



# Minutes

## The Board of Education Molalla River School District

**December 11, 2025**

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### **I. BUSINESS MEETING - Molalla River School District Office**

#### **CALL TO ORDER**

Chair Craig Loughridge called the business meeting back to order at 7:00pm and proceeded with the pledge of allegiance.

Board members attending included: Chair Craig Loughridge, Vice Chair Linda Eskridge, Amy McNeil (virtually), Rob Cummings, Mark Lucht (virtually), and Student Representative Josiah Lopez. Absent: Neal Lucht and Terrie Stafford.

MRSD Administrators present: Jennifer Ellis/Assistant Supt, Director of Human Resources, Andy Campbell/Chief Financial Officer, Tony Tiano/Facilities Supervisor, Chris Shaw/Technology Director, Les Womack/Principal Molalla Elementary, Cathy Mitchell/Principal Mulino Elementary, Christy Newman/Principal Clarkes Elementary, Randy Dalton/Principal Molalla River Middle School, Mike Lord/Athletic Director Associate Principal Molalla High School, Dr. David Atherton/Principal Molalla High School, and Lauree Nelzen/Executive Administrative Assistant

Also present: Antonia Etzel and Michelle Heistand/Sodexo, Danell Blair-Ocheskey, Ashley LaPlante, Elizabeth Gildersleeve, Meaghan Haback.

#### **A. HOLIDAY PRESENTATION – RURAL DELL ELEMENTARY**

There was no presentation.

#### **B. SPECIAL PRESENTATION – MOLALLA FFA HORSE JUDGING TEAM**

Ms. Danell Blair-Ocheskey, FFA Advisor for Molalla High School, introduced three horse judging team members: Ashley LaPlante, Meaghan Habbeck, and Elizabeth Gildersleeve. Summer Edmonds was not able to join the team tonight. Ms. Blair-Ocheskey stated the team placed 8<sup>th</sup> in the nation out of 40 teams. She explained what the team needed to know: rules, all the horse breeds and standards. The team has been practicing for over a year to prepare. The team visited the Secretariat Center in Louisville, KY before filling to Indianapolis for the National Competition. Ms. LaPlante, Ms. Habbeck, and Ms. Gildersleeve all passed the industry standard test to become an FFA Horse Judge. Ms. Blair-Ocheskey has been teaching at Molalla High School for 26 years and has been the horse judge advisor for 14 years. She stated Molalla has placed Gold every year at the National Competition. The Board thanked her for her work and congratulated the team on their placement.

#### **C. PUBLIC COMMENT**

There was none.

#### **D. CONSIDER CHANGES TO THE AGENDA**

There were none.

#### **E. STUDENT BOARD REPRESENTATIVE REPORT**

Mr. Josiah Lopez commented on the recent panic buttons that were implemented at Molalla High School. He shared the recent hot dog eating contests during A and B lunch were good fun. He also discussed the Goodwill clothing drive ran by students. There were enough items to donate to a local homeless shelter. Mr. Lopez shared the project Time to Shine. Leadership students went to Molalla Elementary and talked with students about kindness. They also painted rocks with kindness messages to give to parents and teachers. The First Trimester ended on November 25<sup>th</sup>, and the Second Trimester started December 3<sup>rd</sup>. He stated leadership is preparing for the 2026 Share the Love campaign that starts at the end of January. He thanked the Board for the invitation to the recent Clackamas Community College Legislative Breakfast. He attended with board members and district staff and met a lot of people, including Rep. Christine Drazan's son Isaac and Superintendent Ryan Carpenter from Estacada School District. He is hopefully for snow over the Winter Break.

#### **F. ACTION ITEMS**

1. *Consent Agenda – November Meeting minutes, personnel report, Partner Lease*  
Vice Chair Eskridge made a motion to accept the consent agenda as presented. Mr. Cummings seconded the motion. There was no discussion, and the motion passed unanimously by a roll call – 5 ayes, no nays, no abstentions.
2. *Recommendation to Approve – Second Reading of Policies: IGBAF, IGBAF-AR/Special Education – Individualized Education Program, IGBAG/Procedural Safeguards, JBAA, JBAA-AR/Section 504, and the Summary of the Civil Rights Policy changes*  
Vice Chair Eskridge made a motion to accept policies as presented, which are due to changes in Federal Law. Mr. Cummings seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously by a roll call – 5 ayes, no nays, no abstentions.

#### **G. INFORMATION/DISCUSSION**

1. *Financial Review*  
Mr. Andy Campbell gave a monthly financial review. He stated district enrollment is holding steady, which is in line with the report received last year from Flo Analytics. He discussed the recent release of the projected budget deficit from the Oregon Department of Education (ODE). He stated he will be watching for the February forecast. There was discussion about the extension in the Audit deadline due to the government shutdown. There was also discussion about the state school fund forecasting, which was a slight improvement from the initial forecast. There was no further discussion.
2. *26-27 MHS Course Proposals presentation*  
Dr. David Atherton presented each course, gave a brief description, and explained the budget implications. He explained staff are trying to meet students where they are at, and what happens to courses that are getting replaced. Dr. Atherton stated teachers would be at the December 18<sup>th</sup> work session to answer any questions, and to email Ms. Nelzen with any questions prior to that work session. The Board thanked Dr. Atherton for the update and are excited for the new offerings. There were no further questions.
3. *Sodexo Presentation*  
Ms. Antonia Etzel, MRSD Sodexo Manager and Ms. Michelle Heistand, Senior Marketing Manager for K-12 for Sodexo, presented Bright Bites Kitchen, a new brand for K-5 students. They discussed what that means for students and the new services that will be provided. Ms. Etzel stated Molalla will be participating in the National Future Chefs Challenge on March 13<sup>th</sup>.

There was discussion about the increase in meals served by Sodexo in the District over the past couple years. There was also discussion about skim milk and whole milk and other options for drinks. The Board also discussed where the food served in the district comes from and the maintenance of the equipment in the kitchen. There was no further discussion.

4. *Fall Sports Recap*

Mr. Mike Lord thanked the Board for the opportunity to present a recap on Fall Sports at the High School. In his second year, he stated, he wanted to thank high school staff and district and building maintenance teams for their support in making athletics work. He reviewed the athletics mission statement and gave an overview of each sport and their season results. Mr. Lord thanked all Fall coaches and stated a turf and track project update will be coming soon. There were no questions.

**H. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT**

Ms. Jennifer Ellis gave an update on Dr. Tony Mann's recent hip replacement surgery, and stated she is happy to fill in when he is out. She thanked the facilities department and building custodians for the work on all the buildings and grounds this week after heavy rains closed Molalla Elementary. She also thanked Ms. Andrea Watson and Ms. Kate French for their work on the emergency communications regarding inclement weather closures. Ms. Ellis asked if there were any questions about the Department reports and discussed the Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde powwow that was attended by Ms. Watson and Ms. Tamara Jackson. There was discussion with Mr. Chris Shaw about CyberNut and the cybersecurity training results. He also stated the tech department is working with Ms. Emmely Briley's engineering class to create a device to insert on the panic button remote to keep it from inadvertently being pushed. Mr. Shaw stated the class is working on different designs and are competing for the best design.

**I. BOARD COMMENTS**

Mr. Lopez thanked everyone for their work and commented on the new high school course proposals. Ms. McNeil gave Dr. Mann her well wishes for continued recovery. Vice Chair Eskridge gave a recap of the Legislative Breakfast she attended. Chair Loughridge also gave Dr. Mann good wishes to a speedy recovery and thanked Ms. McNeil and Mr. Mark Lucht for attending virtually. He thanked Ms. Ellis for standing in for Dr. Mann and thanked the administrators in attendance. He also wished everyone Happy Holidays.

**J. UPCOMING MEETINGS**

- December 18<sup>th</sup> work session at 7pm at the District Office
- January 8<sup>th</sup> business meeting at 7pm at the District Office
- January 22<sup>nd</sup> work session at 7pm at the District Office
- January 28<sup>th</sup> policy committee meeting at 7pm at the District Office

**K. ADJOURN**

Vice Chair Eskridge made a motion to adjourn. Mr. Cummings seconded the motion and Chair Loughridge adjourned the meeting at 8:18pm.

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*Chair*

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*Superintendent*

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*Board Secretary*

