

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

April 13, 2026
6:00 p.m. | District Office | 107 NW 10th Street, Pendleton, OR 97801

Present: Beth Harrison, Board Chair
Ryan Lehnert
Jill Pace
Ryan DeGrofft
Mason Murphy
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

Absent: Anne Keeler, Vice Chair (with prior notice)
Julie Smith, Director of Special Programs (with prior notice)

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 April 13, 2026, Regular Board Meeting agenda. Director Murphy seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

3. Consent Agenda *Board Chair*

3.1. Board Meeting Minutes

March 3, 2026 Work Session

March 9, 2026 Regular Board Meeting

3.2. March 31, 2026 Financial Report

Expenditures:

Expenditures for March are within expectations. Equipment purchases for this month included the replacement of the video surveillance server and the virtual host server that is responsible for running the majority of the school's digital systems.

Revenue:

Revenues for March are within expectations. March revenues included the final fiscal year payment for our federal PL 874 Impact Aid funds.

3.3. Grants

Granting Agency	Recipient	Purpose	Amount
Susan Fisher-Alexander Pendleton AAUW STEM	PELC	Live Butterflies + Enclosure for Class	\$350
AAUW of Oregon Special Projects Fund	PHS Robotics	Program Donation	\$1,000
Pendleton FFA Alumni & Friends Association	FFA Land Lab	Barn Project	\$8,640

A letter of appreciation will be sent to each donor.

3.4. Human Resources Report

NEW HIRE	Certified	Sara McCormack	Special Education Teacher (2026-27 SY)	SMS
		Brianna Kohr	Special Education Teacher (2026-27 SY)	SHES
		Carlos Quiroz	Spanish Teacher (2026-27 SY)	PHS
	Classified	Angel Castro	Evening Custodian	PHS
		Jenna Bennett	Paraprofessional (Temporary-finish out 2025-26 SY)	PELC
RESIGNATION	Certified	Cambree Shields	Grade 1 Teacher	SHES
		Kearsten Conner	Grade 1 Teacher	WES
	Classified	Jami Niord	Paraprofessional	PELC
		Adrienne Espinosa	Paraprofessional	SHES
	Extra Duty	Fred Phillips	Head Girls Wrestling Coach	PHS
		Rick Kelm	Boys Basketball Coach	PHS
		Tony Nelson	Head Swimming Coach	PHS
		Debbie Kishpaugh	Head Dance Coach	PHS
OUTDOOR SCHOOL		John Summerfield	ODS Coordinator	District
		Katie Groshong	ODS Coordinator	MES
		Hayleigh Botkin	ODS Teacher	MES
		Jacey Wilson	ODS Teacher	SHES
		Tabitha Kopf	ODS Teacher	SHES
		Natalie Crowder	ODS Teacher	SHES
		Kyler Lunny	ODS Teacher	SHES
		Jen DeGrofft	ODS Teacher	WES
		Enes Kaplanovic	ODS Teacher	WES
		Brittney Mustoe	ODS Teacher	WES
	Bridget Schultz	ODS Teacher	WES	
EXTRA DUTY	Baseball	Travis Zander	Assistant Varsity Coach	PHS
	Volleyball	Bailey Wienke	Assistant Coach	PHS
VOLUNTEER	Golf	Bryan Clark	Assistant Coach	PHS
	Soccer	Luis Rendon	Girls Coach	PHS
	Tennis	Cary Ford	Coach	SMS
		Lisa Ward	Coach	SMS

Director Murphy motioned to approve the April 13, 2026, consent agenda as presented. Director Lehnert seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Director Gregg noted that the grants show the community's care for our students.

4. **Recognition & Good News** *Superintendent*

The PELC students have an annual salmon experience where they learn about life cycles, Umatilla language vocabulary, and Indigenous history as it relates to the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation. The experience includes a field trip to the CTUIR Fisheries.

4.1. **Career & College (ASPIRE)**

Jill Gregg, ASPIRE, and Mandy Oyama, the Next Step Navigator with Blue Mountain Community College, have hearts for helping students with comprehensive post-secondary planning support.

4.2. **Administrative Professionals Day – April 22, 2026**

Honoring Administrative Professionals who are the first welcome, the steady presence, and the organizational backbone of their buildings.

5. **Board Communications** *Board Chair*

5.1. **Pendleton Foundation Trust** *Marie Hall, Tiffany Heggerty*

The Pendleton Foundation Trust (PFT) is Oregon's oldest community foundation, established in 1928. They have been investing in the Pendleton community for nearly a century. Built on the vision of creating a lasting impact in Pendleton, the Foundation invests donor gifts and distributes earnings to benefit citizens and organizations in the community. Since 1939, PFT has invested \$1M+ in the Pendleton School District 16R. \$392K+ scholarships awarded to PHS students since 1995. Their assets are just under \$9M and growing.

The board thanked them for all the investments in the community and schools.

5.2. **Pendleton Association of Teachers** *PAT Representative*

Andrea Paulsen did not have a report.

5.3. **Oregon School Employees Association** *Tammy Hillmick*

No report.

5.4. **PL974/Indian Education** *Kendall Rosario*

No report.

6. **Public Comment** *Board Chair*

No comments.

7. **Superintendent's Report**

The 2026 OSBA/COSA Legislative Report describes the bills enacted during the 2026 regular session of the 83rd Oregon legislative Assembly that affect Oregon students, educators, and public schools. It was a 35-day short session from February 2 to March 6, 2026. Michelle Jensen highlighted the budget "wins" and ongoing risks, new compliance with immigration and safety, and then operations and governance. She wrapped up with interim work, key issues to watch, and a call to action.

8. **Reports & Discussion**

8.1. **Budget Update** *Michelle Jones*

Michelle Jones shared that the budget is being built on the \$11.36 billion state school fund. The estimate takes into account declining enrollment, reviewing staffing, the PERS impact in the future, Title allocations, and grants as some of the major portions to be presented at the Budget Meeting in May.

9. Board Business – Action Items

9.1. Superintendent *Michelle Jensen*

9.1.1. Approve May 11, 2026 Regular Board Meeting Time Change

The Umatilla and Morrow Counties Crystal Apple Awards Ceremony is held in Pendleton each year in May. This ceremony recognizes winners from the Athena-Weston, Echo, Helix, Lone, Milton-Freewater Unified, Morrow County, Pendleton, Pilot Rock, Stanfield, Ukiah, and Umatilla School Districts, as well as from the InterMountain Education Service District. The awards ceremony is Monday, May 11, 2026, with a reception at 4:30 and the ceremony at 5:15 p.m. To allow adequate time for the board to attend, staff recommends the board meeting time be changed from 6:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.

Director Pace moved that the May 11, 2026 regular board meeting time be changed to 7:00 p.m. Director Gregg seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

9.1.2. Policy – Second Read and Approval

9.1.2.1. IICA – Field Trips and Excursions

Policy IICA now integrates the AR into the policy.

Director Murphy moved to approve the above-listed policy as presented. Director Pace seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

9.1.3. Delete Administrative Rule (AR)

9.1.3.1. IICA-AR – Field Trips and Excursions

Policy IICA and IIC/IICA-AR Field Trips and Excursions are now combined; a separate administrative rule is no longer needed.

Director Murphy moved to delete the above-listed administrative rule as presented. Director Gregg seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

9.2. Director of Curriculum, Instruction, and Assessment *Matt Yoshioka*

9.2.1. Approve Hawthorne Alternative High School and Pendleton High School Merger

Mr. Yoshioka presented reasons for recommending the merging of Hawthorne Alternative High School with Pendleton High School:

- Hawthorne is on the same campus as PHS.
- PHS and Hawthorne courses take place in the same building.
- Current PHS admin team and teaching staff are the staff at Hawthorne; merging creates more unity.
- All students at Hawthorne are already dual-enrolled as PHS students to take electives, advanced placement, and CTE courses. Merging will save many hours of enrollment work if students no longer have to be dual-enrolled.
- Students at Hawthorne have the choice when they graduate between a PHS diploma or a Hawthorne diploma. This merge would shift all diplomas to a PHS diploma.
- Reduction in reports, records, and audits for separate high schools (Hawthorne).
- **The current Hawthorne program/schedule and staffing structure are not anticipated to change.**

He explained that this proposal has come up several times in the past since Hawthorne Alternative High School moved into the PTTC building on the same campus as Pendleton High School, making it one institution. Mr. Yoshioka reiterated that we do not foresee any changes to the Hawthorne program.

The staffing will stay the same, the schedule will stay the same, and the approach will stay the same. The diploma would say Pendleton High School. It has been operating as a program under Pendleton High School. He answered many questions from the board.

Director Murphy moved to approve the merger of Hawthorne Alternative High School with Pendleton High School, through the proper application process required by the Oregon Department of Education. Director Pace seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

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

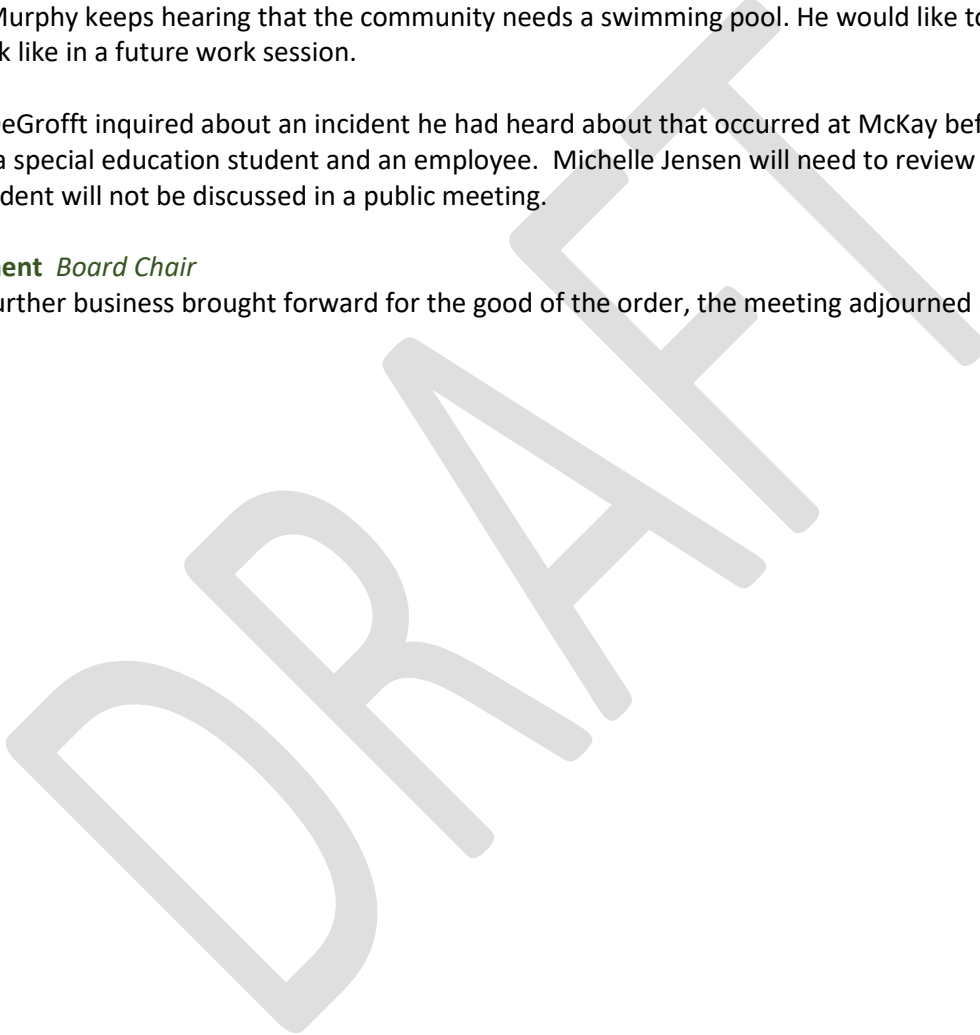
Chair Harrison reminded the board of the extended hours for the May, June, and August work sessions in lieu of a day-long board retreat in August.

Director Murphy keeps hearing that the community needs a swimming pool. He would like to discuss what our role would look like in a future work session.

Director DeGrofft inquired about an incident he had heard about that occurred at McKay before Spring Break involving a special education student and an employee. Michelle Jensen will need to review executive session law, as the incident will not be discussed in a public meeting.

11. **Adjournment** *Board Chair*

With no further business brought forward for the good of the order, the meeting adjourned at 6:38 p.m.



Beth Harrison, Board Chair

Michelle Jensen, PhD, Superintendent

Ronda Thornburg, Executive Secretary

Date