

**MINUTES**  
**Pendleton School District 16R Board of Directors**  
**WORK SESSION**

February 3, 2026

8:00 a.m. | District Office | 107 NE 10<sup>th</sup> Street, Pendleton, OR 97801

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**Present:** Beth Harrison, Board Chair  
Ryan Lehnert (left at 8:45 a.m.)  
Jill Pace (virtual)  
Mason Murphy (virtual)  
Anne Keeler  
Patrick Gregg  
Michelle Jones, Director of Business Services  
Matt Yoshioka, Director of Curriculum, Instruction, and Assessment  
Julie Smith, Director of Special Programs  
Ronda Thornburg, Executive Secretary  
Michelle Jensen, PhD, Superintendent  
Kevin Dinning, Director of Human Resources

**Absent:** Ryan DeGrofft (no notice)

The meeting was in person and offered virtually.

**1. Opening and Call to Order** *Board Chair*

Chair Harrison welcomed everyone and called the work session to order at 8:00 a.m.

**1.1. Pledge of Allegiance**

The group stood and recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

**1.2. Meeting Audio/Video Recorded**

Chair Harrison stated that this meeting is being audio and video recorded.

**2. Budget Planning** *Michelle Jensen*

Superintendent Jensen emphasized that today's budget planning topic is a values-based conversation, a shared learning moment together where the Board can build understanding before budget decisions and strengthen the Board/District partnership. It is not to have a budget meeting where decisions are made with a final budget proposal. Michelle Jones explained how district dollars are used in the following areas: Instruction & Staffing, Student Supports, Operations & Transportation, and Required Services & Compliance. The conversation included which dollars are fixed and which are flexible, as well as emerging budget pressures. Mrs. Jensen guided the Board through a reflection ranking their top 3 priorities, followed by a discussion and key takeaways.

**3. Policy – First Reading** *Matt Yoshioka*

**3.1. IIBG – Responsible Use of Technology**

This policy recognizes the need for equitable access and responsible use of technology in our schools.

**3.2. IKJ – Artificial Intelligence**

This policy shows district support for the use of artificial intelligence in schools.

**3.3. LBEA – Denial for Virtual Public Charter School Student Enrollment**

This update clarifies the process for when the resident district denies student enrollment in a virtual public charter school.

Mr. Yoshioka answered the Board’s questions about each policy.

4. **Review Agenda – February 9, 2026, Regular Board Meeting** *Board Chair*  
No additions or deletions

5. **Public Comment** *Board Chair*  
No comments.

6. **Information**

7. **School Visit Reports** *Board Chair*

Adopt-A-School Assignments:

PELC – Ryan Lehnert

McKay – Patrick Gregg

Sherwood – Ryan DeGrofft

Washington – Mason Murphy

SMS – Jill Pace

PHS/HHS – Anne Keeler

All Schools – Beth Harrison

Director Lehnert shared that his time at the PELC was awesome. It was a great experience, refreshing and an eye-opener.

Chair Harrison shared the mid-year conferences at the schools have been a wonderful exercise, a lot of work for the admin, and feels like education is moving forward in each of the schools.

Director Gregg shared that the presentation at McKay was helpful, instructional, and gave an insight of what is going on at the school.

8. **Adjournment** *Board Chair*

With no further business brought forward for the good of the order, the meeting adjourned at 8:48 a.m.

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Beth Harrison, Board Chair

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Michelle Jensen, PhD, Superintendent

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Ronda Thornburg, Executive Secretary

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Date