

Regular Meeting
Thursday, September 19, 2024 5:30 PM

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

Michelle Atkinson: Present
Lilia Caballero: Present
Kendell Ferguson: Present
Jeff Kinsella: Present
Suzanne Messer: Absent
Michael Williams: Present
Cynthia Wright: Present

*A video recording of the Board meeting can be found on the district website at this link:
<https://portal.stretchinternet.com/msbm> and the slide presentation can be viewed at this link:
<https://meetings.boardbook.org/Meeting/Supplementals/1545?meeting=653867>*

1. Call to Order / Pledge of Allegiance / Roll Call

Board Chair Cynthia Wright called the meeting to order at 5:30 PM and led the Pledge of Allegiance. Roll was called.

Chair Wright welcomed the public, stated the district's vision statement, and read the public meeting civility standards for Medford School District (MSD) Board meetings.

2. Agenda Adjustments and Approval

Hearing no objections, the agenda was approved by unanimous consent.

3. Citizen Comments

Chair Wright shared the citizen comment guidelines. The following patrons came forward to speak.

Koda Stokes/(attended virtually)/Former student and employee/Divisive tone of meetings/support for district.

Christy Clark/(attended virtually)/Parent/Represented a number of parents in support of district leadership.

Russ Kautz/Resident/First amendment rights and role of School Board.

Sheryl Zimmerer/Logos Executive Director/Support of School Board and district administration.

Danielle Craig/Parent/Support of safety and security prioritized by current administration.

Summer Wolarik/Parent/Inconsistent resources/staffing/disappointed with leadership.

Paul Schneider/Parent/Support of schools and administration.

Jessica Nickerson/Parent/Concern for bullying and safety/lack of communication.

Dee Anne Everson/United Way Executive Director/Support of superintendent and district focus on safety.

Joe Pastrano/ALBA Program/Board support of program.

Nathanael Swan/Parent/Overreaction of safety threat at Board meeting/SRO situation/superintendent salary.

Julie Barry/Former teacher/administrator/Appreciation for superintendent and emphasis on safety preparedness.

Michelle Wallman/Parent/Support of superintendent leadership and district staff.

Carl Thomas/Project Youth +/-Challenges facing youth/community support for students to progress and grow.

Kim McKandes/Parent/Grandparent/Focus on children, programs, and strategies instead of divisiveness.

Mindy Wamack/Patron/Traffic safety at Griffin Creek/district swag.

Logan Vaughn/Patron/Repercussions of speaking at meeting/support of Board Director Michael Williams.

Paul Cynar/Teacher/Dissatisfied with Board comments at prior meetings/filed complaints against Board Chair Wright and Board Director Kinsella.

Linda McFadden/Patron/Reason for declining enrollment/support of Board Director Williams/offended by Board Chair Wright's comments in news article.

Chair Wright noted the Board received written comments for the following patrons: Christy Clark, Julie Brooksby, Mike Powers, Sunny Spicer, Britt and Jake Zimmerman, Michele Simmons, Rebekah Wolf, Jim DeBoer, Mary Lathen, Ben Brooksby, Alex Lukaris, Misti Contento, Sunny Jones, Tessa Phenix, Aaron Hovivian, Amber Miller, Andy Chasteen, Dylan St. Chair-Bates, Justin Callahan, and Maggie Mayers.

4. Items for Information & Discussion / Board Action Items

4.a. Summer Projects & Facilities Update

Superintendent Bret Champion commended the facilities team for their diligent work over the summer. He also celebrated the Information Technology (IT) Team for their tireless work behind the scenes. Executive Director of Security, Leadership and Facilities Ron Havniar provided an overview of the Seismic Rehabilitation Grant Program and district upgrades as a result of the program. He updated the Board on summer projects that included the North Medford High School gymnasium floor, installation of security vestibules, outdoor covered structures, Innovation Academy outdoor space enclosure, Hedrick fencing, South High School weight room, and other projects throughout the district. He went on to share information on upgrades to emergency response buttons (ERBs).

Board Directors put forth questions and comments regarding activation of ERBs and measures in place to mitigate false activations; consequences when intentionally activating ERBs; prioritization process for projects; county or district responsibility for painting crosswalks; and appreciation for the fencing at Hedrick.

The meeting was recessed at 7:00 PM. and resumed at 7:08 PM.

4.b. Cell Phone Policy Community Engagement Plan

Communications & Community Relations Director Natalie Hurd shared a draft Community Engagement Plan based on the Board's discussion and feedback at the September 5 Work Session. The draft plan included launching a survey to parents/guardians, students, and staff; providing principal feedback at the October 3 Work Session; Community Outreach at various events; hosting a town hall meeting; and providing a final report at a future Board meeting.

Board Directors put forth questions and comments regarding where to find the survey when launched (paper, digital, and in both English and Spanish), and including book club information for Anxious Generation.

4.c. Board Operating Agreement Adoption

MOTION: I move to approve the Board Operating Agreement as presented. This motion was made by Jeff Kinsella and seconded by Kendell Ferguson.

Discussion: Board Directors and Superintendent Champion had a robust discussion around the language included in the School Visits section of the Board Operating Agreement regarding 48 hour advance notice, and amount of time and purpose for the visit. The discussion also included the purpose for the principal to be available during a school visit, invitations from teachers to attend a presentation, Board presence on campus, and roles and responsibilities of Board members. A suggestion was made to the revise the language in this section.

Additionally a request was put forth to revise language in the Communication between Board and District Patrons and Communication between Board and the Media sections to reflect a Board members preference to reply individually to patrons and to the media, as long as the statements indicated the Board member was not speaking for the entire Board. Other topics of the discussion included caution for deliberating in an email chain, not responding to the entire Board, and clarifying that opinions presented individually were personal opinions and not that of the Board.

Director Kinsella rescinded the original motion.

MOTION: I move to approve the Board Operating Agreement as amended. This motion, made by Kendell Ferguson and seconded by Michael Williams, Passed.

Roll call vote:

**Kinsella: Yea, Williams: Yea, Caballero: Yea, Ferguson: Yea, Atkinson: Yea,
Wright: Yea, Messer: Absent**

**Yea: 6, Nay: 0, Absent: 1
Motion carried.**

4.d. 2024-25 Board/District Goals & Measures of the System Adoption

MOTION: I move to approve the 2024-25 Board/District Goals & Measures of the System as presented. This motion, made by Kendell Ferguson and seconded by Jeff Kinsella, Passed.

Roll call vote:

Atkinson: Yea, Kinsella: Yea, Williams: Yea, Caballero: Yea, Ferguson: Yea, Wright: Yea, Messer: Absent

Yea: 6, Nay: 0, Absent: 1

Motion carried.

4.e. Postpone Science Instructional Materials Adoption

MOTION: I move to approve the postponement of the Science instructional materials adoption until spring of 2026. This motion, made by Jeff Kinsella and seconded by Kendell Ferguson, Passed.

Discussion: A discussion took place regarding the benefit of teacher input, and keeping current with constant changes in science while aligning it with the standards.

Roll call vote:

Kinsella: Yea, Williams: Yea, Atkinson: Yea, Caballero: Yea, Ferguson: Yea, Wright: Yea, Messer: Absent,

Yea: 6, Nay: 0, Absent: 1

Motion carried.

4.f. School Board Policies - *second reading*

MOTION: I move to readopt the policies as presented in the September 19th policy packet. This motion, made by Jeff Kinsella and seconded by Kendell Ferguson, Passed.

Roll call vote:

Caballero: Yea, Kinsella: Yea, Atkinson: Yea, Ferguson: Yea, Williams: Yea, Wright: Yea, Messer: Absent

Yea: 6, Nay: 0, Absent: 1

Motion carried.

5. Consent Agenda

5.a. Staff Assignment Report

Hearing no objections, the consent agenda was approved by unanimous consent.

6. Board Reports

Board Directors shared events they attended, which included visits to Roosevelt and Jackson Elementary Schools and participating in the ABLE Leadership Academy. Comments were put forth regarding the Oregon Department of Education visit that resulted in commendations for the district safety measures implemented; the Forbes list noting the Medford School District as a best place to work in Oregon; a great start to the school year (thanked teachers); appreciation for citizen comments shared; and a hope that the Board and community can work together and put the focus back on celebrating students.

7. Announcements

7.a. October 3, 2024 - Work Session at 5:30 PM - Oakdale Middle School

Chair Wright noted the upcoming work session scheduled for October 3, 2024.

8. Adjournment

There being no further business before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 8:20 PM.

Chair of the District School Board
Medford School District 549C

ATTEST:

Superintendent-Clerk