



## Regular Meeting of the Board of Education

Thursday, December 11, 2025 5:45 PM

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

Board members present: Lilia Caballero, Kendell Ferguson, Erik Johnsen, Sandra LaNier McHenry, Sunny Spicer, Michael Williams, and Angela Zbikowski

*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 Kendell Ferguson called the meeting to order at 5:45 PM, 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. Superintendent Search Update**

McPherson & Jacobson, LLC consultant Steve Lowder joined the meeting virtually to provide an update on the superintendent search. He reviewed the stakeholder meetings and public forums held on December 9 and 10, noting strong participation, and reported that the online survey remains open with approximately 200 responses received.

Lowder summarized stakeholder feedback, highlighting desired superintendent qualities and noting both positive aspects and concerns shared. He also reported that the district's strengths are expected to attract qualified candidates.

Lowder concluded by reviewing the recruitment timeline, including the January 6 application deadline, and outlined the Board's next steps and interview process.

#### **4. Items for Information & Discussion**

##### **4.a. Interim Superintendent Report**

Interim Superintendent Jeanne Grazioli presented a mid-year update on the district's focused priorities: MSD Relationships, Curriculum Optimization, Student Success, Foster Inclusive School Communities, and Financial Stewardship. She reviewed objectives related to strengthening partnerships, implementing the new math curriculum, increasing student attendance, educating students and families on bullying and violence prevention, and engaging the community in the district's financial future.

Board Directors asked follow-up questions regarding substitute availability, instructional scaffolding, student attendance strategies, behavior incident data, and new employee orientation.

Grazioli concluded by noting she will provide a reflection on Board and District priorities and seek Board feedback in January.

##### **4.b. Board Priority: Safety & Security Update**

*Board Director Sunny Spicer exited the meeting prior to the presentation.*

Director of Security and Emergency Management Kevin Plaisance provided an overview of district safety and security efforts, a Board and District priority. He highlighted a collaborative, continuous-improvement approach supported by data-driven practices.

Plaisance reviewed the district's partnership with the Medford Police Department, noting the positive role of school resource officers and school marshals in both safety and school culture. He also discussed preparedness efforts, including safety drills, a district reunification process walk-through held in October with local and regional partners, and Site Security Assessments conducted every three years with follow-up reviews.

Board Directors asked whether the October event was recorded and inquired about district investments in security systems; and expressed appreciation for the emphasis on culture and community partnerships.

##### **4.c. 2026-27 Draft School Year Calendar**

Interim Superintendent Jeanne Grazioli presented two draft options for the 2026–27 school year calendar with different start dates. She reported that feedback will be gathered from employee unions, teacher leaders, principals, and other staff. Preliminary input indicates a preference for a later start date of August 31. She

noted that an earlier start could impact athletic programs but would allow for an earlier graduation date in the spring.

Board Directors discussed a preference for the first week of school to be a full five-day week rather than a four-day week; noted the benefit of an earlier start resulting in an earlier end to the school year; asked how calendar options might align in the following year including the placement of Labor Day; and inquired about surveying families for their input.

## **5. Citizen Comments**

Chair Ferguson reviewed the citizen comments guidelines and addressed feedback from the previous meeting, highlighting her discussions with parents about concerns regarding the math curriculum. Interim Superintendent Grazioli provided updates on the slow progress of the North Medford High School (NMHS) gymnasium rebuild and other structural issues. She also explained that student requests to use cell phones during passing periods and lunch are influenced by the Governor's executive order, and shared that she has worked with principals on a plan for student government to use cell phones for social media, ensuring consistency across high school campuses.

### **Kolton Preston, NMHS Student**

Highlighted the Title IV Rule and encouraged the Board to fund boys volleyball. He noted that no new facilities are needed, as the team can share existing gym space and equipment.

### **Lonnie Haywood, NMHS Student**

Emphasized the strong community and camaraderie within boys volleyball, describing how the sport promotes encouragement, compassion, and personal growth.

### **Diego McCartney, NMHS Student**

Spoke on the broader benefits of the sport, including fostering a sense of belonging, encouraging student participation and engagement, and supporting academic success. He also noted community and local business support for funding and sustaining the program.

All three students encouraged the Board to approve boys volleyball as an OSAA sanctioned sport, highlighting both the social and developmental benefits for students.

Noting the strong interest from students, Chair Ferguson asked Interim Superintendent Grazioli to provide the Board with a follow-up outlining what would be required to start a boys volleyball team, including any potential barriers.

## **6. Recess**

*The meeting was recessed for 15 minutes.*

## **7. Items for Information & Discussion (continued)**

### **7.a. Board Priority: Financial Stewardship - Financial Update**

Assistant Superintendent of Operations Brad Earl directed the Board's attention to the monthly financial statements. He provided an overview of the state's financial outlook, noting challenges including competing legislative priorities, wildfire and homelessness costs, potential changes in education funding, and delays in income and property tax collections. Earl emphasized close monitoring of the current biennium to avoid major reductions and expressed concern about the next biennium and possible federal funding cuts.

He also updated the Board on the audit process, noting delays due to the federal government shutdown and that the state granted an additional month for completion. Board members were invited to meet in a subcommittee with the auditor to review details before a full report is presented.

A Board member inquired about potential increases in the cost of medical insurance.

### **7.b. Review Budget Committee Applicants**

Assistant Superintendent of Operations Brad Earl reported that the district received two applications for the two vacancies on the Budget Committee. Both candidates were deemed viable, with one having previously served multiple terms on the committee and the other recently serving on an attendance zone committee. The Board expressed support for closing the application process and appointing both candidates to the Budget Committee in January.

### **7.c. District-At-A-Glance Profile Review**

Senior Executive Director of Teaching and Learning Todd Bloomquist presented the District At-A-Glance Profile, covering several key areas:

- Predictors of Success
- Comparative performance on Oregon State Achievement System (OSAS) English Language Arts (ELA) assessments
- Comparison of the top 10 largest districts, focusing on poverty and assessment rates
- Schools achieving more than a 3% increase in ELA and Math, along with improvements in other areas
- Regional data comparisons
- Schools with a 5% or greater increase in attendance

Board Directors asked follow-up questions, including inquiries about graduation rate comparisons with local districts, the strategies in place to ensure students graduate with strong reading skills, the support systems designed to keep students

on track to graduate, and how the data is used by building leaders to provide targeted support or implement necessary changes.

## **8. Board Action Items**

### **8.a. Oregon School Boards Associations (OSBA) Election**

**A motion was presented by Caballero and seconded by Zbikowski to elect Jay Chick for the OSBA Board of Directors, representing the Southern Region Position #5.**

**Roll call vote: Caballero: Yea, Johnsen: Yea, Zbikowski: Yea, Williams: Yea, LaNier Henry: Yea, Ferguson: Yea, Spicer: Absent  
Result: Motion passed (Yea: 6, Nay: 0, Absent: 1)**

### **8.b. Approval of SIA Grant Agreements**

Interim Superintendent Grazioli informed the Board that the information for the grants were presented at the prior meeting and that the Oregon Department of Education requires Boards to formally approve the final grant agreements.

**A motion was presented by LaNier McHenry and seconded by Zbikowski to approve the SIA grant agreements as presented.**

**Roll call vote: Caballero: Yea, LaNier McHenry: Yea, Johnsen: Yea, Williams: Yea, Zbikowski: Yea, Ferguson: Yea, Spicer: Absent  
Result: Motion passed (Yea: 6, Nay: 0, Absent: 1)**

### **8.c. School Board Policies - *second reading***

**A motion was presented by LaNier McHenry and seconded by Zbikowski to readopt the policies as presented in the December 11th policy packet.**

**Roll call vote: Williams: Yea, Caballero: Yea, LaNier McHenry: Yea, Johnsen: Yea, Zbikowski: Yea, Ferguson: Yea, Spicer: Absent  
Result: Motion passed (Yea: 6, Nay: 0, Absent: 1)**

## **9. Consent Agenda**

The following items were presented on the consent agenda:

- Staff Assignment Report
- Minutes from Previous Meetings

No objections were raised. The consent agenda was approved by unanimous consent.

## **10. Announcements**

Chair Ferguson acknowledged the upcoming winter break, from December 22 to January 4, and reminded the Board of the meeting scheduled for January 15. She informed the Board that an executive session would be needed to discuss negotiations and the interim superintendent's evaluation, proposing that the executive session be scheduled prior to the regular meeting, with the start time for the regular meeting moved to 6:00 PM. The Board agreed to this proposal.

## **11. Adjournment**

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:10 PM.

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