



## **Regular Meeting of the Board of Education**

Thursday, June 26, 2025 5:30 PM

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

Board members present: Lilia Caballero, Kendell Ferguson, Jeff Kinsella, Suzanne Messer (virtually), Sunny Spicer, and Cynthia Wright  
Board member absent: Michael Williams

*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, 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. New Medford School District Leaders**

Interim Superintendent Jeanne Grazioli introduced the recognitions for Washington Elementary Principal Kara Sparks and Senior Executive Director Todd Bloomquist.

Bloomquist and Sparks provided information on their professional experience, prior jobs within and outside the district, and expressed appreciation for the opportunity to work with students and staff at Medford School District.

#### **3.b. Appreciation for Superintendent Bret Champion**

Chair Wright expressed appreciation for Superintendent Bret Champion's leadership, highlighting his ability to energize the district, strengthen core practices, address challenges directly, and leave a strong foundation for the future. She thanked him for his service and leadership.

Board Directors shared their gratitude for Superintendent Champion's focus on building relationships between teachers and students, and his steady leadership during challenges such as COVID-19. They commended his integrity, vision, and the positive impact he had on staff, students, and the community.

In response, Superintendent Champion expressed his gratitude to the Board and the community. He reflected on the lessons learned about leadership, the strength of community collaboration, and the importance of public education. He voiced his confidence in the district's future under new leadership and shared his heartfelt appreciation for the opportunity to serve.

### **3.c. Appreciation for Board Directors Jeff Kinsella and Cynthia Wright**

#### **Board Director Jeff Kinsella**

Chair Wright and fellow Board Directors recognized Jeff Kinsella for his dedication, preparation, and candor throughout his service. He was praised for his focus on students, willingness to ask hard questions, and ability to balance serious leadership with approachability.

Director Kinsella reflected on his time on the Board, emphasizing the importance of seeing potential in every child and remaining focused on Board goals despite challenges. He read the book *Maybe*, a story about the endless potential in all of us, and presented a copy to the incoming Board members.

*The Board took a short recess in order to reboot the online streaming due to technical difficulties.*

#### **Board Chair Cynthia Wright**

Board Directors expressed gratitude for Cynthia Wright's fierce advocacy for students and her resilience as Board Chair during particularly challenging times. She was commended for her mentorship, dedication, and steadfast focus on student success.

Chair Wright shared her appreciation for the opportunity to serve, reflecting on her growth as a leader and the importance of building strong relationships. She encouraged the incoming Board to continue fostering collaboration and student-centered leadership.

## **4. Citizen Comments**

Chair Wright outlined citizen comment procedures. The following citizens addressed the Board:

#### **Taryne Saunders, Parent**

Expressed concerns regarding Board transparency and governance practices; questioned

the timing and process for appointing a new Board member following a recent resignation; and urged the Board to prioritize transparency and accountability.

**Sheryl Zimmerer, Charter School Director**

Thanked Superintendent Champion for his leadership in fostering collaboration between the District and charter schools; highlighted his role in building trust, supporting innovation, and strengthening relationships; and encouraged the Board to continue promoting a cooperative approach moving forward.

Chair Wright concluded citizen comments and thanked those who participated.

**5. Items for Information & Discussion / Board Action Items**

**5.a. Budget Amendment #3-2024-25**

Board Director Sunny Spicer asked district staff if the budget amendment included funds directly related to her organization which provides preschool services for the Medford School District. Assistant Superintendent of Operations Brad Earl responded that the budget amendment did not include funds that impact her organization, and that it included juvenile detention funding, special education funding, and the state school fund true-up.

**A motion was presented by Jeff Kinsella and seconded by Kendell Ferguson to approve Budget Amendment #3-2024-25 as presented.**

**Roll call vote: Kinsella: Yea, Messer: Yea, Caballero: Yea, Ferguson: Yea, Spicer: Yea, Wright: Yea**

**Result: Motion passed (Yea: 6: No: 0)**

**5.b. FY2025-26 Approved to Adopted Budget Changes**

Interim Superintendent Grazioli explained the delay in adopting the budget, noting the district had received as much information as they can expect. Earl added there had been no final numbers provided by the state, and that the budget was based on the most updated information.

**5.c. FY2025-26 Budget Adoption**

Board Director Sunny Spicer declared a conflict of interest as the executive director of an organization that receives funds from the Medford School District and recused herself from the budget adoption.

**A motion was presented by Jeff Kinsella and seconded by Kendell Ferguson to approve the Resolution Adopting the 2025-26 Budget as presented.**

**Roll call vote: Ferguson: Yea, Kinsella: Yea, Caballero: Yea, Messer: Yea,**

**Wright: Yea**

**Result: Motion passed (Yea: 5, No: 0)**

**A motion was presented by Kendell Ferguson and seconded by Lilia Caballero to approve the Resolution Making Appropriations for the 2025-26 Budget as presented.**

**Roll call vote: Messer: Yea, Caballero: Yea, Kinsella: Yea, Ferguson: Yea, Wright: Yea**

**Result: Motion passed (Yea: 5, No: 0)**

**A motion was presented by Jeff Kinsella and seconded by Kendell Ferguson to approve the Resolution to Impose and Categorize Taxes as presented.**

**Roll call vote: Kinsella: Yea, Ferguson: Yea, Messer: Yea, Caballero: Yea, Wright: Yea**

**Result: Motion passed (Yea: 5, No: 0)**

Earl commended the finance staff for their relentless effort in navigating an incredibly complex budget.

#### **5.d. Officially Close Medford Online Academy**

**A motion was presented by Lilia Caballero and seconded by Kendell Ferguson to close Institution 5510 - Medford Online Academy, effective June 30, 2025.**

##### **Discussion:**

Chair Wright expressed gratitude for the purpose the online school served at the time students needed it during the pandemic. Staff confirmed that online options would still be available for students moving forward.

**Roll call vote: Messer: Yea, Caballero: Yea, Ferguson: Yea, Spicer: Yea, Kinsella: Yea, Wright: Yea**

**Result: Motion passed (Yea: 6, No: 0).**

### **6. Consent Agenda**

#### **6.a. Staff Assignment Report**

#### **6.b. Minutes from previous Board meeting**

The consent agenda, which included the staff assignment report and minutes from the previous meeting, was approved without objection.

**7. Announcements**

**7.a. July 1 - Board Organizational Meeting at Oakdale Middle School - 5:30 PM**

Chair Wright welcomed Director Spicer to the Board and reminded attendees of the upcoming Board Organizational meeting on July 1 at Oakdale Middle School.

**8. Adjournment**

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 6:27 PM

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Chair of the District School Board  
Medford School District

ATTEST:

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Superintendent-Clerk