

Board Finance Committee

Thursday, October 9, 2025



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>

The meeting was called to order at 1:00 p.m. p.m. on Thursday, October 9, 2025.

1. CALL TO ORDER

Present:	Susie Jones-Committee Chair Renee Anderson, Board member
Absent:	Renee Anderson, Board member Jessica Arzate, Board member
Administration:	Doana Anderson- Chief Financial Officer Sara Bottomley-Senior Program Administrator Jamie Campos-Grant Manager Heather Severns-Board Secretary
Guests:	None

Early-year finance snapshot with limited analysis; audit still in progress with a target presentation in December. Grants landscape is uncertain pending ODE guidance; the SSA Technical Assistance (~\$6.99M) item is a key watch. Dr. Coakley will seek clarity at the OAESD Superintendent Summit on Monday and brief board members the following week. Scholarship fund gets a small boost (\$800) from two unclaimed awards; keep scholarship item on future agendas.

Agenda & Discussion

1) Financial Report (Doana)

- July–August are the slowest months; **not much actionable analysis yet.**
- **Quarterly report for July–September** will be ready **next month.**

- **Audit** remains underway; no significant issues reported. Auditors could not complete in the initial 2–3 weeks; **presentation anticipated in December** as they slot MESD between other audits.

2) Grants Overview & State Funding Context

- Jamie shared a **grants list** (in meeting chat): identifies **federal vs. ODE vs. general-fund-supported** grants; current **award amounts** shown (may differ from projections).
- **Uncertainty from ODE**: overall “**holding pattern**”; planning requested but no new implementations yet.
- **High-impact watch item: SSA Technical Assistance (~\$6.99M)**; awaiting ODE budget/allocation. Delay may be related to CAT-funding mechanics (Doana’s informed speculation).
- Expect **changes**: ODE may adjust which grants are impacted; information typically **not shared in advance**.

3) Component District Demand / Resolution Funds (Q&A)

- MESD **collects service requests in spring** (for the coming year), so there is a baseline.
- Given volatility, **mid-year adjustments** by districts are possible.
- Commitment: **minimize impact to direct student services**.

4) Scholarship Update

- Kept on agenda for visibility.
- **BottleDrop** balance shared previously.
- **Two 2024 recipients did not claim** awards despite multiple contacts → **\$800 returned** to scholarship fund.

5) Superintendent Update (Paul Coakley)

- Attending **OAESD Superintendent Summit on Monday** with **ODE leadership** (Dr. Charlene Williams, Asst. Superintendent) to discuss **possible mid-year reductions** and ESDs’ **collective response/advocacy**.
- **Board coffees/updates** scheduled **next week** (Heather coordinating); Paul will brief members on **financial impacts** as information becomes available.

Decisions

- **None formalized.** Proceed with monitoring state funding/audit timelines; keep scholarship item on future agendas.

Action Items

1. **Finance (Doana):** Deliver **Quarterly Report (Jul–Sep)** at next meeting.
2. **Audit Team/Finance:** Prepare for **December** audit presentation (timing dependent on auditors).
3. **Superintendent (Paul):** Attend **OAESD Summit Monday**; report back insights on ODE funding and potential mid-year reductions.
4. **Heather:** Maintain schedule for **board coffees/updates next week**; collect and circulate Paul's key points afterward.
5. **Scholarship Committee/Finance:** Record **\$800** returned to fund; keep scholarship progress as a standing agenda item.

Parking Lot / Open Questions

- **When** will ODE release concrete guidance on **SSA TA (~\$6.99M)** and other grants?
- What **mid-year adjustments** might component districts request as their budgets evolve?
- Will the **audit** identify any items affecting FY planning once finalized in **December**?