

**Multnomah ESD Board of Directors'  
Board Regular Session Minutes  
Tuesday, November 18, 2025**

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, November 18, 2025, in accordance with the agenda and public notice of the meeting.

**Board Members Present:** Renee Anderson  
Jessica Arzate  
Katrina Doughty-Chair  
Denyse Peterson  
Amanda Squiemphen-Yazzie-Vice-Chair

**Board Members Absent:** Danny Cage  
Susie Jones

**Administrative Staff Present:** Dr. Paul Coakley, Superintendent  
Sascha Perrins, Assistant Superintendent  
Angela Hubbs, Director of Curriculum & Instruction  
Bernadette Adeniran, Director of Human Resources  
Board Secretary Heather Severns

**Guests:** Ben Baldizon  
Katy Tibbs

**3. Educational Opportunity & Land Acknowledgement**

Director **Denyse Peterson** provided the learning opportunity and land acknowledgement.

**Learning Opportunity**

Director Peterson read an Associated Press article by Nicole Winfield regarding the Vatican's return of 62 Indigenous artifacts to communities in Canada as part of the Catholic Church's continued reckoning with its role in cultural suppression during the colonial era. She provided

historical context on the 1925 Vatican ethnographic exhibit, the collection of Indigenous items, the implications of restitution efforts, and responses from Indigenous scholars and communities.

She will share the article link with the Board.

### **Land Acknowledgement**

Director Peterson read a detailed acknowledgement honoring the ancestral lands of the Kalapuya, Upper Chinookian, Multnomah, Clackamas, and other Indigenous peoples. She recognized their historical and ongoing contributions and emphasized the importance of honoring original stewards of the land.

Chair Doughty thanked Director Peterson for the thoughtful reflection and learning.

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## **4. Public Comment**

Heather Severns reported no public comment was submitted.  
A representative from the MESD union was present to give an update.

### **Union Update**

Jess Rohrbacher, MEA Co-President, greeted the Board and indicated that MEA leadership intends to attend Board meetings more consistently. MEA hopes to provide meaningful updates and will be reaching out to Directors for connection.

Chair Doughty thanked MEA for strengthening collaboration.

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## **5. Proclamation – Native American Heritage Month**

Chair Katrina Doughty read the official MESD proclamation designating November as Native American Heritage Month.

The proclamation recognized:

- The longstanding contributions of Native American and Indigenous peoples
- The importance of honoring heritage and culture
- The district's commitment to educational equity, representation, and eliminating racial predictability
- Alignment with MESD's Blueprint 28 strategic plan
- Encouragement for staff and community to celebrate Native American history and contribution.

## 6. Superintendent Report

Superintendent Dr. Paul Coakley presented an update on the Blueprint 28 Strategic Plan.

### Overview

- Blueprint 28 is a living document—continuously updated to reflect current context and conditions.
- MESD experienced nearly \$6 million in reductions last year due to program reductions, staffing loss, and decreased service revenue.
- ODE recently signaled a potential 5% statewide biennium reduction, including 2.5% this school year.
- Strategic plan adjustments are required to reflect staffing, capacity, and changing statewide context.

### Goal-Specific Updates

#### Goal 1: High-Quality Learning for All

*Lead: Director Angela Hubs*

- Strategies updated to reflect changing needs.
- Metrics to be updated and shared in February.
- Alignment with MESD Report Card emphasized.

#### Goal 2: Operationalizing Systems That Engage & Empower the Community

*Lead: Director Mayor Sager*

- Increased communication across the agency.
- Strengthened social media and translation/language access.
- Key partner support during regional emergencies.
- Updated strategies and metrics will be presented in April.

#### Goal 3: Culturally Responsive Workforce

*Lead: Director Bernadette Aidenarin*

- Strategies aligned with state and federal requirements.  
Improvements include faster HR response times, improved hiring processes, wraparound onboarding supports, and improved labor–management communication.
- Metrics will be updated and presented in May.

### Board Response

Chair Doughty shared community praise for the communications department.  
No additional questions were raised.

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## 7. Presentation: Artificial Intelligence at MESD

### Presenters:

- **Katie Tibbs**, Digital Learning & AI Integration Specialist
- **Ben Baldazan**, Paraeducator Program Manager & AI Integration Lead

### AI Vision & Purpose

MESD aims to ensure AI is used **responsibly, ethically, and equitably**, aligned with the district mission and Blueprint 28.

### Systems & Structures

- AI Steering Committee (since Fall 2024)
- Transitioning to a broader advisory committee in January
- Cross-department representation (IT, SPED, Academics, Health Services)

### Teaching & Learning Integration

- Vetted tools: Magic School AI, Google Gemini for Education, DFIT
- Focus areas include differentiation, accessibility, scaffolding, and student support
- Extensive PD for educators, ongoing newsletters, curated AI resources
- In development: AI guidance document aligned to Board policy

### Operational AI Work

- Internal automations to increase efficiency
- Custom GPTs/gems for departments
- Data entry automation for schools/programs
- Work underway to establish a **local LLM hosted on MESD servers**

### Regional Leadership

- Cohorts of teachers across multiple districts (55 last year, 50 this year)
- Annual **AI-Empowered EDU Conference** (3rd conference scheduled this spring)
- Partnerships: Clackamas ESD, NWRESA, University of Portland, EncodeAI, AIEDU
- Steering committee workshops for component districts

- Ongoing research on AI competency

## Upcoming Priorities

- Finalize and launch districtwide AI guidance
- Expand AI use in assistive technology (IEPs, access tools, multimodal supports)
- Increase cross-departmental collaboration
- Grow PD opportunities

## Board Discussion

- Directors raised questions about data on tool usage, Google Gemini’s role, security, and the educational ecosystem.
- Presenters clarified safety features, compliance assurances, and the benefits and limitations of teacher-facing AI tools.
- Chair Doughty reiterated the importance of nuanced, ethical conversations—including environmental considerations—and praised the team's leadership.

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## 8. Action Items

### 8.1 Consent Agenda

Director **Arzate** noted a name spelling correction needed in the minutes (“Claude”).  
Chair Doughty requested Jessica send the correction to Heather.

**Motion:** Director Jessica Arzate moved to approve the Consent Agenda.  
Director Renee Anderson seconded the motion.

**Discussion:** The spelling correction will be fixed.

**Action:** The motion carried with Directors Anderson, Arzate, Doughty, Peterson, and Squiemphen-Yazzie voting aye. Motion passed 5-0.

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### 8.2 OSBA Legislative Policy Committee Elections

Heather clarified that LPC Positions 17, 18, and 19 each had one unopposed candidate.  
These positions may be approved in a single motion.

**Motion:** Director Jessica Arzate moved to approve Heather Coleman-Cox for LPC Position 17, Althea Ender for the LPC Position 18, and Christy Splitt for LPC Position 19.

**Director Denyse Peterson seconded the motion.**

**Discussion: None.**

**Action: The motion carried with Directors Anderson, Arzate, Doughty, Peterson and Squiemphen-Yazzie voting aye. Motion passed 5-0.**

Chair Doughty expressed confidence in the incoming LPC representatives.

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## **9. Board Reports**

### **Finance Committee**

Doana Anderson reported that the First Amendment originally planned for November will be presented in December due to technical issues.

The annual audit (TKW) is also expected in December.

Correction: TAN documentation should be sent to Susie, not Doana or Jessica.

### **OAESD**

Chair Doughty highlighted:

- Continued strong leadership from Executive Director Sam Breyer
- A new, more functional strategic plan coming next year
- Regional collaboration amid dynamic statewide conditions

### **OSBA Convention**

Directors shared reflections:

- Emphasis on regional coordination regarding student and family safety during heightened ICE activity
  - Encouragement to support statewide districts developing protective policies
  - Chair Doughty shared concerns regarding recent ICE actions affecting MESD families
  - OSBA's first LGBTQ+ Advisory Committee is now fully functional, with governing documents and a budget
  - Rural district leaders are seeking guidance and appreciation of MESD leadership
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**ACTIVITY CALENDAR**-Directors were asked to notify leadership if they are unable to attend.

- a. November 21, 12:00 pm-Helensview Gratitude Feast, Helensview HS
- b. November 27 & 28 Thanksgiving Holiday-MESD Closed
- c. December 11, 12:00 pm-Board Policy Committee mtg(Virtual via Zoom)
- d. December 11, 1:00 pm-Board Finance Committee mtg(Virtual via Zoom)
- e. December 16, 6:00 p.m.-Board Regular Session meeting(Virtual Via Zoom)
- f. December 22-January 2-Holiday Break-MESD Buildings closed

### **ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 6:59 p.m. The next Board meeting will be held at 6:00 p.m. on Tuesday, December 16, 2025.

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Heather Severns  
Executive Assistant/Board Secretary