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**Multnomah ESD Budget Committee Meeting  
Tuesday, April 14, 2026**

2023-2028

Agency Goals

#1 – Creating a high-quality learning experience for all

#2 – Operationalizing systems that engage and empower communities

#3 – Building a culturally responsive workforce

MESD Board Equity Lens-<https://www.multnomahesd.org/board-equity.html>

**1. Call to Order and Roll Call**

MESD Budget Committee Chair Susie Jones called the meeting to order at 6:04 p.m. on Tuesday, April 14, 2026 in accordance with the agenda and public notice of the meeting.

**A. Roll Call**

<b>Present:</b>	Renee Anderson	MESD Board of Directors
	Jessica Arzate	MESD Board of Directors
	Jey Buno	PPS Finance Program Manager
	Ben Byers	Corbett Board of Directors
	Danny Cage	MESD Board of Directors
	Katrina Doughty	MESD Board of Directors
	Jose Gamero-Georgeson	DDSD Board of Directors
	Susie Jones	MESD Board of Directors
	Ali Lanenga	Riverdale Board of Directors
	Holly Langan	Reynolds Exec. Dir of Financial Services
	Denyse Peterson	MESD Board of Directors
	Amanda Squiemphen Yazzie	MESD Board of Directors
<b>Absent:</b>	David Linn	Centennial Board of Directors
	Heather Coleman-Cox	Gresham Barlow Board of Directors

**MESD ADMINISTRATION**

**Present:** Paul Coakley, Superintendent  
Bernadette Adeniran, Director  
Doana Anderson, Chief Financial Officer  
Sara Bottomley, Budget Manager  
Todd Greaves, Director of Student Services  
Angela Hubbs, Chief Academic Officer  
Sascha Perrins, Assistant Superintendent  
Marifer Sager, Director of Strategic Communications and Public Affairs  
Heather Severns, Executive Assistant/Board Secretary

## 1. Call to Order

Budget Committee Chair Susie Jones called the second meeting of the MESD Budget Committee to order.

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## 2. Public Comment

Heather Severns reported that no public comments had been received.

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## 3. Opening Remarks / Process Reminder

Chair Susie reminded Budget Committee members that there had been multiple opportunities to submit questions to the Business Office, including:

- Prior to the first Budget Committee meeting
- During the first Budget Committee meeting
- Between the first and second meetings

She noted that the Business Office had responded thoroughly to submitted questions.

A discussion followed regarding the Budget Committee process and expectations, particularly for new members.

### Process Clarification

Ali Lanenga asked whether it was typical for written questions to also be discussed publicly during the meeting.

Dr. Paul Coakley responded that the established MESD process has been:

- Written questions submitted to staff
- Written answers provided to all Budget Committee members

José Gamero-Georgeson added that such written responses are part of the public record and available for transparency.

Katrina Doughty further clarified that MESD provides an onboarding/orientation meeting prior to the first official Budget Committee session. That orientation is intended to provide a high-level overview of the process, timelines, and expectations, along with opportunities for members to ask questions.

Ali Lanenga noted that as a new committee member, the process had been somewhat jarring and suggested there may be room to improve onboarding and expectation-setting for future committee members.

## 4. Committee Discussion on the Proposed Budget

### A. Budget Affordability and District Impact

Ali Lanenga commented that in Riverdale School District's internal analysis, MESD services were increasingly difficult to absorb financially and that Riverdale had, in some cases, found lower-cost alternatives through direct contracting or other ESDs.

She emphasized that:

- Riverdale had already reduced services even when MESD rates were held flat the prior year
- A **7% increase** could not be absorbed by her district
- More predictability and stability in annual rates would be helpful for district planning

Dr. Paul Coakley responded that MESD works closely with smaller districts such as Riverdale and Corbett and remains willing to discuss possible flexibility in services or supports as needed.

### B. Cost Increases and Staffing

José Gamero-Georgeson commented that the increase in MESD costs was consistent with what districts are also experiencing, including:

- Step increases
- Cost-of-living adjustments
- Utility and operating cost increases

He noted that these increases are affecting all educational institutions and should not be viewed as unique to MESD.

### C. Structural Budget Concerns

Ali Lanenga stated that she continued to have concerns about the structure of the proposed budget, particularly:

- The relationship between expenditure growth and revenue growth
- Whether the budget was sufficiently aligned to district needs
- Whether MESD could do more regionally to help reduce costs for districts

She stated that she could not support the budget as presented and intended to vote no.

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## 5. Motion to Approve the Budget

The David Douglas SD Representative José Gamero-Georgeson made a motion to approve the budget as presented, including the **ad valorem property tax rate**.

The Portland Public Schools Representative Jey Buno seconded the motion.

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## 6. Final Discussion Before Vote

Before the vote, Ali Lanenga reiterated that although she appreciated staff's responsiveness and the written answers provided, she remained concerned that:

- The Local Service Plan did not meet her district's needs
- The proposed budget reflected structural concerns
- Her district could not absorb the level of increase proposed
- Her constituents had also urged a no vote

No further discussion was offered.

## 7. RESOLUTION MBCM-26-002-APPROVAL OF THE PROPOSED 2026-2027 BUDGET AND AD VALOREM PROPERTY TAX RATE.

This resolution requests the MESD Budget Committee's acknowledgement of receipt and approval of the Proposed 2026-2027 Budget Document and the Ad Valorem Property Tax Rate.

**Background:** The Budget Officer is required by law to prepare a budget to submit to the MESD Budget Committee. The MESD Budget Committee should acknowledge receipt of that Proposed Budget and then is faced with two choices. The MESD Budget Committee can either approve the budget as submitted by the Budget Officer or approve a budget as modified by the MESD Budget Committee. Secondly, the MESD Budget Committee is required to approve the Ad Valorem Property Tax Rate.

The Budget Officer recommends adoption of the following resolution:

**WHEREAS**, the Budget Officer is required to prepare a Proposed Budget and present it to the MESD Budget Committee; and

**WHEREAS**, the MESD Budget Committee has met in a public MESD Budget Committee Work Session on April 14 to review the financial programs of the MESD and prepare a budget for the operational and administrative expenses of the MESD; and

**WHEREAS**, the MESD Budget Committee has received and reviewed the 2026-2027 Proposed Budget Document.

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that the MESD Budget Committee approves the 2026-2027 Proposed Budget in the following amounts:

	<b>Proposed Budget 2026-2027</b>
<b>1 Resolution Services</b>	
Instruction	\$ 12,839,777
Support Services	31,850,722
Enterprise & Community Services	118,800
Other Uses	10,000,000
Transfers Out	5,923,174
Contingency	317,279
Total	<u>61,049,752</u>
<b>2 Contracted Services</b>	
Instruction	21,496,209
Support Services	25,908,276
Enterprise & Community Services	1,193,379
Facilities acquisition & construction	600,000
Contingency	1,798,258
Total	<u>50,996,122</u>
<b>6 Operating</b>	
Support Services	8,052,659
Debt Service	627,154
Transfers Out	550,000
Contingency	170,715
Total	<u>9,400,528</u>
<b>3 Debt Service</b>	
Total Debt Service	<u>8,555,125</u>
<b>4 Facilities &amp; Equipment Reserve</b>	
Support Services	1,032,185
Facilities acquisition & construction	5,000
Transfers Out	70,000
Contingency	1,560,515
Total	<u>2,667,700</u>

**7 Risk Management and Reserve**

Support Services	2,304,314
Contingency	473,686
Total	<u>2,778,000</u>

Total Appropriation, All Funds \$ 135,447,227

Total Unappropriated Amounts, All Funds 5,610,000

**Total Budget \$ 141,057,227**

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the MESD Budget Committee approves the levy of the Ad Valorem Tax Rate of \$0.4576 per \$1,000 of assessed value for the Resolution Fund.

WHEREAS, David Douglas School Board Representative Jose Gamero-Georgeson moved to approve Resolution MBCM 26-002 Approval of the Proposed 2026-2027 Budget and Ad Valorem Property Tax Rate; and

WHEREAS, Portland Public Schools Representative Jey Buno seconded the motion

**Action:** There being no further discussion the motion carried with Representatives Anderson, Arzate, Buno, Byers, Cage, Coleman-Cox, Doughty, Gamero-Georgeson, Jones, Langan, Linn, Peterson, Squiemphen-Yazzie voting aye. Ali Lenanga Voted no. Motion passed 11-1.

7. Roll Call Vote

Heather Severns conducted a roll call vote.

Votes in Favor:

- Renee Anderson
- Jessica Arzate
- Jey Buno
- Ben Byers
- Danny Cage
- Katrina Doughty
- José Gamero-Georgeson
- Susie Jones
- Holly Langan
- Denyse Peterson

- Amanda Squiemphen-Yazzie

Vote Opposed:

- Ali Lanenga

Result:

The motion passed, with one dissenting vote.

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#### 8. Closing Remarks

Chair Susie thanked Doana Anderson, Sara Bottomley, and Dr. Paul Coakley for their work in preparing the budget, noting the substantial effort and thoughtful process involved.

## **Adjournment**