

MINUTES
Pendleton School District 16R Board of Directors
WORK SESSION

November 4, 2025

8:00 am | District Office | 107 NE 10th Street, Pendleton, OR 97801

Present: Beth Harrison, Board Chair
Ryan Lehnert (arrived at 8:04 a.m.)
Jill Pace
Ryan DeGrofft
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: Mason Murphy (without 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. Site Action Plans *Michelle Jensen*

- 2.1. Pendleton Early Learning Center
- 2.2. McKay Creek Elementary
- 2.3. Sherwood Heights Elementary
- 2.4. Washington Elementary
- 2.5. Sunridge Middle School
- 2.6. Pendleton High School

Superintendent Jensen reviewed each school's site action plans and answered questions with Mr. Yoshioka.

3. Policy – First Reading *Michelle Jensen*

3.1. DDB – Native American Impact Aid Funds

To maintain compliance with District policy and Section 7004 of the Federal Impact Aid Program, the School Board must review and approve Policy DDB – Native American Impact Aid Funds annually. The policy was last approved/adopted by the Board on November 18, 2024. The policy is presented annually regardless of any changes. Mrs. Jones shared it with the CTUIR team and is awaiting their response.

4. **Review Agenda – November 10, 2025 Regular Board Meeting** *Board Chair*

The FFA student presentation will be moved to the December regular board meeting per their request, as they just returned from the National Convention.

The November regular board meeting will be in the Pendleton Room at Hamley's Steakhouse.

5. **Public Comment** *Board Chair*

No comments.

6. **Information**

6.1. **2025 OSBA Elections** *Board Chair*

6.1.1. **Board of Directors Position 2 – Gorge Region**

6.1.1.1. Candidate Nichole Schott, Condon SD

6.1.1.2. Candidate Paul Zastrow, Columbia Gorge ESD

6.1.2. **Legislative Policy Committee Position 2 – Gorge Region**

6.1.2.1. Candidate Jose Aparicio, North Wasco County SD

Chair Harrison encouraged everyone to review all the materials provided for the OSBA elections before the regular board meeting, when the board will vote.

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 Pace visited with Principal Horton and Assistant Principal Gunter. Admin is working well together. Teachers and the front office said things are going well.

Director DeGrofft met with Principal Presley and Assistant Barron at Sherwood. Behavior, academic performance, and specific strategies implemented were discussed. He toured the building. A suggestion is to share best practices across the buildings.

Director Keeler will visit PHS this week and report at the regular board meeting.

Chair Harrison has been to various sporting events and assemblies. It matters to administrators for the board to be intentional in visiting their assigned schools.

Director Lehnert hasn't made it to the PELC yet.

8. **Recess Regular Board Meeting** *Board Chair*

Chair Harrison recessed the meeting at 8:16 a.m.

9. **Convene Executive Session** *Board Chair*

(Per ORS 192.660(2)(i) to review and evaluate the employment-rated performance of the Chief Executive Officer)

Chair Harrison opened the executive session at 8:17 a.m. and closed it at 9:27 a.m.

10. Reconvene Regular Board Meeting *Board Chair*

Chair Harrison reconvened the meeting at 9:28 a.m.

11. Adjournment *Board Chair*

With no further business brought forward for the good of the order, the meeting adjourned at 9:28 a.m.

Beth Harrison, Board Chair

Michelle Jensen, PhD, Superintendent

Ronda Thornburg, Executive Secretary

Date