

Official Minutes

Board of Directors Regular Meeting, September 8, 2025

These are minutes of the Morrow County School District Board of Directors meeting held on Monday, September 8, 2025, 6:00pm held at A.C. Houghton Elementary/Zoom

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT: Richard Cole, Becky Kindle, Mary Killion, Rosa Delgado, Erin Anderson, Ashley Lindsay

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT: Brian Kollman

STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT: Matt Combe, Marie Shimer, Erin Stocker, Marissa Turner, Gabe Hansen, Barbara Phillips, Jill Ledbetter, Karen Frenette, Rose Palmer, Maria Ortega, Laura Winters, Ryan Gerry, Jami Carbray, Sarah Christy, Steve Sheller, John Christy, Karen Shelton, Rachel Herron, Brandi Sweeney, Autumn Morgan, Dave Fowler, Cynthia Hodgdon, Jane Ginther, Cindy Turner, Jennifer Pope

OTHERS PRESENT: Heppner Gazette, Marlene Newlun,

Call to Order:

Board Chair, Richard Cole, called the meeting to order at 6:00 pm. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited and a quorum was established.

Review Agenda: Oath of Office was added to the agenda.

Oath of Office: Erin Anderson recited the Oath of Office.

Public Comment: None

Delegations:

MCEA: Cynthia Hodgdon

OSEA: None

Presentation: Wenaha Group – Scott Rogers presented the 2025 Bond Projects September Board Report, giving updates on the Budget, Communications, and Procurement.

Presentation: A.C. Houghton Elementary – Jennifer Pope, who has been at ACH for 5 years, presented on the ELL Program. Highlighting the reading program which was made possible through grant funds, as well as the successes of EL students.

Consent Agenda

1. Approve Minutes – August 11, 2025 Work Session and Regular Meeting
2. Approve Financial Report
3. Enrollment Report
4. Employment Action
5. 1st Reading of Rescinded, New or Revised Policies: JFCEB
6. Low Impact Pesticide List
7. English Learners in Oregon – Annual Report

Motion: Becky Kindle made a motion to approve the consent agenda. Ashley Lindsay seconded the motion.

AYES: Richard Cole, Becky Kindle, Mary Killion, Rosa Delgado, Erin Anderson, Ashley Lindsay

Motion passed

Superintendent Report – Mr. Combe

- **The 2025-26 school year** is off and running. I have enjoyed seeing our MCS D students and staff back in buildings and classrooms during my building walkthroughs during the past couple of weeks.

- **Cell Phone Ban Executive Order Policy Update** - We have included the sample policy recommendation in the consent agenda for a first reading and review. As a reminder from last month's meeting, I would encourage you to contrast the new recommended policy with our current policy along with the associated administrative regulations prior to the second reading and recommendation for adoption of the new policy at our next meeting.
- **Financial Report** - Gabe has included the financial report in your board packets. As we begin the new school year, we will continue to closely monitor our expenditures along with attendance and enrollment numbers, as the year progresses.
- **Enrollment Report** - Reviewed and discussed current enrollment report.
- **Maintenance & Facilities Update** - included for your review in the board packet.
- **UMCHS Property Update** - Gabe and I are waiting to hear back from UMCHS on our latest proposal on the property located next to RJSH. We have been in contact with Dan Daltoso, who was presenting the proposal to their finance committee for approval. Stay tuned.
- **I would like to thank Rosie** - for serving as the Board Rep and giving a great welcome back address to our staff at the district wide in service which was held on 8/19/25 at the Sage Event Center.
- **Fall Sports & Extracurricular Activities** - are in full swing and we have good participation numbers across the district with our programs. I have enjoyed making my rounds to some of the different contests and events and I look forward to more upcoming contests as the Fall season progresses.
- **STAR Initiative Reminder** - The Oregon School Activities Association (OSAA) S.T.A.R. Initiative is a program focused on **Safety, Tolerance, Acceptance, and Respect** within high school sports and activities, with the goal of disrupting racism and combating discrimination to create a more inclusive environment for all students and participants. The initiative provides resources, training, and a framework for schools to opt into, and it includes requirements like public address announcements, signage, preseason meetings, and an equity and diversity fund to support ongoing efforts. All three of our secondary schools are participating to help improve our MCSD contest/game environments for all involved, including spectators and educational efforts geared towards our spectator behavioral expectations at MCSD events.
- **Closing Thanks** - Finally, I want to express my sincere gratitude to each of you for your continued dedication and voluntary service to the students of Morrow County. Your leadership and commitment to our district are appreciated as we kick off the 2025–26 school year!

Executive Director of Human Resources Report – Mrs. Stocker

- District Inservice was held at the SAGE Center this year. It was an amazing location, and has been a work in progress for years.
- Collaborative Problem Solving professional development was held during In-Service week. This PD was held for both Licensed and Classified Staff.
- Currently working towards other PD dates for the remainder of the year. The district continues to collaborate with EOU for Science of Reading Curriculum.
- HR has quieted down with onboarding of new employees completed. We will now work on recruiting substitutes, both licensed and classified.

Director of Educational Services Report: Mrs. Shimer

- The 2024-25 Integrated Plan Annual Report was presented to the Board by Director of Educational Services, Dr. Marie Shimer.
- The 2023-24 English Learners in Oregon Annual Report came out in June 2025 - Morrow County has the 8th highest percentage of EL students in the state. Over 95 percent of EL students in the district graduate.
- The startup of the 2025/26 was one of the smoothest in the last few years.

Sped Coordinator Report – Marissa Turner

- Problem Solving trainings were held in August and both were fantastic.
- The Children's Rodeo is coming up and we expect to have 10-15 children participate.

New Business

1. Unanticipated Revenue – Resolution #2025-26-03:

Motion: Ashley Lindsay made a motion to approve Resolution #2025-26-03 – Unanticipated Revenue. Becky Kindle seconded the motion.

AYES: Richard Cole, Becky Kindle, Mary Killion, Rosa Delgado, Erin Anderson, Ashley Lindsay

Motion passed

2. OSAA Collective Sponsorship – Irrigon / Umatilla Cross Country

Motion: Ashley Lindsay made a motion to approve the collective sponsorship for cross country between Irrigon and Umatilla. Erin Anderson seconded the motion.

AYES: Richard Cole, Becky Kindle, Mary Killion, Rosa Delgado, Erin Anderson, Ashley Lindsay

Motion passed

3. MCSD Integrated Pest Management Statement and Plan:

Motion: Ashley Lindsay made a motion to approve the MCSD Integrated Pest Management Statement and Plan. Ashley Lindsay and Mary Killion simultaneously seconded the motion.

AYES: Richard Cole, Becky Kindle, Mary Killion, Rosa Delgado, Erin Anderson, Ashley Lindsay

Motion passed

Chair Cole read the announcements:

- OSBA Legislative Road Show – October 6, 2025, Wildhorse Resort
- Next Regular Board Meeting – October 13, 2025, 6:00p.m., Windy River Elementary.

Chair Cole adjourned the meeting at 6:52 p.m.

Respectfully submitted:

Barbara Phillips, Board Secretary

Date

Richard Cole, Board Chair

Date