



**Ontario School District 8C
Regular Session of the Board of Directors
March 30 2026 at 5:00 PM at the Ontario School District Board Room**

This meeting was broadcasted via Zoom to the public, the Board of Directors met in person at the Ontario School District Boardroom, with an audience of about 50

Board Members Present:

Abby Apodaca
Mike Blackaby
Jenna Mejia
Lisa Reeser
Bret Uptmor

Administrators in Attendance:

Superintendent Nicole Albisu
Director of Nutrition Pam Suyematsu
Director of Personnel Eric Norton
Director of Public Relations and Communications Taryn Smith
Director of Student Services Melissa Williams
Director of Federal Programs Anabel Ortiz-Chavolla
Director of Facilities Bob Bennett
Director of Technology Kenneth Monson
Director of Finance Devin Collins
Director of District Improvement Initiatives & Grants Jodi Elizondo
Administrative Assistant to the Superintendent/Board Andrea Salazar

Call to Order/Welcome to Visitors

Chair Uptmor begins the meeting and welcomes everyone in the room and on Zoom, then leads the room in the flag salute.

Agenda Change

Chair Uptmor asks if there are any agenda changes, and there are two changes needed for the regular session agenda. The first change is the removal of business item one, the adoption of the social studies curriculum. The second agenda change is the removal of reports/recognition item two, OMS student report , Aylin Ayala. Vice-Chair Apodaca makes a motion to approve the agenda changes. Director Mejia seconds the motion.

Chair Uptmor votes yes.
Vice-Chair Apodaca votes yes.
Director Blackaby votes yes.
Director Mejia votes yes.
Director Reeser votes yes.



Consent Items

Director Blackaby makes a motion to approve the consent items. Director Mejia seconds the motion.

Chair Uptmor votes yes.

Vice-Chair Apodaca votes yes.

Director Mejia votes yes.

Director Reeser votes yes.

OHS Student Report – Dana Hernandez

The new PR officer for OHS is Lily Bini Acheson, and she shares some of the events going on at OHS. Spring sports have started, and the freshmen class has finished their fundraiser, which was selling cookies for St. Patrick's Day. Sophomores will announce their new ASB officers soon, and Juniors are getting everything ready for Prom.

Classified Appreciation Month

Principal at Alameda Intermediate Andrea Buchholz honors Jeannie Lukehart, “It is such an honor to recognize Jeannie Lukehart as Alameda Intermediate’s Classified Employee of the Year. Jeannie is the definition of a "go-getter." Her energy and dedication have made a profound impact on our school culture and, most importantly, on the success of our students. Working hand-in-hand with administration, Jeannie has become a cornerstone of our Student Support Room. She guides students through restorative projects with patience and insight, helping them learn and grow from every situation. Jeannie doesn't just manage behavior; she actively looks for and celebrates positive changes, ensuring students feel seen and encouraged. She has a unique gift for seeing the absolute best in everyone she meets. Thank you for your heart, your hard work, and for being such a vital part of the Alameda team. This recognition is incredibly well-deserved!”

Principal at May Roberts Primary Kevin Capps honors Alexa Poynor, Alexa was chosen as May Robert’s 2025-26 classified staff member of the year. Alexa works in our Special Education Department, specifically working with students who need some extra support. She exemplifies patience, kindness, and consistency for her students. Alexa holds her students to high standards, and supports them in meeting their individual goals. Her students feel the love she brings to them everyday. Alexa is an amazing team member, always willing to help wherever needed. May Roberts is so lucky to have her.”

Principal at Aiken Elementary Tobey Huddleston honors Danyelle Pauni, “Aiken Elementary is proud to recognize Danyelle Pauni as our Classified Employee of The Year. It is an honor to present this award to Danyelle, who truly works miracles in our SPED department. Colleagues describe her as incredibly kind, patient, and always willing to help. She perfectly balances understanding her student's needs with challenging him to reach his goals, driving immense growth. Seeing the "big picture," she happily steps in to assist teachers and gracefully guides struggling students. Thank you Danyelle for your incredible dedication!”

Associate Principal at Ontario Middle School Leonel Martinez honors Lexus Brandon, Lexi brings incredible value to our team. She is organized, reliable, and efficient. Her ability to multi-task effectively, truly stands out.



Lexi's background in both transportation and athletics provides her the ability to elevate the work she does. Her high expectations, not only for herself but for those around her, challenge us all to do the same. We look forward to Lexi's continued commitment to our students, staff, and families."

Principal at Ontario High School Ken Martinez honors Dee Bledsoe, "Dee consistently goes above and beyond in her work to support students and staff. She brings a calm and positive presence to the classroom each day and plays an important role in fostering a welcoming and productive learning environment. Dee's dedication to students is evident in the time and effort she puts into making sure they receive the support they need to be successful. Dee genuinely cares about the well-being and success of every student she works with. Students and staff alike know they can rely on her because she is approachable, kind, and always willing to lend a helping hand. Her professionalism, compassion, and commitment to doing what is best for students make her an invaluable member of the Ontario High School community."

Teacher at Ontario High School Sarah Poff honors Debra Finn, "Deb is exceptional in the way she supports and connects with students. She is attentive to those around her and consistently demonstrates genuine care for the well-being and success of every student she works with. Finn has become an institution at Ontario High School, and her love for both staff and students is truly infectious. Her dedication to helping students succeed is humbling to observe. She not only inspires the students she directly supports but also positively influences the entire classroom environment. Her humor brings warmth and energy to the room while she also holds students to high expectations and encourages them to meet their potential. Deb compassion, dedication, and positive spirit make a lasting impact on our school community.

Maintenance/Grounds Supervisor Andrew Kressly honors Maria Alvarez, "Maria Alvarez is our nominee for the Maintenance Department this year. Maria is one of 4 custodians at the middle school and has been with us for four years. Her willingness to help cover the cleaning needs of the entire building when her coworkers are gone is second to none. From the moment you walk into the building you can tell how hard she works at keeping the inside of the building in tip top shape and clean. Maria has been nominated for this recognition by us for always having a smile, always willing to lend a helping hand, being so pleasant to work with, always having a positive attitude, so respectful, and the list goes on and on. She is a very dependable asset that we truly do not take for granted. Sincerely, Andrew Kressly"

Director of Nutrition Pam Suyematsu honors Maria Mendoza, "It is a true honor to nominate Maria "Lula" Mendoza for the Nutrition Services Outstanding Employee. In her four years with the district, Lula has shown incredible heart, especially at May Roberts, where she has built wonderful relationships with her students. Her efficiency is unmatched, but it's her leadership under pressure that truly sets her apart. Whether she is stepping up during staffing shortages or, most recently, filling in for the Head Cook at OHS, Lula ensures the kitchen runs seamlessly. She doesn't just do her job; she elevates the entire team. Thank you, Lula, for everything you do for our schools and our students."

Director of Technology Kenneth Monson honors his entire Technology Department, "This evening, I have the distinct pleasure of recognizing David Benjamin, Tyson Landon, Tachoda Lehman, Wyatt Martin, Sarah Greene, and Robert Christensen as the Technology Department Classified Employees of the Year. The Technology Department has undergone a leadership transition this year—the third since its inception. Everyone on the team has risen to the occasion, ensuring business continuity for our students and staff. Their commitment to supporting the school district's mission is steadfast. Their professionalism and willingness to help one another sets the tone for success.



It is for all of these reasons that I chose to honor the whole team. Speaking for myself, they have made my transition into this role seamless. I am very proud of the work we are doing and could not have asked for a better group of folks to work with. Please join me in congratulating our Technology Department Classified Employees of the Year!"

Director of Personnel Eric Norton honors Mike Barker from Transportation, "Mike was hired as a Mechanic for the Transportation Department. In the small amount of time he has been here, he has been an asset to the department. He is not only a mechanic but he is willing to do anything to help the department. He is part of the safety committee and brings safety and awareness wherever he goes. He is happy to jump onto a bus to do a route. He is willing to help all drivers with any help they need from sweeping out a bus or assisting with bus washes."

Annual HAAS Report

Maintenance/Grounds Supervisor Andrew Kressly states moving forward, he will be the new coordinator for the HAAS report, and is also the inspector and Management planner. The lead and water testing was completed, and the new set of testing will be in the year 2029. The radon testing is also coming up, and all reports on those tests will be available on the school district website. There is the May Roberts Primary Kitchen Remodel going on right now, and we removed quite a bit of asbestos during this process, Maintenance/Grounds Supervisor Andrew Kressly states. Director Blackaby asks how asbestos is removed, or does it get replaced somehow? Maintenance/Grounds Supervisor Andrew Kressly states that it does get removed, and we replace it with a 12x12 concrete.

Board Bits

Director Mejia states she was able to attend some of the school breakfast events that were going on at the schools. Nutrition is such a great department, and students have a great variety of food every day. Director Mejia also states she got to attend two award assemblies at Aiken and Alameda, and they were great! Director Reeser states that she attended the Alameda groundbreaking for the schoolyard project. Director Reeser also states she went to OMS for National School Breakfast Week, and also went to the spelling bee, and Ontario was well represented! Vice-Chair Apodaca states that she also attended the school breakfast week event at May Roberts Primary. The Schoolyard groundbreaking was great, and the OHS drama presentation was fantastic, and also encourages more people to attend!

Director Blackaby states that he also attended the Schoolyard groundbreaking and also attended the track meet, which was very well attended. Chair Uptmor states that the schoolyard groundbreaking was great, and also drove around to all of our schools; our schoolgrounds are very well kept. Chair Uptmor thanks Bob Bennett and Andrew Kressly's maintenance and grounds department for all their hard work.

Finance Department – Devin Collins

Director of Finance Devin Collins reminds the Board to complete their economic interest report, which is due on April 15.

Superintendent Report – Nikki Albisu

Superintendent Albisu states that we have received the TAP grant and have established the long-range facility plan as explained in the work session. There were some session bills announced that will have some impact on schools in Oregon. The budget for the 2026-2027 school year is being worked on as we speak, and we have a lot of problem-solving to finalize as we navigate new session bills. Superintendent Albisu states the district has set a spending freeze so we could prepare for any changes



coming our way. We asked all our schools to be conscious of buying over the past year, and take inventory of the items we do have before making purchases at the schools.

Public Comment

Chair Uptmor reads the following statement for the one public comment during the Regular Session. “To ensure that the scheduled business of the Board is conducted in a timely manner pursuant to the published agenda, each person must limit his or her comments to three minutes. The board asks that they be provided with a written copy of any testimony given. The public may not use videos or PowerPoint presentations to accompany their testimony. Speakers may offer objective criticism of district operations and programs but the Board will not hear complaints concerning specific district personnel. Speakers are not permitted to make comments or personal attacks on any district employee, individual students, board members, other testifiers, or members of the public. Although the Board welcomes public comments, it does not respond to citizens' concerns at its meetings. However, at the citizen's request and the Board's direction, the Superintendent, or a designee, will respond in a timely manner.”

Community Member Mary Jo Evers states that she sent an email to the administration on February 8, and it has been over 20 business days, and she has not heard back from the district office. The details in the email involve the funding cut for college credits at OHS. Then, Mary Jo Evers states her records request has not been fulfilled, and she would like the Board to honor her public records request. Also, Mrs. Evers states she would like the Superintendent and Finance monthly report made available to her as well.

Chair Uptmor asks Superintendent Albisu to send Mrs. Evers the information on the college credit information to her. Superintendent Albisu states that there was no public records request filed, just an email. There is some confidential information in the superintendent's reports, but we can work on it with redactions.

Second Reading of Policy IGAI and First Reading of Policy GAB

Director Reeser asks about the format of how policies are reviewed for adoption. Director Mejia makes a motion to approve the second reading of policy IGAI and the first reading of policy GAB. Vice-Chair Apodaca seconds the motion.

Chair Uptmor votes yes.

Vice-Chair Apodaca votes yes.

Director Blackaby votes yes.

Director Mejia votes yes.

Director Reeser votes yes.

Topics for Future Meetings

Superintendent Albisu states that we will have budget goals ahead of the budget committee meeting. Director Reeser asks if there could be a virtual schools update as well. Chair Uptmor also asks about a communication plan for next month's meeting as well.

Adjourn

Vice-Chair Apodaca makes a motion to adjourn the next meeting. Director Mejia seconds the motion.



Chair Uptmor votes yes.
Vice-Chair Apodaca votes yes.
Director Blackaby votes yes.
Director Mejia votes yes.
Director Reeser votes yes.

Meeting Ends at 6:00 PM

Chairman

Clerk