allocation at multiple levels across the district.

Staff shared districtwide trends in reading and math performance from fall to winter, including comparisons to prior years, and discussed student progress toward typical and stretch growth targets. They also addressed how current performance data align with anticipated outcomes on state ELA and math assessments.

The presentation concluded with an overview of next steps, emphasizing continued focus on strengthening core instruction, refining targeted interventions, supporting student growth across all performance levels, and maintaining alignment with the district's curriculum optimization priorities for ELA and mathematics.

Board Directors asked questions regarding the interpretation and use of i-Ready assessment data, including alignment between Oregon standards and national benchmarks, future use of the data under new state accountability requirements, assessment participation rates, and timelines for administration and feedback to school teams. Directors also inquired about instructional capacity and supports, including teacher autonomy and workload, the scope and staffing of Additional Targeted Instruction (ATI) groups across grade levels, access to math instruction and intervention, and the district's ability to monitor individual student progress or regression.

Additional questions addressed relationships between attendance and student performance, factors affecting results in prior years, partnerships to support literacy such as summer reading opportunities, requirements related to assessment participation for students who opt out of state testing, and how and when assessment results are communicated to families.

4.e. Southern Oregon Education Service District (SOESD) Local Service Plan Review

Chair Ferguson opened the item for questions, noting the Local Service Plan will be on the February 19 Board meeting agenda for approval. Board Directors inquired about SOESD data on students educated outside the system, including those who enter fourth grade behind, and about any significant changes in ESD services for the next school year. Discussion included tracking homeschooled students and the use of U.S. Census data as a snapshot of eligible students within district boundaries.

5. Consent Agenda

Hearing none, the consent agenda was approved by unanimous consent.

6. Announcements

Chair Ferguson provided an update on the superintendent search process that included finalist interviews scheduled for February 9 and 10, with a potential decision announced at the next Board meeting scheduled for February 19.

7. Adjournment

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 7:29 PM.