

MINUTES
Pendleton School District 16R Board of Directors
WORK SESSION

April 7, 2026

8:00 a.m. | District Office | 107 NE 10th Street, Pendleton, OR 97801

Present: Beth Harrison, Board Chair
Ryan Lehnert
Jill Pace
Ryan DeGrofft
Mason Murphy (virtual)
Anne Keeler
Patrick Gregg
Michelle Jones, Director of Business Services
Matt Yoshioka, Director of Curriculum, Instruction, and Assessment
Ronda Thornburg, Executive Secretary
Michelle Jensen, PhD, Superintendent
Kevin Dinning, Director of Human Resources

Absent: Julie Smith, Director of Special Programs (with prior 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. 2025-26 Superintendent Evaluation Summary *Board Chair*

Chair Harrison provided the Board with an opportunity to add anything to the superintendent evaluation summary included in the agenda packet.

The Board of Directors of the Pendleton School District 16R has completed an annual evaluation of Superintendent Dr. Michelle Jensen for 2025-2026. All 7 board members have served on the Board for the entirety of the 2025-2026 school year and have been able to observe and be a part of the successes achieved this year.

The evaluation focused on 1) eight professional standards and 2) four Superintendent/Board goals.

Regarding the eight professional standards, we determined that Superintendent Dr. Michelle Jensen's performance was Effective or Developing in all 8 areas. The Board identified Dr. Jensen's strengths in the areas of Communications and Community Relations, Effective Organizational Management, and Ethics and Professional Norms. The Board acknowledges that Dr. Jensen is a first-year Superintendent and is new to the Pendleton School District, which reflects a Developing/Not Enough Information rating for the remaining professional standards.

Regarding the four Superintendent/Board goals, we determined that Dr. Jensen's performance was Developing in all four goals. The Board identified Dr. Jensen's strengths in the areas of collaboration and communication, as well as developing/adopting policy for responsible use of Artificial Intelligence (AI). The Board agrees that Dr. Jensen has

done solid work in strengthening the district communication plan at all levels, both internally and externally. Board feedback emphasized a focus on Goal 2 action items for the remainder of the school year, with a strong desire to update and implement relevant policy.

The Board will be working with Dr. Jensen over the next few months to develop goals for the 2026-2027 school year that are aligned with the Pendleton School District Strategic Plan.

3. Policy – First Read *Michelle Jensen*

3.1. IICA – Field Trips and Excursions

The proposed update strengthens the policy by incorporating elements previously outlined in the administrative rule IICA-AR directly into the board policy. In doing so, we are able to eliminate the AR and ensure clearer, more consistent guidance at the policy level. The policy establishes expectations and approval requirements for school-sponsored field trips and excursions, ensuring they are safe, educationally meaningful, and appropriately supervised, including additional oversight and out-of-state travel.

4. Strategic Priorities Development 2026-27 *Michelle Jensen*

Today, Superintendent Jensen wanted to create some space for the Board to reflect and brainstorm, with the intention of setting goals in June. She led the space using a structured process. They reviewed the current Strategic Plan, each sharing their observations of strengths/progress and areas needing attention. Based on their reflections, they shared their top 2-3 priority areas/goals the district should focus on.

5. Work Session Calendar May-August *Board Chair*

The May 5, 2026, work session will focus on delving deeper into measurable goals. Please allow 2 hours. At the June 2, 2026, work session, Mike Scott will facilitate the crafting of the district goals. Please allow 3 hours. The July work session is usually canceled due to the Independence Day holiday. Due to scheduling conflicts, the August work session and regular board meeting may be pushed back by one week. August 11 and 17, 2026. Date changes will be approved at the July regular board meeting.

6. Review Agenda – April 13, 2026, Regular Board Meeting *Board Chair*

Director Keeler asked for clarification on the time change of the May regular board meeting.

7. Public Comment *Board Chair*

No comments.

8. Information

8.1. Crystal Apple Awards – May 11, 2026, at 5:15 p.m., Wildhorse Resort

The Board is invited to the Crystal Apple Awards, to be held at Wildhorse Resort.

8.2. OSBA Summer School Sessions

There will be a one-day session this summer, held in Redmond and Eugene, OR.

9. 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

10. **Adjournment** *Board Chair*

With no further business brought forward for the good of the order, the meeting adjourned at 9:00 a.m.

Beth Harrison, Board Chair

Michelle Jensen, PhD, Superintendent

Ronda Thornburg, Executive Secretary

Date