



Regular Meeting of the Board of Education

Thursday, January 15, 2026 6:00 PM

Oakdale Middle School Room 230
815 S. Oakdale Ave.
Medford, OR 97501

Board members present: Lilia Caballero, Kendell Ferguson, Erik Johnsen, Sandra LaNier McHenry (attended virtually), Sunny Spicer, Michael Williams, and Angela Zbikowski

A video recording of the Board meeting can be found on the district website at [this link](#). The slide presentation can be viewed by clicking on Extras listed next to the meeting at [this link](#).

1. Call to Order / Pledge of Allegiance / Roll Call

Board Chair Kendell Ferguson called the meeting to order at 6:15 PM, led the Pledge of Allegiance, and confirmed a quorum through roll call. She welcomed attendees and read the district's vision statement.

2. Agenda Adjustments and Approval

No objections were raised. The agenda was approved by unanimous consent.

3. School Board Appreciation

Interim Superintendent Jeanne Grazioli expressed appreciation for the School Board Directors in recognition of School Board Appreciation Month, thanking them for their time and service as volunteer leaders dedicated to student success. Board Directors were presented with custom-made gifts created by Medford School District students.

4. Items for Information & Discussion

4.a. Student Enrollment Forecast Update

Assistant Superintendent of Operations Brad Earl presented an overview of the Student Enrollment Forecast developed by Johnson Economics. He reviewed the methodology and key factors influencing projections, including historical trends, demographic data, and COVID-19 impacts. Enrollment forecasts by grade level for 2026–2045 were shared, along with an actual versus forecasted comparison, indicating a projected overall decline. Data shows several district schools may fall below 300 students by 2045.

Board Directors discussed potential impacts of new housing developments, compared the updated forecast with prior projections, and emphasized the

importance of ongoing community engagement and district marketing to support enrollment growth. Directors were encouraged to review the full report for further details.

4.b. Board Priority: Financial Stewardship

Assistant Superintendent of Operations Brad Earl presented an overview of the February financial forecast and noted that the Oregon Legislature will convene for the short session from February through March, during which funding decisions for the second year of the biennium will be made. He shared that education funding is expected to remain stable and noted that the State School Fund distribution is 49% in year one and 51% in year two.

Earl reported that property values across Oregon, particularly in the Portland area, continue to face challenges, with some commercial properties selling below assessed value. He also noted that interest rates are beginning to decline.

Earl provided an update on the upcoming Fiscal Stability Study Group, outlining its focus areas, including fiscal outlook, enrollment trends, city planning and real estate conditions, and long-range facilities pre-planning. The committee will develop recommendations for the School Board's consideration.

4.c. Medford Education Association (MEA) Report

MEA President Jessica Fitzsimmons provided an update to the Board, noting that recent changes in tone and a focus on relationships with the district have been positive. She referenced the August labor-management training as contributing to more productive meetings.

Fitzsimmons highlighted MEA's priorities, including clarifying contract language, addressing past grievances, and supporting and retaining special education teachers. She requested that the Board continue active discussion and engagement, noting that while full consensus may not always be reached, inclusion and mutual respect remain important.

Board Directors thanked Fitzsimmons for the update and expressed interest in continuing collaborative efforts with MEA. Fitzsimmons also provided feedback on Human Resources Director Michael Campbell, noting his collaborative approach and communication style.

5. Citizen Comments

Chair Ferguson reviewed the citizen comments guidelines. Interim Superintendent Grazioli provided an update on a previous citizen comment requests to add Boys Volleyball as an OSAA-sanctioned sport. She reported that the district is moving forward with approval, noting that student advocacy contributed to the decision.

Pat Barry, KUA School Board member, recognized School Board Appreciation Month and thanked Board members for their service. He expressed appreciation for the district's focus on trust, safety, and communication, and noted optimism regarding the district's direction and the upcoming superintendent selection process.

Randy Weber, President of Rogue Community College, also recognized School Board Appreciation Month and thanked the Board. He highlighted the partnership between RCC and the district, including work-based learning opportunities, and noted that MSD students saved nearly \$600,000 in tuition during the previous year.

6. Recess

The meeting was recessed for 10 minutes.

7. Items for Information & Discussion (continued)

7.a. Potential Partnership with United Soccer League (USL)

Brad Earl provided a brief update regarding a potential partnership involving Spiegelberg Stadium. He shared that the United Soccer League (USL) has signed a letter of intent with the City of Medford and is exploring Spiegelberg Stadium as a possible venue. Earl noted that discussions are in an exploratory phase, with no Board action requested at this time. He added that the topic was presented at the City Council meeting the previous evening, where initial feedback reflected excitement and support.

7.b. School Board Policy- *first reading*

Chair Ferguson presented revised policy language based on feedback from the Oregon School Boards Association and opened discussion. Board Directors raised questions regarding Step 4 in the Censure and Privileges section, including potential overreach, legal implications, and distinctions between rights and privileges.

It was determined that Director Williams will compile concerns and send them to the Board's attorney for review. A virtual meeting will be scheduled with the attorney, Director Williams, and Chair Ferguson to clarify responses, and a written response will be provided to the full Board. Chair Ferguson will update the policy as agreed and share it with the attorney for context.

8. Board Action Items

8.a. Appoint Budget Committee Members

A motion was presented by Caballero and seconded by Zbikowski to appoint Casey Stine and Christy Clark to Budget Committee.

Roll call vote: LaNier McHenry: Yea, Spicer: Yea, Williams: Yea, Caballero: Yea, Johnsen: Yea, Zbikowski: Yea, Ferguson: Yea

Result: Motion passed (Yea: 7, Nay: 0)

8.b. Budget Amendment #1-2025-26

Earl clarified changes to the beginning fund balance, deficit spending, long-span beam assessment and repair costs, and efforts to advocate with legislators for potential grant funding.

A motion was presented by Zbikowski and seconded by Caballero to approve budget amendment #1-2025-26 as presented.

**Roll call vote: Spicer: Yea; Caballero: Yea, LaNier McHenry: Yea, Johnsen: Yea, Williams: Yea, Zbikowski: Yea, Ferguson: Yea
Result: Motion passed (Yea: 7, Nay: 0)**

8.c. 2026-27 School Year Calendar Approval

Grazioli provided a rationale for recommending Version B of the school year calendar, noting that Version A had staff starting mid-August and ending at the end of May.

A motion was presented by Caballero and seconded by Johnsen to approve Version B of the 2026-27 school year calendar.

Discussion:

A discussion followed that included calendar alignment with surrounding districts.

**Roll call vote: Williams: Yea, Caballero: Yea, Spicer: Yea, LaNier McHenry: Yea, Johnsen: Yea, Zbikowski: Yea, Ferguson: Yea
Result: Motion passed (Yea: 7, Nay: 0)**

9. Consent Agenda

The following items were presented on the consent agenda:

- Staff Assignment Report
- Minutes from Previous Meetings

No objections were raised. The consent agenda was approved by unanimous consent.

10. Announcements

Chair Ferguson acknowledged the next Board Work Session scheduled for February 5 and provided an update on the superintendent search process.

11. Adjournment

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 7:35 PM.