



Work Session OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS
Thursday, June 5, 2025 - 5:30 PM
Oakdale Middle School Room 230
815 S. Oakdale Ave.
Medford, OR 97501

AGENDA

1. Call to Order / Pledge of Allegiance / Roll Call	
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The meeting location is accessible to persons with disabilities. A request for an interpreter for the hearing impaired or for other accommodations for persons with disabilities should be made at least 48 hours before the meeting to the Superintendent's office at (541) 842-3621 or superintendent.office@medford.k12.or.us.



EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Meeting Date:	June 5, 2025
Agenda Item:	Recognitions
Item Type:	Board Recognitions
Administrator:	Bret Champion
Objective:	MSD/RCC Early College Connections - SMHS Student Achievement, Oregon Excellence in Teaching English Language Arts Award, and Appreciation for Board Director Suzanne Messer

Background: There are many outstanding students and staff in the Medford School District, and the Medford School District Board of Directors takes time in each regularly scheduled Board meeting to celebrate many of them. Students may be recognized for a variety of areas, including academics, athletics, arts, career and technical education, and music, or as nominated by school district staff. Staff members may also be nominated for exemplary contributions to the district.

Tonight, we celebrate:

MSD/RCC Early College Connections - SMHS Student Achievement

Jamie Murphy graduated this year from South Medford with a high school diploma, and will also be graduating on June 14 from Rogue Community College with an Associate of Science in computer science, with honors.

2025 Oregon Excellence in Teaching English Language Arts Award

Kim Neiswanger has been selected as the winner of the 2025 Oregon Excellence in Teaching English Language Arts Award. The Oregon Council of Teachers of English - sponsored award recognizes an educator who has created a particularly noteworthy record in teaching the English Language Arts.

Her nominator, Southern Oregon University Professor Margaret Perrow, highlighted her dedication, compassion, and innovation. She praised Kim's commitment to learning and leadership in support of all the children she teaches. Additionally, she recognized her for her willingness to share her expertise at OCTE conferences, participation in SOU panels and presentations at the Oregon Association of Teacher Educators conferences, the Holistic Teaching and Learning conference, and Literary Ashland. She also noted Kim's outstanding project-based literacy teaching, featured in a WestEd/ODE webinar helping teachers implement the new Early Literacy Framework.

Appreciation for Board Director Suzanne Messer²

We extend our sincere gratitude to Director Messer for her dedicated service on the Board since July 1, 2017. Throughout her tenure, Director Messer has exemplified a steadfast commitment to collaboration, student success, and staff appreciation. Her focus on ensuring that every student graduates high school with a clear pathway to college or career has significantly contributed to the advancement of our district's vision. We are deeply appreciative of her leadership and enduring efforts to support the future of all students.



EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Meeting Date:	June 5, 2025
Agenda Item:	School Board Candidate Interviews
Item Type:	Discussion
Administrator:	Board Chair Wright
Objective:	Interview the top three School Board candidates

Background: Board Director Michelle Atkinson, Position 5, submitted a resignation to the Board on May 5, with the effective date of the resignation on June 1, 2025. The Board declared the vacancy at the Work Session on May 8.

The term for Position 5 ends June 30, 2027. Board Policies BBC - Board Member Resignation, BBD - Board Member Removal from Office, and BBE - Vacancies on the Board and ORS 332.030(4) provide requirements and legal guidance for School Boards when a member resigns.

Process so far:

- The Board announced the resignation and declared the vacancy at the May 8 Work Session and discussed the application process.
- Application questions were submitted to the Board Secretary by noon on May 13.
- Board subcommittee met to review the submitted questions on May 14.
- Application form went live on the website on May 15.
- Applications were received through 5:00 PM on May 22.
- The Board received candidate applications via email from the Board secretary on May 23.
- The Board ranked the applications and submitted individual rankings to the Board secretary by 5:00 PM on May 27.
- The top three candidates were notified and invited to the interview on June 5.

At this meeting, the Board will interview the top three ranked candidates; Ilex Brandenberger, Rhonda Nowak, and Sunny Spicer.

If the Board appoints a Board member, the new member will be sworn into office at this meeting and serve the remainder of the term, which will end on June 30, 2027.

Additional Materials: Policies [BBC](#), [BBD](#), [BBE](#)

Recommendation: Interview the top three School Board candidates.

Suggested Motion: *(At discretion of the Board.)* ⁴“I move to appoint _____ to the vacant Board Position #5, with the term ending June 30, 2027.”

Medford School District 549C

Code: BBC
Adopted: 12/12/16
Revised/Readopted: 3/11/19
Orig. Code(s): BBC

Board Member Resignation

The Board believes that any citizen who files for and seeks election or appointment to the Board should do so with full knowledge of and appreciation for the investment in time, effort and dedication expected of all Board members, and that the citizen’s intent is to serve a full term of office.

When a member decides to terminate service, the Board requests earliest possible notification of intent to resign so that the Board may plan for the continuity of the Board business. Resignations must be made in writing. Board members can resign the office effective at a future date.

The Board will announce the resignation and declare the vacancy at a Board meeting.

Prior to filling the vacancy, the Board will meet to determine the selection process. The Board may begin a replacement process and select a successor prior to the effective date of resignation; however, the actual appointment shall not be made before the resignation date.

END OF POLICY

Legal Reference(s):

[ORS 236.320](#)

[ORS 236.325](#)

[ORS 332.030](#)

Cross Reference(s):

BBE - Vacancies on the Board

Medford School District 549C

Code: BBD
Adopted: 9/15/09
Revised/Readopted: 3/11/19
Orig. Code(s): BBD

Board Member Removal from Office

The Board shall declare the office of a director vacant upon any of the following:

1. The death or resignation of an incumbent;
2. When an incumbent ceases to be a resident of the district;
3. When an incumbent ceases to discharge the duties of office for two consecutive months unless prevented by sickness or unavoidable cause;
4. When an incumbent ceases to discharge the duties of office for four consecutive months for any reason;
5. When an incumbent is removed from office by judgment or decree of any competent court;
6. When an incumbent has been recalled from office by district voters.

Vacancies will be filled through appointment by the Board unless a majority of the positions are vacant at the same time. In that case, vacancies will be filled by the Southern Oregon Education Service District.

END OF POLICY

Legal Reference(s):

[ORS 249.865 to -249.877](#)

[ORS 332.030](#)

[ORS 408.240](#)

Medford School District 549C

Code: BBE
Adopted: 9/15/09
Revised/Readopted: 3/11/19
Orig. Code(s): BBE

Vacancies on the Board

Vacancies will be filled through Board appointment. The Board appointee must be a legally registered voter and a resident within the district for one year immediately preceding the appointment.

Board elections are held every odd-numbered year, which for the purposes of this policy are termed “election” years. The appointee:

1. Will serve until June 30 following the next “election,” at which time the individual elected in May of that year will fill the remaining portion of an unexpired term or serve a full four-year term; or
2. Will serve until June 30 of a subsequent “election” year if the vacancy occurs after the filing date in an “election” year.

A Board member so elected as a replacement will serve the remaining year(s) of the term of office of the Board member being replaced.

In the event of multiple vacancies, the position vacated first will be filled first.

Upon appointment by the Board, the newly appointed Board member(s) will be sworn and seated immediately.

If the offices of a majority of Board members are vacant at the same time, the Directors of the Southern Oregon Education Service District shall appoint persons to fill the vacancies from qualified school district voters.

END OF POLICY

Legal Reference(s):

[ORS 249.865 to -249.877](#)
[ORS 255.245](#)

[ORS 255.335](#)
[ORS 332.030](#)

[ORS 332.122](#)
[ORS 332.124](#)

Cross Reference(s):

BBBA - Board Member Qualifications

BBC - Board Member Resignation

BBD - Board Member Removal from Office



EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Meeting Date:	June 5, 2025
Agenda Item:	Board Member Final Ranking, Discussion, and Appointment to Vacant Position #5
Item Type:	Discussion and Appointment
Administrator:	Board Chair Wright
Objective:	Determine the final ranking of the Board candidates interviewed and propose a motion to appoint new Board member.

Background: Board Director Michelle Atkinson, Position 5, submitted a resignation to the Board on May 5, with the effective date of the resignation on June 1, 2025. The Board declared the vacancy at the Work Session on May 8.

The term for Position 5 ends June 30, 2027. Board Policies BBC - Board Member Resignation, BBD - Board Member Removal from Office, and BBE - Vacancies on the Board and ORS 332.030(4) provide requirements and legal guidance for School Boards when a member resigns.

At this meeting, following the interviews of the top three ranked candidates, the Board will discuss the outcome of the interviews and determine the final ranking. At the Board's discretion, a motion can be made to appoint the candidate to the vacant position.

Additional Materials: None

Recommendation: Determine the final ranking of the Board candidates interviewed and appoint a new member to the Board.

Suggested Motion: *"I move to appoint _____ to the vacant Board Position #5, with the term ending June 30, 2027."*



EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Meeting Date:	June 5, 2025
Agenda Item:	Oath of Office for Appointed Board Member
Item Type:	Action
Administrator:	Board Chair Wright
Objective:	Swear in the new Board Member to vacant Position #5

Background: At this meeting, the Board will interview the top three candidates and determine if one of the candidates will be appointed to vacant Board Position #5. If an appointment is made, the candidate will take the Oath of Office and serve the remainder of the term, which ends on June 30, 2027.

"I _____, do solemnly swear that I will support the Constitution of the United States, the Constitution and the laws of the state of Oregon, and the policies of the Medford School District. During my term, I will faithfully and impartially discharge the responsibilities of the office to the best of my ability."

Additional Materials: [Board Member Oath of Office](#)

Recommendation: If a new Board member is appointed, the candidate will recite the Oath of Office and be immediately seated on the Board.

Suggested Motion: N/A



Board Member Oath of Office

"I _____, do solemnly swear that I will support the Constitution of the United States, the Constitution and the laws of the state of Oregon, and the policies of the Medford School District. During my term, I will faithfully and impartially discharge the responsibilities of the office to the best of my ability."

Position No. _____

Expiration date of term: _____

Signature: _____

Subscribed and sworn to before me this 5th day of June, 2025.

Chair of the Board of Education
Medford School District
Jackson County, Oregon

Legal reference:
ORS 332.005



EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Meeting Date:	June 5, 2025
Agenda Item:	FY 2025-26 Budget Update
Item Type:	Discussion
Administrator:	Brad Earl
Objective:	Update the Board on State Funding Forecast

Background: The Budget Committee approved the Proposed Budget as presented on April 17, 2025. School districts in Oregon must have an Adopted Budget by June 30 every year.

At this meeting, the district will update the Board on any new information received regarding State and Federal Funding for the 2025-26 budget cycle. The district budget will be presented to the Board for adoption on June 26, 2025.

Additional Materials: [OPB Article](#); [Oregon Live Article](#)

Recommendation: Information only.

Suggested Motion: Not required at this time.

POLITICS

Oregon lawmakers have \$500 million less to spend, as economic uncertainty reigns



By **Dirk VanderHart** (OPB)

May 14, 2025 8:12 a.m. **Updated:** May 14, 2025 11:41 a.m.

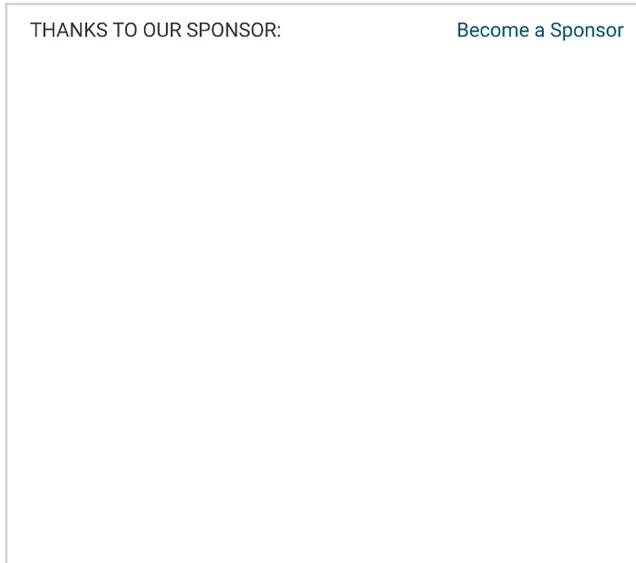
The final revenue forecast before the Oregon Legislature passes a two-year budget comes with bad news for many spending bills.



Oregon State Capitol building, May 18, 2021. The capitol was completed in 1938 and is topped with a gilded bronze statue of



As they prepare to pass a new two-year budget, Oregon lawmakers have been bracing for news of what disruptive federal policies will mean for the state’s tax revenues.



They got their answer Wednesday.

In a pivotal forecast, state economists said they expect Oregon will have around \$500 million less to spend in the 2025-27 budget cycle than anticipated just three months ago.

That outlook — the final number lawmakers will use to ink a budget — could doom many spending bills that have been on ice in the Capitol awaiting their fates. But under a framework that top budget writers released in March, it likely won’t be enough to force meaningful cuts at state agencies.

The revised forecast is a reflection of a national economy that is grappling with uncertainty because of ongoing trade tensions, and is now growing [far more slowly](#) than many economists had anticipated. That impacts corporate and business income taxes that are leading drivers of the state’s general fund budget.

Oregon Chief Economist Carl Riccadonna told reporters that tariffs, federal job cuts and immigration issues “are levers that are pushing the growth forecast” downward, noting economic growth is now pegged at 0.8% for the year, rather than 2%.

“The economy’s a bit like a jumbo jet and when it slows down to a certain speed, it starts to lose altitude,” Riccadonna said in a presentation to lawmakers Wednesday. The slow growth is likely to increase the state’s unemployment rate, he said.

Oregon is expecting \$162 million less in the current budget cycle than previously anticipated, and \$334 million less over the next two years.

Taxpayers can also expect a smaller “kicker” tax refund as a result. The rebate — triggered when actual revenues come in at least 2% higher than what lawmakers budgeted for — has been revised to \$1.64 billion, a \$87.5 million decrease.

The most immediate impact of Wednesday’s report is on the state’s budget. In March, the Legislature’s top budget writers [unveiled a framework](#) that laid out what spending priorities the state might be able to fund under the previous revenue outlook released in February.

[That document](#) included some cuts. But top Democrats said that if the state paid for most ongoing services — including a record \$11.4 billion for K-12 schools — and set aside roughly \$550 million for reserves, lawmakers would still have \$987 million left over “to support key investments.”

Potential investments included three items Gov. Tina Kotek has pressed for: more than \$800 million to bolster housing and homelessness, \$246 million for the state’s behavioral health system, and \$200 million for education.

With the new forecast, the scope of those investments may be reduced. The overall forecast predicts lawmakers will have \$39.3 billion in general fund and lottery money to spend, compared to \$40.1 billion expected three months ago. Some of that difference comes from [spending bills](#) the Legislature passed earlier this year.

Even with the reductions, the state is expected to have billions more to spend in the next two-year budget than it did for the current one.



FILE - Oregon Chief Economist Carl Riccadonna said Wednesday, May 14, 2025, that tariffs, federal job cuts and immigration issues “are levers that are pushing the growth forecast” downward

Courtesy Oregon Department of Administrative Services

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The budget framework also does not include a massive tax proposal Democrats are floating to pay for roads and bridges, a plan expected to take final form in coming days.

Parties trade blame

The numbers unveiled Wednesday come with immense uncertainty.

Lawmakers are wary that the national economy will slip into a recession, which could dim future revenue projections and force the Legislature into belt tightening. And Oregon, like other states, is waiting to see whether congressional Republicans will push through [proposed cuts to Medicaid](#). That could drastically reduce federal money the state uses to provide health care to low-income people.

“If they’re going to make cuts to Medicaid, that is the biggest impact on not only our state budgets, but on Oregonians and their lives.” House Speaker Julie Fahey, D-Eugene, said on Monday. “States are not set up to backfill those resources. Every state, not just Oregon, will be hurt significantly by those cuts.”

Riccadonna told reporters that federal tariff policies that change by the day would play a big role in whether the outlook gets better or worse. Oregon is highly trade dependent, and so more impacted than many other states by trade wars.

Riccadonna put the risk of a recession in the next 12 months at around 25%. He noted to lawmakers Wednesday that chaos surrounding on-again, off-again tariff announcements appeared to be abating.

“Of course this can change in a tweet or in a moment,” he said, “but where we are is not really consistent with the economy on the precipice of recession.”

The chief economist said Oregon’s economy has so far not seen a rush in unemployment claims due to federal layoffs ordered by the U.S. Department of Government Efficiency, or DOGE.

“In aggregate we’re, shall I say, pleasantly surprised that there hasn’t been a more material consequence,” Riccadonna said. “It looks very much like a typical year for the state of Oregon.”

Democrats wasted no time Wednesday tearing into the Trump administration for the

“Reckless federal actions have consequences, and we are seeing the harm appearing in Oregon’s economy,” Senate Majority Leader Kayse Jama, D-Portland, said in a statement. “President Trump’s tariffs slow international trade and that has extra impact on an export-heavy economy like Oregon’s.”

Gov. Tina Kotek said in a release she is “committed to working diligently with the Legislature from now through the end of the session to make hard budget choices.”

Republicans, meanwhile, blamed Democratic policies for the state’s slowing economy — a stance that was at odds with the picture presented by state economists, which focused on federal actions.

“It’s no surprise that Democrats who’ve spent years passing policies that weaken our economy are quick to blame anyone but themselves,” Senate Minority Leader Daniel Bonham, R-The Dalles, said in a release. “It’s time to stop blaming D.C. and start fixing what Democrats broke here at home.”

House Republican Leader Christine Drazan noted that, despite the new revisions, the state is expecting healthy revenue growth.

“This increase could have been greater if it weren’t for Oregon’s highest in the nation taxes, aggressive regulatory environment, and public policy choices that harmed our economic engine,” Drazan said in a statement. “If we want to see our state budgets grow, we shouldn’t raise taxes, we should cut them.”

This story may be updated.

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POLITICS

Oregon's economic outlook sours, leaving state lawmakers with millions less to spend than previously expected

Updated: May. 14, 2025, 3:35 p.m. | Published: May. 14, 2025, 8:34 a.m.



The Oregon Capitol framed by cherry blossoms this spring. Lawmakers are grappling with the news that Trump tariffs mean they'll have \$750 million less than previously expected to spend in the coming years. Sami Edge



By [Sami Edge | The Oregonian/OregonLive](#) and [Carlos Fuentes | The Oregonian/OregonLive](#)

Oregon lawmakers will have about [\\$755 million less](#) to spend in the next two years than they previously expected.

That's the big news out of the [May revenue forecast](#) Oregon's top economists provided Wednesday. Lawmakers will have to limit their spending to the amount forecast – meaning they can commit up to \$37.4 billion in general funds, said Michael Kennedy, a senior economist at the state's Department of Administrative Services.

mission to break world records for visiting every country in the world Teen on mission to break world records fo



That's about 2% less than the \$38.2 billion that economists predicted in February that lawmakers would have for the coming biennium, which begins in July.

The drop in expected resources is largely due to a nearly \$500 million decline in projected personal income taxes at the end of this budget cycle and the first two quarters of the next one, Kennedy said. Decreases in Oregonian's employment rates, wage growth and capital gains will all contribute, he said. Lawmakers will also have about \$250 million less to spend in the next budget because they already spent it this legislative session, Kennedy said.

The writing has been on the wall. Democratic House Speaker Julie Fahey predicted on Monday that the revenue briefing would "not be good news" based on turbulent economic waters in the first three months of Donald Trump's presidency.

"If we are able to hold the line on the budget this year, I think that will be a major success," Fahey said. "If we are able to continue serving Oregonians at the level that we are serving them at right now."

Even the diminished spending forecast would represent an increase from the state's current budget. Lawmakers allocated nearly \$32 billion in general fund spending for the 2023-25 biennium.

Uncertainty caused by Trump's rollercoaster pledges and actions on tariffs is the biggest factor driving the projected decline in Oregon's projected revenue and volatility about how precipitous it in fact will be, state economists said. The administration's cuts to federal employment and slashing of many federal programs also have contributed, along with a promised crackdown on immigration, Oregon's chief economist Carl Riccadonna said.

"All of these factors are levers that are pushing the growth forecast in that direction," Riccadonna told reporters Tuesday.

Export-dependent Oregon is particularly sensitive to major trade policies, which directly affect personal income taxes and state labor trends, economists said. On the other hand, projected revenue from corporate activity taxes and lottery sales, which are less volatile, remain in line with earlier estimates, Kennedy said.

The state revenue forecast is more uncertain than most, Riccadonna said, and unpredictable federal policies like a dramatic tax package or another bump in tariffs could alter the picture.

"Of course this can change in a tweet or in a moment," Riccadonna told lawmakers Wednesday while presenting the forecast.

Riccadonna cast the current economic outlook as one of "sluggish growth," not outright recession. The probability of national recession is about 25% over the next year, he said, compared to 15% or less in an average year.

Economists predict that Oregon's kicker rebate, which returns money to taxpayers after the close of two year budgets in which income tax collections exceed projections by more than 2%, will return \$1.64 billion to Oregonians next year in the form of tax credits. That's an \$88 million decline from the most recent forecast in February.

Lawmakers have indicated for months that they would not have enough revenue to expand many state services or fund sizable new programs. And as the president and Congress have moved to cut funding for major programs, including reducing Medicaid by billions of dollars, Oregon's top budget writers have reiterated that the state's budget is not intended to, or fully equipped to, plug holes left by federal cuts.

Legislators now have about six weeks to figure out how to balance their spending priorities with the diminished budget forecast. It's unclear which priorities will survive. Even before the new budget revision, [Salem's top legislative budget writers](#) indicated they wouldn't have enough money to fully fund increased spending on homelessness, education and mental health that Gov. Tina Kotek included in her [proposed budget](#) last December.

In a statement Wednesday, Kotek reiterated the need to build more homes, house more Oregonians sleeping outside and improve education outcomes.

"I refuse to let Oregon be knocked off our game," she said in response to the revenue forecast. "... I am committed to working diligently with the Legislature from now through the end of the session to make hard budget choices and address our challenges head on, despite the dampening of economic growth."

The revised forecast also puts more pressure on lawmakers scrambling to find more dollars to prepare for and fight wildfires. A workgroup has proposed increasing wildfire funding by nearly \$300 million, though most of their ideas for how to do that would divert money from the state general fund, savings or lottery dollars, leaving less money for other existing programs. Ideas to raise new revenue include taxing bottles and cans, which has proven contentious, or keeping the state's kicker revenue instead of giving it back to taxpayers. Approving that plan would take a two-thirds majority in both chambers.

Wednesday's revenue forecast provided little insight into the future of Oregon transportation funding, one of the major issues that lawmakers are grappling with this session. That's because most of the state's funding to maintain roads or build transportation infrastructure comes from Oregon's gas tax, DMV fees and taxes on large trucks.

While Oregon economists expect less growth in Oregon's incomes, and thus their personal income taxes, top Democrats in the Legislature have indicated that they intend to increase taxes and fees on drivers to help pay for the state's transportation needs.

Democratic legislators slammed Trump's trade policies and their impact on Oregon in response to the forecast Wednesday.

"Reckless federal actions have consequences, and we are seeing the harm appearing in Oregon's economy," Senate Majority Leader Kayse Jama, a Portland Democrat, said in a statement.

Republican lawmakers blamed policies passed by Oregon Democrats, not federal trade policies, for the state's diminished economic forecast. They said the state's high taxes and business policies are "strangling opportunity" for Oregonians.

"It's time to stop blaming D.C. and start fixing what Democrats broke here at home," Senate Republican Leader Daniel Bonham of The Dalles said in a statement. "Oregon's problem isn't a lack of money. It's a lack of leadership."

Protect Oregon Now, a coalition of Oregon unions and groups advocating for children, the environment and various communities of color, praised Oregon leaders on Wednesday for building reserves that have left the state "better positioned than others" to weather economic uncertainty.

The group urged lawmakers to reject tax breaks for high-income Oregonians this session and instead fund child care, mental health and housing. It took specific aim at House Bill 2301, which would move Oregon's estate tax threshold from \$1 million to \$7 million, arguing that bill would cost the state nearly \$200 million in revenue this biennium.

“Economists agree: the best way to get through a downturn is to maintain support for our communities so families have every opportunity to thrive,” Alejandro Queral, executive director of the Oregon Center for Public Policy, said in a statement. “Billionaires and the wealthy will glide through a recession, but working families here in Oregon are counting on state leadership to fund the services we need to get through difficult times.”

Sami Edge covers higher education and politics for The Oregonian. You can reach her at sedge@oregonian.com or (503) 260-3430.

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Key Oregon Democrats pledge to push through a transportation plan by end of June

‘People will go hungry:’ Oregon leaders decry Republican plan to cut federal food benefits

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Bill would prevent landlords from evicting low-income and pregnant Oregonians who fail to pay rent

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Meeting Date:	June 5, 2025
Agenda Item:	Staff Assignment Report
Item Type:	Report
Administrator:	Janel Reed
Objective:	Approve new licensed and administrative staff.

Background:

Under current Board policy, one responsibility of the Board is to approve the hiring of licensed and administrative staff. The Staff Assignment Report includes that information, as well as any retirements or resignations.

Additional Materials: Staff Assignment Report

Recommendation: Administration recommends approval of the new hires.

Suggested Motion: A formal motion is not required if approved with the consent agenda.

**Medford School District Staff Assignment
School Board Meeting, June 5, 2025**

Recommendation for election to the position of Administrator for the 2025-26 school year:

Employee Name	School/Location	Position	University/College
Duvall, Sarah	Abraham Lincoln Elementary	Assistant Principal	University of Alaska
Emery, Charles	Griffin Creek Elementary	Assistant Principal	Nova South Eastern University
Lavelle, Nicole	Wilson Elementary	Principal	Southern Oregon University

Recommendation for election to the position of Teacher for the 2025-26 school year:

Employee Name	School/Location	Position	University/College
Buffington, Amelia	McLoughlin Middle School	Special Education	Rocky Mountain College
Clark, Melissa	Oak Grove Elementary	Elementary - Grade 2	National University Fresno
Melton, Mary	Wilson Elementary	Special Education	Missouri Western University
Romans, Abigail	Special Education	Special Education	Grand Canyon University
Scacco, Megan	Jefferson Elementary	Elementary - Grade 4	Western Governors University

Resignations:

Employee Name	School/Location	Position	Effective Date
Annen, Jennifer	Oakdale Middle	Special Education	06.09.2025
Mayben, Elizabeth	Kennedy Elementary	Special Education	06.09.2025



EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Meeting Date:	June 5, 2025
Agenda Item:	Consideration for approval of minutes from previous meeting(s)
Item Type:	Minutes
Administrator:	Bret Champion, Jodi Fahy
Objective:	Approve meeting minutes

Background: School Board policies BDDG and BDDC indicate the Board shall provide for the taking of written minutes of all its meetings, and that the minutes shall be available to the public after approval by the Board.

Additional Materials: Draft minutes for the Board meeting held on May 22, 2025.

Recommendation: Approve the minutes included with the consent agenda.

Suggested Motion: A formal motion is not required if approved with the consent agenda.



Regular Meeting of the Board of Education

Thursday, May 22, 2025 5:30 PM

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

All Board members were present:

Michelle Atkinson, Lilia Caballero, Kendell Ferguson, Jeff Kinsella, Suzanne Messer, Michael Williams, and Cynthia Wright.

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 Cynthia Wright called the meeting to order at 5:30 PM and 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. Recognitions

3.a. Oregon State Seal of Biliteracy Awards

Superintendent Bret Champion introduced the Seal of Biliteracy recognitions. South Medford High School (SMHS) Teacher Dr. Camille Schuler recognized student recipients, with student Julissa Cortes providing Spanish translation.

North Medford High School (NMHS) Teacher Xavier Valdez presented awards to student recipients.

3.b. SkillsUSA State Leadership Skills Conference

Career Learning Coordinator Dr. Larina Warnock emphasized the value of career and technical education and expressed gratitude to NMHS teacher and advisor Kirsti Christopherson for her contributions.

McLoughlin Principal Charity McLeod recognized student Zoe Marsh, whose pin design was selected for the national conference. Students were presented with certificates of recognition.

Teachers Jeffrey Chinn (SMHS) and Kirsti Christopherson (NMHS) presented awards to participating students.

Christopherson gave a historical overview of the SkillsUSA program at NMHS, highlighting its achievements since 1996, and presented the SkillsUSA Cornerstone Award to Board Director Suzanne Messer for her years of service. NMHS Teacher Scott Childers assisted with award presentations.

3.c. Appreciation for Board Director Michelle Atkinson

The Board moved the recognition of Board Director Atkinson to the top of the agenda. Board Director Michael Williams arrived during this part of the meeting.

Superintendent Champion and Board members expressed heartfelt appreciation for Michelle Atkinson's two years of dedicated service. They praised her optimism, student-centered focus, and balanced perspective. She was presented with a commemorative plaque.

Board Director Atkinson reflected on her service, expressing gratitude and optimism for the district's future.

Chair Wright welcomed newly elected members Erik Johnsen, Angela Zbikowski, and Sandra LaNier-McHenry, who will be sworn in during the July meeting.

4. Recess

A short break was taken for photos with award recipients.

5. Citizen Comments

Chair Wright outlined citizen comment procedures.

Russ Kautz, community member: Recommended postponing the Board vacancy process and congratulated the newly elected Board members.

Jodi Smith, Teaching and Learning Facilitator: Urged reconsideration of transfer revocations at Washington Elementary, advocated for grandfathering in families, read a parent's letter, and shared a student success story.

6. Items for Information & Discussion / Board Action Items

6.a. FY2025-26 Budget Update

Assistant Superintendent Brad Earl presented an overview of the FY2025–26 budget. He noted a recent economic forecast projecting a \$750M reduction in state funds, possibly impacting allocations. Highlights included:

- Federal and state funding uncertainty (especially Special Education and ESSER funds)
- Continued plans for the SMHS track and field project
- Curriculum adoptions for ELA and Math
- Projected 3% COLA
- Consideration of a \$1M reduction to align with fiscal realities
- Implications of OEGB healthcare cost increases and charter school enrollment

Earl emphasized the significance of the State General Fund and outlined competing funding priorities, including fire suppression and homelessness.

6.b. Board Candidate Application Process

Chair Wright acknowledged the Board vacancy following Atkinson’s resignation and noted the Board received eight candidate applications and listed the names of those who applied. Chair Wright stated that Board members would receive the applications to rank their top three choices.

Board Director Williams voiced concern over the pace of the process and proposed deferring the decision until newly elected members could participate. His motion to delay the appointment did not receive a second and was not considered.

Due to scheduling conflicts with high school graduations, the interview date for candidates was proposed to be moved.

MOTION: I move to modify the interview for the top three ranked candidates from May 29th or 30th to June 5th during the Board meeting. Motion was made by Suzanne Messer and seconded by Jeff Kinsella.

Roll call vote: Kinsella: Yea, Ferguson: Yea, Caballero: Yea, Messer: Yea, Williams: Abstain, Wright: Yea

Result: Motion passed (Yea: 5, No: 0, Abstention:1)

6.c. School Board Policy - *second reading*

MOTION: I move to approve the May 22nd policy packet as presented. Motion was made by Suzanne Messer and seconded by Jeff Kinsella.

Roll call vote: Messer: Yea, Caballero: Yea, Kinsella: Yea, Ferguson: Yea, Williams: Yea, Wright: Yea

Result: Motion passed (Yea: 6, No: 0)

7. Consent Agenda

The consent agenda, which included the Staff Assignment Report and minutes from the previous meeting, was approved without objection.

8. Announcements

Chair Wright reminded attendees of the upcoming high school graduation ceremonies and noted the next Board Work Session will be held on June 5 at Oakdale Middle School.

9. Adjournment

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 7:02 PM.

Chair of the District School Board
Medford School District

ATTEST:

Superintendent-Clerk