

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

February 4, 2025

8:00 am | Board Room and Virtual | 107 NE 10<sup>th</sup> Street, Pendleton, OR 97801

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**Present:** Patrick Gregg, Chair  
Ryan Lehnert (arrived at 8:03 a.m.)  
Jill Pace  
Preston Eagleheart  
Mason Murphy  
Anne Keeler  
Matt Yoshioka, Director of Curriculum, Instruction, and Assessment  
Michelle Jones, Director of Business Services  
Julie Smith, Director of Special Programs  
Kevin Dinning, Director of Human Resources  
Kevin Headings, Superintendent  
Ronda Thornburg, Executive Secretary (virtual)

**Absent:** Beth Harrison, Vice-Chair (with prior notice)

The meeting was in person and offered virtually.

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

Chair Gregg 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 Gregg stated that this meeting is being audio/video recorded.

**2. National School Counseling Week – February 3-7, 2025** *Kevin Dinning*

Chair Gregg read a proclamation.

Mr. Dinning shared information about each counselor/behavior support specialist while Kevin Headings handed them a certificate of appreciation.

PELC - Miriah Golter and Haley Kannard

McKay Elementary – Patti Thorne and Haley Kannard

Sherwood Elementary – Lisa Roberts and Taylor Wilson

Washington Elementary – Maria Davis and Jaime Larsen

Sunridge Middle School – Keley Eckstine, Rick Scheibner and Matthew Rediger

Pendleton High School – Karen Demianew, Ron Murphy, Madelyn Stuvland, and Greg Whitten

**3. PVLA/Home Connections** *Jenny Corey*

Jenny Corey, K-8 Coordinator, gave a presentation on Pendleton Virtual Learning Academy (PVLA) and Home Connection, explaining the different learning pathways and options available for families. This is PVLA's fifth year. What sets Mrs. Corey apart is how and when she connects with families, including Google Meets, tutoring, art and writing clubs, in-person skills groups, and home visits. She is not intimidating and will meet families where they are on weekends, evenings, and early mornings as needed. The future of the program is changing and evolving. The board expressed appreciation for Mrs. Corey, recognizing her work is the reason this program is successful.

4. **Dual Credit/AP Classes** *Pat Dutcher, Jill Gregg, Mandy Oyama*

Principal Dutcher introduced Jill Gregg, ASPIRE Coordinator, in her 11<sup>th</sup> year working with seniors, and Mandy Oyama, the Next Step Navigator, the liaison between Pendleton High School (PHS) and Blue Mountain Community College (BMCC), who share an office at PHS. Together, they assist students with high school academic plans, dual enrollment during high school, career exploration, college search (2 yr, 4 yr, trade school), SAT & ACT test registration & preparation, essays, scholarships, navigating the financial aid processes (FAFSA and other financial aid options), as well as assist students with all the steps to set set up and registered for college. They reported data on the number of students registered for dual credit classes, BMCC Expanded Options, AP Courses at PHS, and BMCC attendance after high school graduation. They were available for questions.

5. **Graduation Data** *Matt Yoshioka*

The June 2024 graduation rates were released to the public media last week. There are many things to celebrate in the Pendleton School District. Students graduate with a regular diploma in June, and the remaining students have until the end of the summer to finish things up. Data is reviewed in the fall and then validated and released in January. He gave highlights at the district level, at PHS, and for Hawthorne Alternative High School, noting the importance of the achievements at each school. Principal Dutcher received phone calls from other districts inquiring about our Alt School's success. The board was encouraged to attend Hawthorne's unique graduation.

6. **Behavior Update** *Kevin Headings*

As a district, we need to do better in supporting Tier III students. Julie Smith and a team visited behavior support programs in the Milton-Freewater and Hermiston School Districts, coming away with practical ideas of what we already have in place and what can be implemented. PELC and Washington Elementary currently have a classroom in place. Sherwood will continue to use their current supports with plans to have things in place for the start of the 2025-26 school year in the fall. McKay will use parts of the model due to the small volume of students.

7. **Policies – First Reading** *Kevin Dinning*

7.1. GBNAA/JHFF - Suspected Sexual Conduct with Students and Reporting Requirements

7.2. JHFF/GBNAA - Suspected Sexual Conduct with Students and Reporting Requirements

The above-listed policies were presented for initial review and first reading.

8. **Action Items**

8.1. **Human Resources** *Kevin Dinning*

8.1.1. **Approve Personnel Report**

Mr. Dinning presented a revised personnel report for consideration and action.

<b>New Hire</b>	Classified	Roberto Lopez Rutia Austin Zaugg	Night Custodian Maintenance I	Washington Districtwide
<b>Resignation</b>	Certified	Dianna Dowell (Effective 6/9/2025)	Grade 1 Teacher	Sherwood
	Extra Duty	Shelby Torgeson	Assistant Volleyball Coach	PHS
<b>Contract</b>	Certified	Karen Smith (Temporary Contract 2/10/2025-6/9/2025)	Special Education Teacher	PELC
		Greg Whitten (Temporary Contract 1/17/2025-6/9/2025)	Counselor	PHS

Director Murphy motioned that the personnel recommendations for the February 4, 2025, work session be approved as presented. Director Eagleheart seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

**9. Review Agenda – February 10, 2025 Regular Board Meeting** *Board Chair*

No additions or deletions.

**10. Agenda Items for Future Work Sessions** *Board Chair*

Potential topics suggested:

March: Sports and Extracurriculars

April: OSBA Professional Development

May: After School Programs, Facilities

June: End-of-Year Reports - Washington/McKay/Sherwood

Michelle Jones asked for clarification on the information for the topic in March.

**11. Suggestions and Comments from Visitors** *Board Chair*

No suggestions or comments.

**12. Information**

**12.1. First Student, Inc. Update** *Matt Yoshioka*

Mr. Yoshioka shared a letter provided by First Student, which is a nationwide company, addressing the recent news about Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) activity across the United States. The safety and well-being of their drivers, student passengers, and communities remain their top priority. Engagement with Law Enforcement Inquiries at a Bus Stop is a guideline that was distributed to all their locations. First Student is committed to safety and ensuring that their teams have the information and tools needed to feel safe and secure on the job.

BusPatrol is a school bus safety program that First Student will pilot in the area. It is an external company working with First Student at no cost to our district. It issues citations for cars that do not respect the flashing red light on buses. A camera will be installed on the school bus stop sign arm, capturing the vehicle and license plate information.

**13. School Visit Reports**

Adopt-A-School Assignments:

PELC – Mason Murphy

McKay – Ryan Lehnert

Sherwood – Jill Pace

Washington – Beth Harrison

SMS – Anne Keeler

PHS/Hawthorne – Preston Eagleheart

All Schools – Patrick Gregg

Anne Keeler visited the School Based Health Center at Sunridge Middle School and shared her takeaways.

Jill Pace visited Sherwood and met with Principal Presley. Battle of the Books is a new program this year. He said he wants the community to know many good things are happening at Sherwood and that there is much to celebrate. The transition of him to be the principal this year has been smooth.

Mason Murphy visited Angela Lattin at PELC, noting her high engagement with students and staff, her hard work, and her drive. We are very fortunate to have Mrs. Lattin.

**14. Adjournment** *Board Chair*

With no further business brought forward for the good of the order, the meeting adjourned at 9:25 a.m.

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Patrick Gregg, Board Chair

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Kevin Headings, Superintendent

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Ronda Thornburg, Executive Secretary

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Date