



## Regular Meeting of the Board of Education

Thursday, May 22, 2025 5:30 PM

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

All Board members were present:

Michelle Atkinson, Lilia Caballero, Kendell Ferguson, Jeff Kinsella, Suzanne Messer, Michael Williams, and Cynthia Wright.

*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 Cynthia Wright called the meeting to order at 5:30 PM and 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. Recognitions

#### 3.a. Oregon State Seal of Biliteracy Awards

Superintendent Bret Champion introduced the Seal of Biliteracy recognitions. South Medford High School (SMHS) Teacher Dr. Camille Schuler recognized student recipients, with student Julissa Cortes providing Spanish translation.

North Medford High School (NMHS) Teacher Xavier Valdez presented awards to student recipients.

#### 3.b. SkillsUSA State Leadership Skills Conference

Career Learning Coordinator Dr. Larina Warnock emphasized the value of career and technical education and expressed gratitude to NMHS teacher and advisor Kirsti Christopherson for her contributions.

McLoughlin Principal Charity McLeod recognized student Zoe Marsh, whose pin design was selected for the national conference. Students were presented with certificates of recognition.

Teachers Jeffrey Chinn (SMHS) and Kirsti Christopherson (NMHS) presented awards to participating students.

Christopherson gave a historical overview of the SkillsUSA program at NMHS, highlighting its achievements since 1996, and presented the SkillsUSA Cornerstone Award to Board Director Suzanne Messer for her years of service. NMHS Teacher Scott Childers assisted with award presentations.

### **3.c. Appreciation for Board Director Michelle Atkinson**

*The Board moved the recognition of Board Director Atkinson to the top of the agenda. Board Director Michael Williams arrived during this part of the meeting.*

Superintendent Champion and Board members expressed heartfelt appreciation for Michelle Atkinson's two years of dedicated service. They praised her optimism, student-centered focus, and balanced perspective. She was presented with a commemorative plaque.

Board Director Atkinson reflected on her service, expressing gratitude and optimism for the district's future.

Chair Wright welcomed newly elected members Erik Johnsen, Angela Zbikowski, and Sandra LaNier-McHenry, who will be sworn in during the July meeting.

## **4. Recess**

A short break was taken for photos with award recipients.

## **5. Citizen Comments**

Chair Wright outlined citizen comment procedures.

**Russ Kautz**, community member: Recommended postponing the Board vacancy process and congratulated the newly elected Board members.

**Jodi Smith**, Teaching and Learning Facilitator: Urged reconsideration of transfer revocations at Washington Elementary, advocated for grandfathering in families, read a parent's letter, and shared a student success story.

## **6. Items for Information & Discussion / Board Action Items**

### **6.a. FY2025-26 Budget Update**

Assistant Superintendent Brad Earl presented an overview of the FY2025–26 budget. He noted a recent economic forecast projecting a \$750M reduction in state funds, possibly impacting allocations. Highlights included:

- Federal and state funding uncertainty (especially Special Education and ESSER funds)
- Continued plans for the SMHS track and field project
- Curriculum adoptions for ELA and Math
- Projected 3% COLA
- Consideration of a \$1M reduction to align with fiscal realities
- Implications of OEBC healthcare cost increases and charter school enrollment

Earl emphasized the significance of the State General Fund and outlined competing funding priorities, including fire suppression and homelessness.

#### **6.b. Board Candidate Application Process**

Chair Wright acknowledged the Board vacancy following Atkinson’s resignation and noted the Board received eight candidate applications and listed the names of those who applied. Chair Wright stated that Board members would receive the applications to rank their top three choices.

Board Director Williams voiced concern over the pace of the process and proposed deferring the decision until newly elected members could participate. His motion to delay the appointment did not receive a second and was not considered.

Due to scheduling conflicts with high school graduations, the interview date for candidates was proposed to be moved.

**MOTION: I move to modify the interview for the top three ranked candidates from May 29th or 30th to June 5th during the Board meeting. Motion was made by Suzanne Messer and seconded by Jeff Kinsella.**

**Roll call vote: Kinsella: Yea, Ferguson: Yea, Caballero: Yea, Messer: Yea, Williams: Abstain, Wright: Yea**

**Result: Motion passed (Yea: 5, No: 0, Abstention:1)**

#### **6.c. School Board Policy - *second reading***

**MOTION: I move to approve the May 22<sup>nd</sup> policy packet as presented. Motion was made by Suzanne Messer and seconded by Jeff Kinsella.**

**Roll call vote: Messer: Yea, Caballero: Yea, Kinsella: Yea, Ferguson: Yea, Williams: Yea, Wright: Yea**

**Result: Motion passed (Yea: 6, No: 0)**

**7. Consent Agenda**

The consent agenda, which included the Staff Assignment Report and minutes from the previous meeting, was approved without objection.

**8. Announcements**

Chair Wright reminded attendees of the upcoming high school graduation ceremonies and noted the next Board Work Session will be held on June 5 at Oakdale Middle School.

**9. Adjournment**

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 7:02 PM.

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Chair of the District School Board  
Medford School District

ATTEST:

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Superintendent-Clerk