

MINUTES
Pendleton School District 16R Board of Directors
REGULAR BOARD MEETING

February 9, 2026
6:00 p.m. | District Office | 107 NW 10th Street, Pendleton, OR 97801

Present: Beth Harrison, Board Chair
Ryan Lehnert
Jill Pace
Ryan DeGrofft
Mason Murphy (virtual)
Anne Keeler, Vice Chair
Patrick Gregg (arrived at 6:02 p.m.)
Kevin Dinning, Director of Human Resources
Michelle Jones, Director of Business Services
Ronda Thornburg, Executive Secretary
Michelle Jensen, PhD, Superintendent
Matt Yoshioka, Director of Curriculum, Instruction, and Assessment
Julie Smith, Director of Special Programs

Absent:

The meeting was in person and offered virtually.

1. Opening and Call to Order *Board Chair*

Chair Harrison welcomed everyone and called the regular board meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

1.1. Pledge of Allegiance

The group stood and recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

1.2. Meeting Audio and Video Recorded

Chair Harrison stated that this meeting is being audio and video recorded.

2. Approve Board Agenda *Board Chair*

Director Lehnert motioned to approve the February 9, 2026, Regular Board Meeting agenda. Director Pace seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

3. Consent Agenda *Board Chair*

3.1. Board Meeting Minutes

January 6, 2026 Work Session

January 12, 2026 Regular Board Meeting

3.2. January 31, 2026 Financial Report

Expenditures:

Year-to-date expenditures through the month of January are within expectations.

Revenue:

Year-to-date revenues through the month of January are within expectations, with the exception of the Common School fund payments, which were anticipated for January but will be received in February/March.

3.3. Grants

Granting Agency	Recipient	Purpose	Amount
Pendleton Wrestling Club	PHS Wrestling	Donation for hotels, entry fees	\$5,200
Kelly Lumber Supply	PHS Volleyball	trip donation/game sponsorship	\$1,000

A letter of appreciation will be sent to each donor.

3.4. Human Resources Report

NEW HIRE	Certified	Jennifer Henderer <i>(Temporary-finish out 2025-26 SY)</i>	Special Education Life Skills	SMS
		Brianna Kohr <i>(Temporary-finish out 2025-26 SY)</i>	Special Education Teacher	SHES
		Nancy Vert	Counselor (2026-27 SY)	SMS
		Margie Robinson	Math Teacher (2026-27 SY)	PHS
	Classified	James McDonough	Maintenance II	PSD
		Micah Reading <i>(Temporary-finish out 2025-26 SY)</i>	Paraprofessional	MES
		Hannah Estock <i>(Temporary-finish out 2025-26 SY)</i>	Paraprofessional	SMS
		Luis Candido <i>(Temporary-finish out 2025-26 SY)</i>	Paraprofessional	SMS
		Alizandra Harris <i>(Temporary-finish out 2025-26 SY)</i>	Paraprofessional	SMS
		Myranda Spicknall <i>(Temporary-finish out 2025-26 SY)</i>	Paraprofessional	SHES
	Nicole Kellas	Paraprofessional	SHES	
	Elizabeth Evans	Paraprofessional	WES	
RESIGNATION	Classified	Genia Simpson	Paraprofessional	SHE
		Rhonda Bigger	Paraprofessional	MES
	Extra Duty	Steve Lawn <i>(Effective 1/15/2026)</i>	Robotics Coach	PHS
		Cameron Baldwin	JV Assistant Volleyball Coach	PHS
RETIREMENT	Classified	Angie Steidl	Bookkeeper	SMS
	Certified	Rick Scheibner	Counselor	SMS
LEAVE of ABSENCE	Classified	Jennifer Sadler	Paraprofessional	PELC
EXTRA DUTY	Tennis	Christopher Holdman	Assistant Girls Coach	PHS
	Wrestling	Patrick Simpson	Assistant Coach	SMS
	Robotics	Zach Gaulke	Coach	PHS
VOLUNTEER	Tennis	Keri Kunz	Assistant Girls Coach	PHS
	Softball	Ashley Armstrong	Coach	PHS

Director Lehnert motioned to approve the February 9, 2026, consent agenda as presented. Director Keeler abstained due to a family member in the AR Report. Director Pace seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

4. **Recognition & Good News** *Superintendent*

4.1. National School Counselors Week – February 2-6, 2026

In honor of all the work and well-being of the counselors and behavior support specialists in our district, we recognize each of them serving our schools, teachers, and students every day. On behalf of the Board, Chair Harrison thanked the counselors for their heart for the students and appreciated their exceptional efforts.

4.2. District Graduation Rate

The 2024-25 Pendleton School District graduation rate is 89.7%, which is up 6% from last year. PSD exceeds the Oregon State Average by 6.7%.

5. **Board Communications** *Board Chair*

5.1. Pendleton Association of Teachers *PAT Representative*

Stephanie Smith did not have a report.

5.2. Oregon School Employees Association *Tammy Hillmick*

Tammy Hillmick spoke about Classified Week and invited the Board to visit the classified staff at the schools.

5.3. PL974/Indian Education *Kendall Rosario*

No report.

6. **Public Comment** *Board Chair*

No comments.

7. **Superintendent's Report**

Lessons Learned from the Student Walk-Out

1. Communication: The "Information Vacuum" Lesson
2. Safety: The "Supervision vs. Prevention" Lesson
3. Student Engagement: The "Early Insight" Lesson

Goal #2 – Be Responsive to the Needs of All Students

Two people from ODE visited each of the six buildings, working with members of the K-12 team that Superintendent Jensen assembled earlier in the year. The team is using the SWIFT (Schoolwide Integrated Framework for Transformation) method. ODE will provide feedback and insight from their work.

Goal #1 – Pursuit of Instructional Excellence

Professional Development focused on elevating classroom support strategies, ensuring every student has the targeted scaffolding they need to thrive.

8. **Reports & Discussion**

8.1. Sodexo Survey Report *Suzanne Howard*

In the fall, a customer satisfaction survey was launched. Pendleton School District had the biggest response nationwide. Suzanne took a close look at the comments and, together with Chef Delores, is making positive changes to the menu specials, including grab-to-go items.

8.2. Graduation Data *Matt Yoshioka*

Mr. Yoshioka summarized the 2024-25 school year 4-Year Cohort Graduation Data of 89.7%. The district has successfully closed the gap with the state average, outperforming Oregon's 83% graduation rate by 6.7 percentage points. The progress is seen across nearly every demographic subgroup, including a dramatic rise in the graduation rates for students with disabilities, which now matches the district-wide average. He then spoke of the contributing factors to increased graduation rates, which included 9th Grade Focus, CTE Courses, Targeted Support for Students with Disabilities, Strategic Dropout Prevention, Integrated Support Systems, and Credit Recovery. Mr. Yoshioka was available for questions.

9. Board Business – Action Items

9.1. Superintendent *Michelle Jensen*

9.1.1. Approve Resolution 2026-04 IMESD Local Service Plan for 2026-27

As a result of HB 3184, the annual resolutions process was merged into the development of a Local Service Plan (LSP) to be developed jointly by the education service district and its component school districts. The LSP must include the following services:

1. Programs for Children with Special Needs, including, but not limited to, special education services for at-risk students and professional development for employees who provide those services.
2. Technology Support for component school districts and the individual technology plans of those districts, including, but not limited to, technology infrastructure services, data services, instructional technology services, distance learning, and professional development for employees who provide those services.
3. School Improvement Services for component school districts, including, but not limited to, services designed to support component school districts in meeting the requirements of state and federal law, services designed to allow the education service district to participate in and facilitate a review of the state and federal standards related to the provision of a quality education by component school districts, services designed to address school-wide behavior and climate issues, and professional technical education and professional development for employees who provide those services.
4. Administrative and Support Services for component school districts, including, but not limited to, services designed to consolidate component school district business functions, liaison services between the Oregon Department of Education and component school districts, and registration of children being taught by private teachers, parents, or legal guardians pursuant to ORS 339.035.

The Board of Directors of the IMESD believes the creation of an LSP in cooperation with its member districts and the clear articulation of every program and service offered by IMESD leads to enhanced understanding, more effective communication, and greater equity of service for all students.

The criteria for approval of the LSP is 2/3 of the component districts, with at least 50% of the students, must vote in favor of the plan (ORS 334.175(5)(a)(b)).

The LSP can be amended by a resolution of constituent district boards and approval of the IMESD Board using the same criteria to approve the original plan (ORS 334.175(6)).

Director Keeler moved that Resolution 2026-04 InterMountain Education Service District 2026-27 Local Service Plan be approved as presented. Director Gregg seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

9.1.2. Policy – Second Reading and Adoption

OSBA requires/recommends the following policy to be adopted by local school boards.

LBEA – Denial for Virtual Public Charter School Student Enrollment

IIBG – Responsible use of Technology

IKJ – Artificial Intelligence

Director Gregg moved to approve the above-listed policies as presented. Director Lehnert seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

10. Board Member Comments *Board Chair*

Chair Harrison let the Board know they will be receiving an email with information to evaluate the Superintendent. Responses due by February 20, 2026. Executive session will be at the March 3, 2026, work session.

11. Adjournment *Board Chair*

With no further business brought forward for the good of the order, the meeting adjourned at 6:50 p.m.

DRAFT

Beth Harrison, Board Chair

Michelle Jensen, PhD, Superintendent

Ronda Thornburg, Executive Secretary

Date