



**Ontario School District 8C  
Regular Session of the Board of Directors  
June 2nd 2025 at 5:00 PM at the Ontario School District Board Room**

This meeting was broadcasted via zoom to the public, the Board of Directors met in person at the Ontario School District Boardroom with an audience of about 40

**Board Members Present:**

Blanca Rodriguez  
Matt Stringer  
Mike Blackaby  
Bret Uptmor

**Administrators in Attendance:**

Superintendent Nicole Albisu  
Director of Nutrition Pam Suyematsu  
Director of Personnel Eric Norton  
Director of Public Relations and Communications Taryn Smith  
Director of Student Services Melissa Williams  
Director of Federal Programs Anabel Ortiz-Chavolla  
Director of Facilities Bob Bennett  
Director of Technology Todd Stephan  
Director of Finance Devin Collins  
Director of District Improvement Initiatives & Grants Jodi Elizondo  
Administrative Assistant to the Superintendent/Board Andrea Salazar

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**Call to Order/Welcome to Visitors**

Chair Uptmor begins the meeting and welcomes everyone in the room and on Zoom, then leads the room in the flag salute.

**Agenda Change**

Andrea Salazar states that we will not have a Board Report by OHS tonight, it is a last minute cancellation. Chair Uptmor makes note of the change of the agenda.

**Consent Items**

Chair Uptmor asks if there are any questions regarding the consent items, Vice-Chair Blackaby asks a question about the bills stating there is a bill for Aiken School Security System. Director of Finance Devin Collins states it was paid with SIA dollars and it was to replace older system. Director Rodriguez makes a motion to approve the consent items, Director Stringer seconds the motion.

Chair Uptmor vote yes.  
Vice Chair Blackaby votes yes.  
Director Rodriguez votes yes.  
Director Stringer votes yes.

**OHS Student Report – Dana Hernandez was removed from the agenda**



## **OMS Student Report – Santiago Ovideo**

OMS Student Santiago Oviedo shares some of the news going on at Ontario Middle School. OMS students sold 500 cases of chocolate this year, this money will help pay for a trip to Wahooz for students. This also helped pay for a trip to Urban Air for OMS students. Santiago shares that he has found giving Board reports very memorable and thanks the Board for allowing him to speak at Board Meetings.

### **Licensed Staff Recognition**

Chair Uptmor shares that he is excited to get to honor licensed staff this month. Principal at Alameda Intermediate School, Andrea Buchholz, honors Katie Mason, “Katie Mason is kind, compassionate, and deeply committed to her students and their families. She creates an environment where every child feels seen, valued, and supported. Every student that enters her room knows they are loved and safe. Katie makes an extra effort to connect with parents and students. You can often find her spending her lunch with students. Some students have even asked "How do I get into your club?" She is truly the teacher we all wished we had growing up, and her impact extends far beyond the classroom walls.- Emily Speakes Congratulations!!! Teacher of the year Katie Mason. Katie is so very thoughtful and patient with her students and extremely kind/caring towards her coworkers. Katie has absorbed many additional responsibilities during this school year.. Katie is a hard worker and is the first to volunteer to help out others in need. This honor is well-deserved and long overdue. Katie, Thank you for being a wonderful human being!-Mrs B.

Principal at May Roberts Primary School, Kevin Capps, honors Christina Ingalls, “May Roberts Primary School would like to recognize Christina Ingalls as our 2024-25 Teacher of the Year. Christina embodies excellence! Her consistently positive attitude brightens our school, her team, and her students. She’s always excited, and willing to help at after-school events. Christina is a true team player, incredibly supportive of colleagues and administrators. This year, Christina courageously accepted a new kindergarten position and has absolutely excelled in her new role. She has demonstrated remarkable adaptability and dedication. We are so lucky to have her. Congratulations, Christina!”

Principal at Aiken Elementary School, Tobey Huddleston, honors Sarah Poff, “Aiken Elementary is proud to celebrate Sarah Poff as our 2025 teacher of the year! Sarah's official title is Music Teacher, but her magic spreads far beyond her music duties. If you need an-e-thing, Sarah is there. Not only there, but smiling & there! In addition to sharing her love of music with our students, she is an ever-willing helper, covering classes, creating time for students to visit our new book vending machine, and running our amazing TAG program. "Is there anything Ms. Poff can't do!?" a teacher asked recently. No, the answer is no. She can do anything and she DOES, all for the sake of Aiken students & staff. Constantly helping others with a smile, Sarah's positive spirit & dedication, even when navigating challenging circumstances, make her an invaluable superhero among us. Thank you Sarah!”

Principal at Ontario Middle School, Lisa Longoria, honors Kara Riojas, “Kara is a vital part of the Ontario Middle School family. In her first year as a Language Arts teacher in our building, she has demonstrated her ability to create a positive, inviting, and safe learning environment for all. Kara works diligently, every period, every day, to create and sustain genuine relationships with students. This allows her to command respect in order to effectively deliver well thought out, engaging, lessons. Kara invests time outside of the classroom by coaching OMS cross country and OMS track & field. We are fortunate to have Kara on our OMS team.”



Principal at Ontario Middle School, Lisa Longoria, Maria Benites, “Maria has been a technology teacher at Ontario Middle School for eight years now. It has been an honor and pleasure to see Maria blossom in our building. From the beginning, she has taken her responsibility for teaching and learning seriously. Although she began teaching a content area she was not familiar with, she quickly and happily learned how to effectively deliver new curriculum to students. She did the same with her new role as Yearbook Advisor this year, creating a beautiful book of memories. Maria is a team player, who is aware of the importance of her contributions to students and staff. We value Maria and are fortunate to have her on our team.”

Principal at Ontario High School, Ken Martinez, honors Julie Eskelsen, “Julie has been an essential pillar of support, both professionally and personally, within our school community. This year especially, her unwavering dedication, quiet leadership, and tireless work ethic have made a profound impact on both students and staff. Julie played a critical role in helping teachers navigate complex academic and social dynamics among our junior students. She was a trusted sounding board—always kind, impartial, and insightful in her feedback. Her thoughtful guidance was not only supportive but genuinely helped shape more positive outcomes for our students. When our team faced staffing shifts, Julie stepped up without hesitation, taking on a significant load of additional students. Despite the increased demands, she remained focused on meeting the diverse needs of both students and staff, never compromising her standard of care. Her efforts in leading extra programs, like the student leadership group, are a testament to her commitment beyond the classroom. She showed remarkable patience and guidance as she mentored that group, helping them grow in both confidence and responsibility. We are incredibly fortunate to have Julie on our team.”

Principal at Ontario High School, Ken Martinez, honors Jennifer Tuttle, “Jennifer Tuttle is an indispensable member of the Ontario High School team, exemplifying dedication, innovation, and leadership in every aspect of her work. This year, she has gone above and beyond by taking on the responsibility of facilitating Tutorial and guiding students through the credit recovery process using Edgenuity. Her support has been instrumental in helping students get back on track and achieve academic success. Jennifer’s commitment to supporting both students and colleagues is unmatched. She has willingly sacrificed her prep time to create clear, user-friendly instructional manuals that assist staff in navigating various technology platforms. As a recognized leader in technology education, Jennifer serves as a mentor in the Oregon State University – Cascades program, currently guiding a new technology teacher in Malheur County. Her mentorship reflects not only her technical knowledge but also her commitment to growing the next generation of educators. Jennifer Tuttle’s impact extends far beyond her classroom. Her selflessness, professionalism, and tireless efforts make her an exceptional educator and a vital asset to our school and community. We are proud to nominate her for Teacher of the Year in recognition of the tremendous difference she makes every day.”

## **Board Bits**

Director Stringer states that the next Board Meeting is his last meeting as a Board member, and would like to stay engaged with the district. Director Stringer states that he attended the ribbon cutting at Aiken Elementary School for their book vending machine. Also, Director Stringer states he got to attend Ms. Palomo’s class recently, it was the best time to participate in activities with students. Director Rodriguez states that she attended her last OHS graduation, and also went to Migrant graduation. Vice-Chair Blackaby states that he attended the FFA banquet, and the migrant graduation. It was great to recognize everyone this month for licensed staff, Vice-Chair Blackaby states. Chair Uptmor states that the OHS graduation went well, and states it is one of the best graduations he has seen. I also went to OHS and



went into their agricultural shop, it has been awhile since I have seen it. It was great to see it in action with the classes going.

### **Finance Report – Devin Collins**

Director of Finance Devin Collins states that there are three payrolls runs this month, there was no state payment this month as well. At the next Board Meeting, we will have the Budget on the agenda, and we also hoping to have the audit on the agenda.

### **Superintendent Report – Nikki Albisu**

Superintendent Albisu states that there is a lot going on this month, and a ton of events going on, as well Superintendent Albisu thanks Director of Finance Devin Collins for his hard work on getting the proposed budget completed. Then, Superintendent Albisu states she has been staying up to date on the legislature, there are a group of Superintendents/Administration in the State of Oregon that have sent letters to the legislature. We are waiting to hear about grants getting approved from the legislature as well. There was a question about bus routes at the Budget Hearing that I wanted to talk about Superintendent Albisu states, since the grade level school change, we did lose a route, but then had to add it back. Superintendent Albisu states that's we had to add another route back for Boys and Girls Club. We provide busing for anyone that needs it, so there have been a lot of additions that created adding that route back. No matter the situation the student is in, we provide transportation, Superintendent Albisu states. Vice-Chair Blackaby states that the budget committee members were great and asked good questions.

### **Public Comment**

There was one public comment from Kirstin Wheeler. Kirstin Wheeler talks about OEA and about an award that highlights exemplary work from teachers. There are many teachers throughout Ontario School District history that have impacted students in a great way. So OEA would like to honor a teacher and name an award after them. Ms. Wheeler than gives a personal example of her time at Ontario High School when she had a teacher named Mr. Buck that made her fall in love with Science. There were so many teachers that have lead me to be a teacher today. I am working on a forum to push out into the community to get feedback on who they would feel deserves an award named after them. Ms. Wheeler states that she hopes to work with the district along in this process, and if anyone has a name already picked I would love to hear from them.

### **Approval of the June Board Meeting Date**

Vice-Chair Blackaby states he would like to move the June Board Meeting to June 30<sup>th</sup> from June 23<sup>rd</sup>. After some discussion with the rest of the Board they all agree that June 30<sup>th</sup> will work as the June Board Meeting date. Vice-Chair Blackaby makes a motion to move the June Board Meeting to June 30<sup>th</sup>, Director Rodriguez seconds the motion.

Chair Uptmor vote yes.

Vice Chair Blackaby votes yes.

Director Rodriguez votes yes.

Director Stringer votes yes.

### **Approval of the Superintendent Contract**



Chair Uptmor states that this contract extends Superintendent Albisu's contract an extra year, Superintendent Albisu states it would be three years. Director Rodriguez makes a motion to approve the Superintendent Contract, Director Stringer seconds the motion.

Chair Uptmor vote yes.

Vice Chair Blackaby votes yes.

Director Rodriguez votes yes.

Director Stringer votes yes.

### **Approval of the Alameda Project Contract**

Kristin Kovalik and Tammy Arnivogt that working on the Alameda Schoolyard Project share some updates to getting this project up and running soon. Ms. Kovalik gives an update on fundraising, and for tonight's meeting we are wanting to the Board to agree that we can go out to bid. There have been grants done for this project, and so far we have raised \$950,000. There has also been a request for funding with the legislature to get the additional funding needed. If we don't get that additional funding from the legislature, we will have to modify the design of the schoolyard. Ms. Kovalik and Ms. Arnivogt share some of the changes that could be done to the schoolyard if there is no additional funding from the legislature. The original cost of the project is \$1.3 million, and we would like to bid after we hear back from the legislature. The Alameda Schoolyard Team show the Board some of minor changes that could be changed if they don't get the extra funding from the legislature. The size of the structure would change from 60 by 90 square feet to 50 by 80 square feet. Principal at Alameda Intermediate School Andrea Buchholz states she would like to keep the size of the structure the same no matter the funding. Chair Uptmor asks for clarity when it comes to the Board votes tonight, if the Board voted tonight, we would still be able to talk about the structure size. The Alameda Schoolyard Team confirm that there would be conversation about the project itself, but this motion would allow the team to go out to bid. Principal at Alameda Intermediate School Andrea Buchholz states that it would be a huge benefit to that space for the basketball court. Vice-Chair Blackaby makes a motion to approve the approve the Alameda Project Contract, Director Stringer seconds the motion.

Chair Uptmor vote yes.

Vice Chair Blackaby votes yes.

Director Rodriguez votes yes.

Director Stringer votes yes.

### **Approval of the Classified Agreement**

Director Stringer makes a motion to approve the Classified Agreement, Director Rodriguez seconds the motion.

Chair Uptmor vote yes.

Vice Chair Blackaby votes yes.

Director Rodriguez votes yes.

Director Stringer votes yes.

### **Approval of the Administrative Agreement**

Vice-Chair Blackaby makes a motion to approve the administrative contract, Director Stringer seconds the motion.



Chair Uptmor vote yes.

Vice Chair Blackaby votes yes.

Director Rodriguez votes yes.

Director Stringer votes yes.

### **Approval of the Superintendent Goals**

Superintendent Albisu states that she has put two goals in front of the Board. One of the goals is specific to the districts long term financial stability, the second goal is in regards to literacy, making sure students can read by grade three. Director Rodriguez asks about specifics about how we will support teachers getting fairly. Superintendent Albisu states that in our group of administration we have a lot of different grants and not just directly from the general fund. We have some speech and language pathologists that are paid through grants, but they are in our administration group. There are different groups of people, that are in our administration group, but get paid so we are healthy in the budget, in that way. Director of Finance Devin Collins confirms that funding has come through different outlets, just not just from the general fund. Vice-Chair Blackaby makes a motion to approve the Superintendent Goals, Director Rodriguez seconds the motion.

Chair Uptmor vote yes.

Vice Chair Blackaby votes yes.

Director Rodriguez votes yes.

Director Stringer votes yes.

### **Approval of the 2025 Summer School Payroll**

Director Rodriguez makes a motion to approve the 2025 Summer School Payroll, Vice-Chair Blackaby seconds the motion.

Chair Uptmor vote yes.

Vice Chair Blackaby votes yes.

Director Rodriguez votes yes.

Director Stringer votes yes.

### **Second Reading of Policies AC, AC-AR, GBNA/JBA, JBA/GBN, and JFE and First Reading of Policy JHFE/KN-AR**

Vice-Chair Blackaby makes a motion to approve the 2<sup>nd</sup> Reading of Policies, AC, AC-AR, GBNA/JBA, JBA/GBN, and JFE and the first reading of policy JHFE/KN-AR. Director Stringer seconds the motion.

Chair Uptmor vote yes.

Vice Chair Blackaby votes yes.

Director Rodriguez votes yes.

Director Stringer votes yes.

### **Topics for Future Meetings**

Director Blackaby asks about awarding the scholarship, Superintendent Albisu states hopefully we will have the audit available, we will have the budget on the agenda.



## **Adjourn**

Chair Uptmor entertains a motion to adjourn, Director Stringer makes a motion to adjourn, Director Rodriguez seconds the motion.

Chair Uptmor vote yes.

Vice Chair Blackaby votes yes.

Director Rodriguez votes yes.

Director Stringer votes yes.

**Meeting Ends at 6:24 PM**