



Multnomah ESD Board of Directors'
Board Regular Session Minutes
Tuesday, May 20, 2025

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 Renee Anderson called the meeting to order at 7:07 p.m. on Tuesday, May 20, 2025 in accordance with the agenda and Public notice of the meeting.

Board Members Present: Renee Anderson
Jessica Arzate
Danny Cage
Katrina Doughty
Denyse Peterson
Amanda Squiemphen-Yazzie
Helen Ying

Board Members Absent: None

Administrative Staff Present: Dr. Paul Coakley, Superintendent
Bernadette Adeniran, Director of Human Resources
Doana Anderson, Director of Business Services
Todd Greaves, Director of Student Services
Sascha Perrins, Assistant Superintendent
Marifer Sager, Director of Strategic Communications and Public Affairs
Heather Severns, Executive Assistant and Board Secretary

Guests: None



2. APPRECIATION/EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITY/LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT-Board member-Helen Ying presented the land acknowledgement, honoring Indigenous communities and tribal lands in the region. Director Ying's presentation has been attached to the online agenda for this meeting.

May was recognized as:

- Jewish American Heritage Month
- Asian American, Native Hawaiian, and Pacific Islander (AANHPI) Heritage Month
- Events and museum visits in Portland were encouraged, including a Chinese heritage celebration on May 24.

Chinese Memorial Project Update:

- A project at Block 14 in Lone Fir Cemetery is progressing with 90% of the design complete.
- Construction expected in 2026; Multnomah County Chair Vega Pederson has allocated \$1 million in the proposed budget.
- The memorial will honor desecrated Chinese graves and acknowledge historical injustices.

3. 2025 MESD SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS-Chair Anderson read the names of the 12 recipients of the MESD Board Scholarship.

4. PUBLIC COMMENT-There were two requests for public comment.

Two educators spoke regarding staff layoffs due to budget cuts:



- **Craig Woods** shared his 23-year service history and impact at Helensview and Donald E. Long.
- **Nicole Hogan** advocated for the Helensview staff that were being laid off due to budget cuts, emphasizing their critical roles, identity representation, and student mentorship.

5. REPORTS TO THE BOARD

a. Union Representative Reports

- i. Heather Hanley, AFSCME President-There were no representatives present.
- ii. Phoenix Blickle & Jess Rohrbacher, MESDEA Co-Presidents-There were no representatives present.

b. Superintendent's Report

i. Dr. Coakley's report

1. Acknowledged difficult budget climate with a \$6 million shortfall.
2. Celebrated recent MESD highlights:
 - a. AI Edu Conference at University of Portland
 - b. Retirement Dinner honoring 8 retirees
 - c. OABSE Gala: Yusuf Leary named president, and Board Chair Renee Anderson received the Representation & Recognition Award.
3. Reiterated appreciation for staff, acknowledged the impact of budget cuts, and encouraged a temporary focus on celebrating student achievements.

ii. Strategic Plan Update-Presented by MESD staff: Perrins, Sagar and Adeniran

1. Progress reviewed across three major goals:
 - a. High-Quality Learning Experiences
 - b. Operational Systems & Community Engagement
 - c. Culturally Responsive Workforce
2. Notable Metrics:
 - a. Increased employee satisfaction (84% BIPOC staff feel valued)
 - b. Family surveys conducted in 12 languages showed 90% participation with 67% choosing MESD again.



- c. Challenges remain in sustaining equity teams and improving community engagement in hospital and juvenile justice programs.
- d. Ongoing analysis of recruitment/retention, including issues related to “last-in, first-out” layoff practices.

6. ACTION ITEMS

a. Consent Agenda

- i. Approval of the April 15, 2025 Board Regular Session Minutes
- ii. Resolution 25-026-Approval of the May 2025 Personnel Recommendations

Motion: Director Danny Cage moved to approve the Consent Agenda
Director Denyse Peterson seconded the motion.

Discussion: none

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

b. Action agenda

- i. Resolution 25-027-First reading of Amended Board Policy IIA-Instructional Resources/Instructional Materials.

Motion: Director Jessica Arzate moved to approve Resolution 25-027
Director Danny Cage seconded the motion.

Discussion: none

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

- ii. Resolution 25-028-First Reading of Amended Board Policy IKF-Graduation Requirements.



Motion: Director Jessica Arzate moved to approve Resolution 25-028
Director Katrina Doughty seconded the motion.

Discussion: Discussion included the purpose and limits of a certificate of attendance

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

7. BOARD REPORTS

- a. Board Finance Committee-There were no questions.
- b. Board Policy Committee-Assistant Superintendent Perrins reported that nine policies were reviewed for gender-inclusive language after the Board's adoption of the Resolution Affirming MESD's Commitment to Gender Expansive and Transgender Youth at the April 15 Regular Session meeting. With the review completed; the Policy Committee identified three of the nine policies reviewed that would need some revisions. These will be brought to the Board in July.
- c. Superintendent Evaluation Committee-This committee did not meet.
- d. OAESD-No comments were made
- e. OSBA- No comments were made

8. EXECUTIVE SESSION-The Board met in executive session under ORS 192.600(2)(d) to conduct deliberations with persons designated by the governing body to carry on labor negotiations. Discussion was held regarding the current contracts.

9. ACTIVITY CALENDAR

- a. May 27-28 Helensview High School Graduation-4:00-5:30 pm Helensview High School
- b. June 3-Helensview High School Graduation-4:00-5:30 pm, Helensview High School
- c. June 5, 12:00 p.m. Arata Creek/Burlingame Creek Graduation-Burlingame Creek School
- d. June 6, 6:00 p.m. Rivercrest Academy Graduation
- e. June 10, 6:00 p.m.-Board Regular Session meeting-(Virtual via Zoom)
- f. June 11, 12:00 p.m.-Board Policy Committee meeting (Virtual via Zoom)



- g. June 11, 12:00 p.m. Three Lakes & Riverside High School Graduation, Three Lakes High School Albany, OR
- h. June 13, 11:00 a.m. Knott Creek End of Year Awards-Knott Creek School
- i. June 13, 1:00 p.m. Wheatley School Graduation
- j. June 13, 2:45 p.m.-Board Finance Committee meeting (Virtual via Zoom)

The meeting adjourned at 9:08 p.m. The next regular session meeting will be June 10, 2025 at 6:00 p.m.