

**Multnomah ESD Board of Directors'
Board Regular Session Minutes
Tuesday, January 20, 2026**

2022-2028

Areas of Focus

#1 – Create a high quality learning environment for all

#2 – Operationalizing systems that engage and empower communities

#3 – Build a culturally responsive workforce

MESD Board Equity Lens- <https://www.multnomahesd.org/board-equity.html>

1. CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL

Board Chair Katrina Doughty called the meeting to order at 6:02 p.m. on Tuesday, January 20, 2026, in accordance with the agenda and public notice of the meeting.

Board Members Present:

Renee Anderson
Danny Cage
Katrina Doughty-Chair
Susie Jones
Denyse Peterson

Board Members Absent:

Amanda Squiemphen-Yazzie-Vice-Chair
Jessica Arzate

Administrative Staff Present:

Dr. Paul Coakley, Superintendent
Sascha Perrins, Assistant Superintendent
Doana Anderson, Chief Financial Officer
Angela Hubbs, Director of Curriculum & Instruction
Bernadette Adeniran, Director of Human Resources
Heather Severns, Board Secretary

Guests:

Noa Martinsen, Principal of Arata & Knott Creek Schools
Daniel Miley, TKW

2. Land Acknowledgement & Educational Opportunity

Renee Anderson delivered the Educational Opportunity statement, drawing inspiration from the January Superintendent's Message. The message acknowledged recent traumatic community events involving federal agents, emphasized collective care, and highlighted Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.'s legacy of courage, service, and collective responsibility. The focus was on community solidarity and the responsibility to protect and uplift students.

Chair Doughty thanked Renee and reflected on the interconnected nature of the MESD community, noting collaborative responses and shared leadership across districts and governing bodies.

3. Public Comment

No requests for public comment were received.

4. Audit Presentation – FY 2024–2025

Presenter: Daniel Miley, TKW Auditors

Mr. Miley presented the annual audit, thanking MESD fiscal staff for their collaboration.

The Board received a presentation on the **FY 2024–2025 financial audit** from Daniel Miley of TKW. Mr. Miley explained that the audit was conducted in accordance with **Generally Accepted Auditing Standards (GAAS)** and **Government Auditing Standards**, including the requirements of a single audit for federal programs. The audit process included interim and final fieldwork, with final testing delayed slightly due to the late release of the federal compliance supplement.

The audit reviewed approximately **\$3.8 million in federal expenditures**, with two major federal programs selected for detailed testing: the **TRIO Cluster** and the **Education Stabilization Fund**, which is concluding as pandemic-related funding sunsets. Mr. Miley reported that the audit resulted in an **unmodified (clean) opinion**, indicating that MESD's financial statements are presented fairly in all material respects and in accordance with Generally Accepted Accounting Principles (GAAP). He also reported an unmodified opinion on compliance with federal program requirements.

Two significant deficiencies related to financial reporting were identified. These included issues related to the implementation of a new accounting standard for compensated absences and the preparation of the Schedule of Federal Expenditures and related revenue recognition. Mr. Miley noted that these deficiencies did not rise to the level of material weakness and that MESD staff have already developed a **Corrective Action Plan** to address the findings.

The audit also included the Oregon Minimum Standards Report, which identified two compliance findings related to the timing of reporting and the return of unspent **Student Investment Act** funds. Additionally, two audit adjustments were recorded during the audit process, and auditors reported no uncorrected misstatements beyond amounts considered clearly trivial.

Mr. Miley reviewed upcoming **GASB standards**, including new requirements related to financial statement presentation, management discussion and analysis, budget-to-actual reporting, and future guidance on subsequent events. He also reminded Board members of the importance of oversight related to significant accounting estimates, noting that while no management bias was identified, such estimates require professional judgment.

The Board thanked Mr. Miley for the thorough and accessible presentation and expressed appreciation for the work of MESD's fiscal services team in supporting a timely and successful audit.

Key points:

- Audit conducted under GAAS and Government Auditing Standards
- Approximately \$3.8 million in federal expenditures reviewed
- Two major federal programs audited: TRIO Cluster and Education Stabilization Fund
- Unmodified (clean) opinion issued on financial statements and federal compliance
- Two significant deficiencies identified:
 - Recording of compensated absences (new accounting standard implementation)
 - Preparation of Schedule of Federal Expenditures and related revenue timing
- Two audit adjustments were made; no material uncorrected misstatements remained
- Two findings noted on the Oregon Minimum Standards Report related to Student Investment Act reporting timelines
- Corrective Action Plan prepared by MESD staff
- GASB updates reviewed (Statements 103, 104, and future standards)

Board members expressed appreciation for the audit clarity and for MESD fiscal staff. No board questions were raised. Susie Jones publicly recognized Dona Anderson and her team for their continued excellence and national recognition.

5. School Board Recognition Month Proclamation

Presenter: Dr. Paul Coakley

Dr. Coakley read the School Board Recognition Month Proclamation, formally declaring January as School Board Recognition Month and recognizing the service, leadership, and governance responsibilities of MESD Board members.

6. Reports to the Board

a. Union Reports

- There was not a representative from MEA, they had nothing to report.
- There was not a representative from AFSCME.

b. Superintendent's Report

Highlights from Dr. Coakley:

- Recognition and appreciation of Board service during School Board Recognition Month
 - Acknowledgement of statewide and local budget uncertainties
 - Preliminary exploration of a potential property opportunity aligned with long-term facilities planning and student needs; further information to be brought to the Board
 - Introduction of the evening's program presentation by Noah Martinsen
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6. Program Report

Creeks Continuum (Knott Creek, Arata Creek, Burlingame Creek)

Presenter: Noa Martinsen

Mr. Martinsen provided a comprehensive and engaging presentation on the **Creeks Continuum**, encompassing Knott Creek, Arata Creek, and Burlingame Creek programs. He explained that the long-term goal is to operate these programs as a **cohesive continuum of services**, supporting students across multiple levels of need while ensuring equitable access to instruction, community engagement, and successful transitions.

Mr. Martinsen shared that this is his fifth year as Principal of Knott Creek and his first year overseeing Arata Creek, noting appreciation for the foundational work of previous administrators. He emphasized that Knott Creek's relocation to the Edgefield campus has strengthened collaboration and alignment across programs.

Alignment with Blueprint 28

The Creeks Continuum aligns most directly with **Blueprint 28 Goals 1, 2, and 3**, focusing on:

- High-quality learning experiences for all students
- Operational systems that engage and empower communities
- Development of a culturally responsive and sustainable workforce

Instructional and Programmatic Goals

Mr. Martinsen outlined shared goals across the Creeks programs:

1. Strengthening Tier 1 Instruction

- Increased use of standards-based instruction and formative assessment

- Alignment of academic and behavioral interventions with districtwide assessments (STAR and DIBELS)
- Continued instructional coaching support from the MESD School Improvement Team, including literacy and math specialists

2. **Return-to-District (RTD) Process**

- Emphasized RTD as a central equity practice, ensuring students return to their home districts when ready
- Improved readiness indicators and checklists developed in collaboration with MESD leadership and district partners
- Focus on reducing unnecessary barriers and ensuring timely transitions

3. **Community-Based Instruction (CBI)**

- Expansion of vocational, life skills, personal finance, and real-world learning opportunities
- Strong emphasis at Arata and Burlingame Creeks, including:
 - Community PE (YMCA, swimming, gym access)
 - Volunteer work and food bank service
 - Driver's education and practical life experiences
- Exploration of future CBI opportunities for Knott Creek students demonstrating readiness

4. **Reduction of Restraint and Seclusion**

- Continued commitment to safe, regulated, relationship-centered learning environments
- Use of data-driven behavioral decision-making
- Notable achievement: **Arata Creek experienced a 90% reduction in restraint and seclusion incidents**, sustained into the current year
- Staff wellness professional development implemented in partnership with the Multnomah County Regional Equity Network to reduce stress and improve outcomes

5. **Leadership Development and Capacity Building**

- Focus on shared leadership across administrators, teachers, behavior specialists, and support staff
- Celebration of internal career pathways, including the promotion of staff through multiple roles into administrative positions
- Recognition of “Grow Your Own” leadership as a key strength of MESD programs

Program Highlights and Outcomes

Mr. Martinsen shared numerous outcomes demonstrating program effectiveness, including:

- Successful return of multiple Knott Creek students to less restrictive environments
- Student attendance rates exceeding **90%**
- Staff retention rates exceeding **90%**
- Increased family engagement through newsletters and expanded end-of-year celebrations, with attendance growing to over 150 family members
- Successful holiday donation drives supporting students and families
- First-ever schoolwide field trips and community-based learning events
- All staff trained in Collaborative Problem Solving

Mr. Martinsen concluded by emphasizing the importance of staff dedication, community partnerships, and sustained support from MESD leadership and the Board. Board members and staff expressed strong appreciation for the depth of the work, the positive student outcomes, and the culture of care demonstrated across the Creeks Continuum.

7. ACTION ITEMS

a. Consent Agenda

1. Approve December 16, 2025 Board Regular Session meeting minutes
2. Resolution 26-004-Approval of January Personnel Recommendations
3. Resolution 26-006-Approval of Amended Board Policy KK-Visitors to MESD Facilities and MESD Occupied Facilities

Motion: Director Denyse Peterson moved to approve the Consent Agenda. Director Renee Anderson seconded the motion.

Discussion: None

Action: The motion carried with Directors Anderson, Cage, Doughty, Jones, and Peterson voting aye. Motion passed 5-0.

b. Action Agenda

1. Resolution 26-001-Approval of 2026-2027 Local Service Plan

Presenter: Sascha Perrins, Assistant Superintendent

Background: This resolution approved the MESD Local Service Plan for the 2026–2027 school year. The plan outlines the programs and services MESD will provide to its component districts and reflects input from district advisory groups and MESD leadership. Following Board approval, the plan will be submitted to each component district board for adoption.

Motion: Director Danny Cage moved to approve Resolution 26-001.
Director Renee Anderson seconded the motion.

Discussion: None

Action: The motion carried with Directors Anderson, Cage, Doughty, Jones, and Peterson voting aye. Motion passed 5-0.

2. Resolution 26-002-Acceptance of 2024-2025 Fiscal Audit

Presenter: Doana Anderson, Chief Financial Officer

Background: This resolution accepted the independent fiscal audit for the 2024–2025 fiscal year. The audit resulted in an unmodified (clean) opinion on MESD's financial statements and federal compliance. While two significant deficiencies were identified, staff presented a corrective action plan and confirmed that steps are being taken to strengthen internal controls.

Motion: Director Susie Jones moved to approve Resolution 26-002.
Director Denyse Peterson seconded the motion.

Discussion: None

Action: The motion carried with Directors Anderson, Cage, Doughty, Jones, and Peterson voting aye. Motion passed 5-0.

3. Resolution 26-003-Approval of Fiscal year 2025-2026 Budgeted Beginning Fund Balance Adjustment, Supplemental Budget Greater than 10% of Appropriation, Appropriation Adjustments and Transfers

Presenter: Doana Anderson, Chief Financial Officer

Background: This resolution approved an adjustment to the FY 2025–2026 budgeted beginning fund balance based on audited financial statements and updated grant information. The adjustment reflects accurate fund balances and

incorporates necessary technical corrections to ensure fiscal accuracy and compliance.

Motion: Director Susie Jones moved to approve Resolution 26-003.
Director Danny Cage seconded the motion.

Discussion: None

Action: The motion carried with Directors Anderson, Cage, Doughty, Jones, and Peterson voting aye. Motion passed 5-0.

4. Resolution 26-005-Election of OAESD Council Chair-Elect
Presenter: Heather Severns, Board Secretary

Background: This resolution recorded MESD's vote in the Oregon Association of Education Service Districts (OAESD) Officer Council election for Board Chair Elect. After review of candidate bios and discussion, the MESD Board voted individually.

Vote: Renee Anderson-Paul Zastrow
Danny Cage-Paul Zastrow
Katrina Doughty-Paul Zastrow
Susie Jones-Paul Zastrow
Denyse Peterson-Paul Zastrow

Discussion: None

Action: The Board voted unanimously to support Paul Zastrow. The Board Secretary will record the vote with OAESD.

10. Board & Committee Reports

- a. **Finance Committee:** No additional updates

b. **Board Policy Committee:**

- Discussion regarding alignment of board attendance policy with ORS
- Clarification that current policy does not conflict with statute but differs in structure
- Agreement that the issue will return to the Policy Committee for further review

c. Superintendent Evaluation Committee:

- No update; meeting forthcoming
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11. Announcements

- Chair Katrina Doughty provided several updates to the Board. She shared that she would be attending the upcoming **Oregon School Boards Association (OSBA) Board of Directors meeting** over the weekend to represent MESD and the region. She noted that she would report back to the Board on any relevant discussions, decisions, or statewide updates resulting from the meeting.
 - Chair Doughty also informed the Board that she serves on the **OSBA Governance Committee**, which is currently undertaking a comprehensive review and evaluation of OSBA's governance structure. This review includes examining leadership models, representation across regions, and overall effectiveness to ensure the organization's governance systems remain responsive, inclusive, and aligned with the needs of districts statewide. She indicated that this work will involve a detailed analysis of governance practices and that updates will be shared with the Board as the process progresses.
 - Additionally, Chair Doughty reminded Board members to regularly review their **activity calendars** and to **RSVP to meeting and event invitations** in a timely manner. She noted that advance notice of attendance helps staff plan appropriately and ensure adequate support for Board activities.
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12. Adjournment

Chair Doughty concluded her remarks by wishing Board members a healthy and successful new year and expressing appreciation for their continued service and engagement.

ACTIVITY CALENDAR-Directors were asked to notify leadership if they are unable to attend.

- a. January 27, 12:00 pm-Board Superintendent Eval Committee mtg (Virtual via Zoom)
- b. February 12, 12:00 pm-Board Policy Committee mtg(Virtual via Zoom)
- c. February 12, 1:00 pm-Board Finance Committee mtg(Virtual via Zoom)
- d. February 16, MESD Buildings closed for Martin Luther King Day
- e. February 17, 6:00 p.m.-Board Regular Session meeting(Virtual Via Zoom)

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 7:03 p.m. The next Board meeting will be held at 6:00 p.m. on Tuesday, February 17, 2026.

Heather Severns
Executive Assistant/Board Secretary

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