



Ontario School District 8C
Regular Session of the Board of Directors
April 28th 2025 at 5:00 PM at the Ontario School District Board Room

This meeting was broadcasted via zoom to the public, the Board of Directors met in person at the Ontario School District Boardroom with an audience of about 40

Board Members Present:

Blanca Rodriguez
Matt Stringer
Mike Blackaby
Bret Uptmor

Administrators in Attendance:

Superintendent Nicole Albisu
Director of Nutrition Pam Suyematsu
Director of Personnel Eric Norton
Director of Public Relations and Communications Taryn Smith
Director of Student Services Melissa Williams
Director of Federal Programs Anabel Ortiz-Chavolla
Director of Facilities Bob Bennett
Director of Technology Todd Stephan
Director of Finance Devin Collins
Director of District Improvement Initiatives & Grants Jodi Elizondo
Administrative Assistant to the Superintendent/Board Andrea Salazar

Call to Order/Welcome to Visitors

Chair Uptmor begins the meeting and welcomes everyone in the room and on Zoom, and leads the room in the flag salute.

Agenda Change

Chair Uptmor states that there are two agenda changes, two additions to the business section, one of them being a field trip and the other adjusting the Budget Hearing date. Superintendent Albisu states that the Argus Observer publishes once a week, and the publication of our Budget Hearing did not allow for enough notice. So, we would like to move it from the May 7 date to possibly a date after May 20. Director Stringer makes a motion to approve this agenda change, Director Rodriguez seconds the motion.

Chair Uptmor vote yes.
Vice Chair Blackaby votes yes.
Director Rodriguez votes yes.
Director Stringer votes yes.

Consent Items



Vice-Chair Blackaby states that he has a question about the financial report and Director of Finance Devin Collins discuss a budget line in that report. After some discussion, Vice-Chair Blackaby makes a motion to approve the consent items. Director Rodriguez seconds the motion.

Chair Uptmor vote yes.

Vice Chair Blackaby votes yes.

Director Rodriguez votes yes.

Director Stringer votes yes.

OMS Student Report – Santiago Oviedo

Student at OMS Santiago Oviedo shares some of the events going on at OMS, yearbooks is wrapping their work on the yearbook. Latinos in Action are preparing for their Utah and Oregon field trip. The Spring Fling Shop was a success, and 6th grade band is preparing for their concerts. The OMS choir director is very excited to get started in Choir for the next school year, Santiago Oviedo.

OHS Student Report – Dana Hernandez

Student at OHS Dana Hernandez is not available to present tonight, so OHS ASB President Aubrie Bosen will take her place. Class of 2028 is planning their freshmen only assembly, they will have many games to participate in. Class of 2027 is planning a dodgeball tournament, class of 2026 hosted prom and class of 2025 is currently planning a spirit week. The Drama club had a successful play this past weekend, and HOSA is hosting a fundraiser on May 17.

Volunteer Recognition Appreciation

Principal at May Roberts Primary honors Taylor Martinez, "Taylor Martinez is a dedicated and caring member of our May Roberts Primary community. As our Volunteer of the Year, she plays a key role in organizing field trips, supporting our fundraisers, and attends family engagement nights with her family. She volunteers to chaperone and helps with many school activities, always showing kindness and support to students and staff. Taylor's steady presence and commitment make a meaningful difference to our school. We are so grateful to have her with us. Thank you! -May Roberts' staff and students"

Principal at Alameda Intermediate Andrea Buchholz honors; Mimi Rodriguez, Lisa Reeser, Abby Apodaca, Sabrina Coley, and Taylor Martinez. "The PTO has worked tirelessly to revamp and organize as a district level PTO supporting all elementary schools in our school district. They have done a phenomenal job making sure the needs are met at the school level. We appreciate all of their hard work and dedication to the children in our community. Thank you is not enough, you all deserve a raise. 😊"

Principal at Aiken Elementary Tobey Huddleston honors Linda Peterson, "Aiken Elementary is excited & honored to celebrate Linda Peterson, best known as Grandma Linda, as our outstanding volunteer of the year. Grandma Linda is always smiling and joyful! Grandma Linda reads with individual students each and every day at Aiken. This dedicated time not only helps support students in their reading growth, but also gives them so many more benefits beyond academics as they feel loved and cared for. Grandma Linda you are a ray of sunshine for all of us and we are so very lucky you choose to shine at Aiken. Thank you!"

Principal at Ontario High School Ken Martinez honors Keith and Deidre Porter, "The fact that Keith has not been recognized before for his efforts is surprising. Keith has been a long time member of our Alumni and is currently serving as president. Keith has spent countless hours helping with fund raising, chaperoning, judging, and stepping in when ever and where ever asked. He does all this while also officiating games for our county and volunteering time for 4H as well. The Porters dedication to our program and their efforts to help all students is greatly appreciated."



Teacher at Ontario High School Mr. Sebasto honors Randell and Leann Daniels, “Randy is an active member of the Ontario FFA Alumni and plays a major role in keeping projects moving. He and Leann played a major role in feeding and chaperoning students at FFA state convention, stepping in as judges for Agri-Science Fair last minute, ram rodding the renovation of the FFA Fair Office, chaperoning and transporting students for National Convention, and even looking to chaperon for EF educational tours being organized by Mrs. Huss. These two individuals never seek attention and ask for nothing in return, but deserve to be recognized for the hours they dedicate to helping students in our program have a fun, safe, and fulfilling experience.”

Principal at Ontario Middle School Lisa Longoria honors Emiliana Mendez, “Emiliana Mendez stepped up in a big way by serving as one of 15 parent chaperones for our 4-day, 3-night 6th Grade Outdoor School trip. She was all in—snapping photos, engaging enthusiastically with every learning moment, and genuinely connecting with the students in her group. Her constant smile and positive attitude were contagious, helping to make the experience more meaningful for everyone involved. Beyond Outdoor School, Emiliana has been a consistent and dependable volunteer. From helping out on picture day for the past two years, supporting student safety on the first day of school, to always saying “yes” when called upon, she’s shown dedication to supporting OMS students and staff. She’s even rearranged her work schedule just to be there when needed. Thank you, Emiliana for your time, energy, and heart!”

TAG Presentation – Val Reynolds

Coordinator of OSD Talented and Gifted Coordinator Val Reynolds explains her role working in the Ontario School District, Ms. Reynolds states she has worked in education for 36 years. Ms. Reynolds explains that her day to day is working with teachers and students are gifted and talented. There is a lot of work that goes into coaching teachers to notices signs that a student may be involved in the TAG program; referrals come from the teachers that may notice signs. Ms. Reynolds states that when she gets referrals she meets with those students and does a holistic assessment on the student, this was a suggestion by the state. Ms. Reynolds shows that highlights strengths and talents from students; there are a lot of curriculum that goes into teaching students and expanding their strengths. Teachers are a very important part to this process; teachers go to many trainings to better support students. Now that we have grade level schools, students are clustered together, having teachers that can work together, as well as students in the same grade has been very helpful. Ms. Reynolds concludes.

Board Bits

Director Stringer states he got invited by Aiken Principal Tobey Huddleston to attend the opening of a book vending machine at Aiken Elementary. It was great to see the students and teachers, and I would love to be invited to more school events. Director Rodriguez has nothing to share this month. Vice-Chair Blackaby shares that it is Superintendent Albisu birthday today, and asks everyone to sing ‘Happy Birthday.’ Vice-Chair Blackaby states he went to see the new baseball field, and it was great to see Director of Facilities Bob Bennett and Supervisor of the Maintenance Department Andrew Kressly out on the field doing good work. Chair Uptmor states that he would like to thank his fellow board members for their hard work.

Finance Report – Devin Collins

Director of Finance Devin Collins states that he been keeping up with the legislature, and months ago he learned that the PERS rates were going up. We are keeping up with the changes, and we have been monitoring district spending to prepare for this.



Superintendent Report – Nikki Albisu

Superintendent Albisu states there are many state and federal updates going on, I am working on a letter to Congressmen Bentz. There are COSA meetings, and Superintendent Albisu states she is also sending letters to COSA. There are also going to be increased rates in health insurances, so we are tracking how we are doing with our spending throughout the time we have to pay for that increase. ESSER dollars also going away and we are monitoring our funding goes towards PERS. There will be a lot of streamlining many things so we can be well prepared in our general reserve. The proposed budget for the 2025-2026 school year we will be in a deficit, but we will be okay with using some of reserve for year one. Our audit has been a frustrating one, Superintendent Albisu states that the dates have been moved back a ton. We sent a lot of communication to the auditors on our deadline; we are getting new auditors soon.

Public Comment

There was one public comment by Kristin Wheeler who shared how the union negotiations went. There was a lot of discussion about contract law, and we talked about what teacher priorities. The district and the school side was very collaborative. Staff were well represented during these conversations; much of the conversation was to make sure compensations represents the rigger they do. We wanted to collaborate with the district and we want to be competitive, so Ms. Wheeler continues states that the union wanted to take the innovative and make sure the approach is taken into consideration. Teachers modify instruction, they are creating safe and creative platforms, and I know the district and school board value that work. The union would like teacher compensation to match the hard work and we want to promote teacher moral. Ms. Wheeler concludes by thanking the district for great negotiations.

The Board takes a five-minute break from 6:20 to 6:25 PM

Approval of May School Board Meeting Date

Superintendent Albisu states in May the 4 Monday is Memorial Day, so maybe May 19 or June 2? Vice-Chair Blackaby states that June 2 would work best. Vice-Chair Blackaby makes a motion to move the May School Board Meeting to June 2. Director Rodriguez seconds the motion.

Chair Uptmor vote yes.

Vice Chair Blackaby votes yes.

Director Rodriguez votes yes.

Director Stringer votes yes.

Approval of the Board Budget Goals

Superintendent Albisu states that the district has a healthy reserve; we will be spending more money than we are bringing in, but we will be okay. Director Stringer thanks Superintendent Albisu for being mindful of the budget. Director Rodriguez makes a motion to approve the Board Budget Goals. Director Stringer seconds the motion.

Chair Uptmor vote yes.

Vice Chair Blackaby votes yes.

Director Rodriguez votes yes.

Director Stringer votes yes.

Adding Dan Wilken to the Budget Committee



Vice Chair Blackaby makes a motion to add Dan Wilken to the Budget Committee. Director Rodriguez seconds the motion.

Chair Uptmor vote yes.

Vice Chair Blackaby votes yes.

Director Rodriguez votes yes.

Director Stringer votes yes.

Approval of the 2025-2027 Licensed Bargaining Agreement

Vice-Chair Blackaby makes a motion to approve the 2025-2027 Licensed Bargaining Agreement. Director Rodriguez seconds the motion.

Chair Uptmor vote yes.

Vice Chair Blackaby votes yes.

Director Rodriguez votes yes.

Director Stringer votes yes.

Approval of LIA Conference in Utah

Director Rodriguez makes a motion to approve the LIA conference in Utah. Director Stringer seconds the motion.

Chair Uptmor vote yes.

Vice Chair Blackaby votes yes.

Director Rodriguez votes yes.

Director Stringer votes yes.

1st Reading of Policies AC, AC-AR, GBN/JBA, JBA/GBN, JFE

Vice-Chair Blackaby makes a motion to approve the first reading of policies; AC, AC-AR, GBN/JBA, JBA/GBN, JFE. Director Rodriguez seconds the motion.

Chair Uptmor vote yes.

Vice Chair Blackaby votes yes.

Director Rodriguez votes yes.

Director Stringer votes yes.

Approval of LIA Conference in Oregon

Teacher at Ontario Middle School Ms. Lopez shares some of the details about the trip. There will be trips to the University of Oregon, a community school, and a cosmetology school. The goal is to have students learn a skill that they would want to be more involved in. Director Stringer makes a motion to approve the LIA conference in Oregon. Vice-Chair Blackaby seconds the motion.

Chair Uptmor vote yes.

Vice Chair Blackaby votes yes.

Director Rodriguez votes yes.

Director Stringer votes yes.

Moving the Budget Hearing

Superintendent Albisu explains that due to the notice that goes out to the newspaper, we would need to move the meeting to the week of either May 15 or May 19. Maybe May 29 or May 22. After some discussion with the Board and Superintendent, the Board agreed to move the meeting to May 29th at 5:00



PM. Vice-Chair Blackaby makes a motion to approve the date of the Budget Hearing date to May 29.
Director Rodriguez seconds the motion.

Chair Uptmor vote yes.

Vice Chair Blackaby votes yes.

Director Rodriguez votes yes.

Director Stringer votes yes.

Topics for Future Meetings

Superintendent Albisu states that there will be goals, licensed appreciation, and classified union agreement.

Adjourn

Director Rodriguez makes to adjourn. Vice-Chair Blackaby seconds the motion.

Chair Uptmor vote yes.

Vice Chair Blackaby votes yes.

Director Rodriguez votes yes.

Director Stringer votes yes.

Meeting Ends at 6:46

Chairman

Clerk