



Multnomah ESD Board of Directors'
Board Regular Session Minutes
Tuesday, July 21, 2026

2022-2028

Areas of Focus

- #1 – Create a high quality learning environment for all
- #2 – Operationalizing systems that engage and empower communities
- #3 – Build a culturally responsive workforce

[MESD Board Equity Lens](#)

1. CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL

Board Chair Katrina Doughty called the meeting to order at 6:03 p.m. on Tuesday, July 21, 2026 in accordance with the agenda and Public notice of the meeting.

Board Members Present: Renee Anderson
Jessica Arzate
Danny Cage
Katrina Doughty-Chair
Susie Jones
Denyse Peterson
Amanda Squiemphen-Yazzie-Vice-Chair

Board Members Absent: None

Administrative Staff Present: Dr. Paul Coakley, Superintendent
Sascha Perrins, Assistant Superintendent
Bernadette Adeniran, Director of Human Resources
Angela Hubbs, Chief Academic Officer
Marifer Sager, Director of Strategic Engagement & Public Affairs
Heather Severns, Board Secretary

Guests: Erin McCann, Bridge City Montessori School



3. Educational Opportunity and Land Acknowledgement

Director Amanda Squiemphen-Yazzie presented the Educational Opportunity recognizing Disability Pride Month, commemorating the anniversary of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). She emphasized disability as a valued aspect of human diversity and reaffirmed the importance of creating inclusive educational environments where every student is welcomed, supported, and empowered to succeed.

Amanda also shared the MESD Land Acknowledgement, recognizing the Indigenous peoples whose ancestral lands encompass the Portland region. She highlighted upcoming cultural events, including the annual Canoe Journey and the Indigenous Journalists Association conference, recognizing the resilience and ongoing contributions of Indigenous communities.

4. Public Comment

The Board received public comment from Erin McCann, Founder and Director of Bridge City Montessori School.

Ms. McCann introduced Bridge City Montessori as the region's only American Sign Language (ASL) and English Montessori program serving deaf, hard of hearing, and hearing children from 18 months through age six. She described the school's bilingual educational model, partnerships with deaf professionals, support for families, and emphasis on early language acquisition.

Ms. McCann discussed the challenges of language deprivation experienced by many deaf children before entering public school and explained how the program prepares students for successful transitions into K–12 settings through exposure to ASL, Deaf mentors, and interpreter readiness.

Chair Doughty thanked Ms. McCann for her comments and noted that staff would connect with her following the meeting regarding potential collaboration. Board Member Danny Cage encouraged fellow board members to learn more about language deprivation and offered to share additional educational resources.

5. Union Representative Reports



No union representatives were present.

6. Superintendent's Report

Dr. Paul Coakley provided a summer operations update, highlighting the work underway across the district in preparation for the upcoming school year.

Key updates included:

- Appreciation for staff, families, and community partners for their continued support of students.
- Summer planning activities including staffing, professional learning, classroom preparation, technology updates, and facilities improvements.
- Ongoing Extended School Year (ESY) programming at Wheatley and summer school programming at Helensview.
- Human Resources' successful hiring efforts, including the appointment of a new Creeks co-principal and continued recruitment for open positions.
- Curriculum and instructional planning focused on professional learning, assessment review, instructional priorities, and implementation of the Creeks redesign.
- Facilities projects including preventive maintenance, classroom improvements at Wheatley, office space adjustments at Ainsworth, and district safety planning.
- Upcoming events including the Board Retreat, Cabinet Retreat, Administrator Leadership Retreat, Jump Start to Success orientation for new staff, Opening Day, and the first day of school.

Dr. Coakley concluded by thanking the Board for its continued leadership and partnership in preparing for another successful school year.

Chair Doughty thanked Dr. Coakley for his leadership throughout the previous school year and during summer preparations.

7. Election of Board Officers

Board Chair Doughty asked for nominations for the 2026-2027 Vice Chair



Prior to nominations, Board Member Susie Jones proposed postponing officer elections until the August Board meeting. After discussion, staff confirmed Board policy requires the election of officers at the first regularly scheduled meeting following June 30. The Board agreed to proceed with elections and to revisit board leadership structure and related governance practices during the August Board Retreat.

NOMINATIONS FOR BOARD VICE CHAIR

Vice-Chair: Amanda Squiemphen-Yazzie **Nominated by:** Susie Jones

Motion by: Susie Jones **Seconded by:** Denyse Peterson **Vote:** 7-0

Following a roll-call vote, **Amanda Squiemphen-Yazzie was unanimously elected Vice Chair.**

Board Chair Doughty asked for nominations for the 2026-2027 Chair

Chair: Katrina Doughty **Nominated by:** Amanda Squiemphen-Yazzie

Motion by: Amanda Squiemphen-Yazzie **Seconded by:** Danny Cage **Vote:** 7-0

Following a roll-call vote, **Katrina Doughty was unanimously re-elected Board Chair.**

Chair Doughty expressed appreciation for the Board's confidence and looked forward to continuing to serve alongside Vice Chair Amanda Squiemphen-Yazzie during the coming year.

8. Consent Agenda

- i. Approval of the June 16, 2026 Board Regular Session Minutes
- ii. Resolution 26-035-Approval of Personnel Recommendations July 2026
- iii. Resolution 26-036-Designation of Superintendent as Chief Administrative Officer, District Clerk, and Budget Officer
- iv. Resolution 26-037-Designation of Business Manager and Custodian of Funds
- v. Resolution 26-038-Appointment of Insurance Agent of Record
- vi. Resolution 26-039-Appointment of Legal Counsel



- vii. Resolution 26-040-Designation of Depository of Record
- viii. Resolution 26-041-2025-2026 Calendar for FY 2026-2027 Budget Development
- ix. Resolution 26-042-Board Meeting/Activity Calendar for 2025-2026

Motion: **Director Renee Anderson moved to approve the Consent Agenda**
 Director Susie Jones seconded the motion.

Discussion: **None**

Action: **The motion carried with Directors Anderson, Arzate, Cage, Doughty, Jones, Peterson, and Squiemphen-Yazzie voting aye. Motion passed 7-0.**

9. Board Reports and Announcements

The Chair reminded board members to:

- Review committee reports and minutes included in the meeting packet.
- Prioritize attendance at the upcoming August Board Retreat due to the extensive planning involved in scheduling the event.
- Attend the annual Back-to-School Event.

Heather Severns reminded board members that the **Board Self-Evaluation Survey** is due July 24th.. Survey results will be compiled and presented during the August Board Retreat to help guide board discussion and planning for the upcoming year.

10. Adjournment

Chair Doughty thanked board members for their continued service, wished everyone a safe remainder of the summer, and adjourned the meeting.

ACTIVITY CALENDAR



- b. July 22, 12:00-2:00pm Ocean Dunes Graduation-Camp Florence Youth Transitional Facility
- c. August 12, 9:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m. Board Summer Retreat-In-person, MESD Boardroom
- d. August 18, 6:00 p.m. Board Regular Session meeting-Virtual via Zoom Webinar
- e. August 19, 9:00 a.m. MESD Back to School event-Mt. Hood Community College Stadium.

The meeting adjourned at p.m. The next regular session meeting will be August 18, 2026 at 6:00 p.m.