



**Multnomah ESD Board of Directors'
Board Special Session Minutes
Tuesday, February 4, 2025**

2022-2028

Areas of Focus

- #1 – Create a high quality learning environment for all
- #2 – Operationalizing systems that engage and empower communities
- #3 – Build a culturally responsive workforce

[MESD Board Equity Lens](#)

1. CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL

Board Chair Renee Anderson called the meeting to order at 6:04 p.m. on Tuesday, February 4, 2025 in accordance with the agenda and Public notice of the meeting.

Board Members Present: Renee Anderson
Jessica Arzate
Danny Cage
Katrina Doughty
Denyse Peterson
Helen Ying

Board Members Absent: None

Administrative Staff Present: Dr. Paul Coakley, Superintendent
Bernadette Adeniran, Director of Human Resources
Doana Anderson, Director of Business Services
Sascha Perrins, Assistant Superintendent
Heather Severns, Executive Assistant/Board Secretary

Guests: 6:05 p.m. Ashley Mitchell
6:50 p.m. Susie Jones
7:35 p.m. Amanda Squiemphen-Yazzie



2. BOARD VACANCY INTERVIEWS

a. Candidate interviews for the Board Zone 5, Position 1 Vacancy

- i. The Board conducted interviews for the vacant Board seat. Three candidates were interviewed.
 1. Ashley Mitchell
 2. Susie Jones
 3. Amanda Squiemphen-Yazzie
- ii. Candidate Introductions & Opening Statements
 1. Each candidate was given three minutes for an opening statement to express their interest and qualifications for the board position.
- iii. **Interview Questions & Candidate Responses**
 1. Candidates were asked a series of standardized questions by the MESD Board, including:
 - a. **Renee Anderson**-Please tell us why you are interested in serving on the board and where do you think your strengths and weaknesses fit in with the current board?
 - b. **Jessica Arzate**-What is your definition of equity in the school district, and what would you do to improve equity in the district? How do you believe a school board member can be most effective in making long-lasting, substantial, positive changes for students that are rooted in equity?
 - c. **Danny Cage**-What are the three most important challenges that face the district, and how would you address them?
 - d. **Katrina Doughty**-How will you help this board and this district close the opportunity gap? What are the factors on which you will base your decisions as a school board member?
 - e. **Denyse Peterson**-Why do you believe you are the best applicant for this position? Are you interested in the position only until the end of the interim term (June 30, 2025) or do you plan to run for election to complete a full term (through June 30, 2029)?



- f. **Helen Ying**-Effective board members must engage in a variety of relationships; for example, with the superintendent, staff, other board members, parents, and the community. How do you perceive a board member's relationship with each of these?

3. ACTION ITEMS

a. Action Agenda

- i. Appointment of a candidate to fill the MESD Zone 5, Position 1 Board vacancy.

Motion: Director Katrina Doughty moved to nominate Amanda Squiemphen-Yazzie to be appointed to the MESD Board Zone 5, Position 1 vacancy.

Director Renee Anderson seconded the motion.

Discussion: The board discussed the candidates and their qualifications.

Action: The motion carried with Directors Anderson, Arzate, Cage, Doughty, and Ying voting aye. Motion passed 5-0. Director Peterson abstained from the vote.

4. NEXT STEPS

- a. The Board Chair, Renee Anderson and Board Secretary, Heather Severns, will notify Amanda Squiemphen-Yazzie of her selection and complete the necessary onboarding process.
- b. Board Vice-Chair, Jessica Arzate, will craft an email to send to the other two candidates to thank them for their interest and participating in the interviews. She will also let them know that there are two positions they may apply to run for in May. They may register with the Multnomah County Elections Office beginning February 10, 2025.

5. ADJOURNMENT