Multnomah ESD Board of Directors'
Board Regular Session Minutes
Tuesday, October 20, 2026

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

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1. CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL

Board Chair Katrina Doughty called the meeting to order at 6:33 p.m. on Tuesday, October 20, 2026 in accordance with the agenda and public notice of the meeting.

Board Members Present: Renee Anderson
Jessica Arzate
Danny Cage
Katrina Doughty
Susie Jones
Denyse Peterson
Amanda Squiemphen-Yazzie

Board Members Absent: **none**

Administrative Staff Present: Dr. Paul Coakley, Superintendent
Doana Anderson, Director of Business Services
Angela Hubbs, Director of Curriculum & Instruction
Bernadette Adeniran, Human Resources
Heather Severns, Board Secretary
Marifer Sager, Director of Strategic Communications and Public Affairs

Guests: none

2. **BOARD CHAIR REMARKS-**Board Chair Katrina Doughty took a moment to acknowledge the tragedy that occurred last week at Silver Rail Elementary School in Bend. Her remarks are below.
On behalf of the MESD Board of Directors, our hearts are with the students, families, educators, and staff affected by this devastating act of violence. We extend our deepest condolences to those who have lost loved ones and keep all those impacted in our thoughts as they begin the difficult journey toward healing.

Moments like this remind us that schools are more than buildings. They are places where children learn, grow, and belong. When a tragedy occurs in one Oregon school community, it is felt by all of us.

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As a Board, we remain committed to supporting policies, practices, and partnerships that help keep our schools safe while ensuring that every student feels seen, valued, and cared for.

The Board and audience observed a moment of silence to honor the victims, support their families, and stand with the Bend community.

3. **EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITY/LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT-**Director Danny Cage presented the Land Acknowledgement, adapted from the Equitable Giving Circle. The acknowledgement recognized the Indigenous peoples whose traditional homelands include Multnomah County and honored the lives and experiences of Indigenous and African peoples impacted by colonization and enslavement.

   Director Cage emphasized the importance of moving beyond acknowledgment toward meaningful action and collective responsibility for creating positive change.

4. **PUBLIC COMMENT-** There was no public comment

5. **REPORTS TO THE BOARD**
   A. **Union Representative Report**
      1. There were no representatives from AFSCME.

      2. Patty Garcia, Secretary of the Multnomah Education Association (MEA), provided an update on behalf of the association. Garcia reported that MEA recently held its first fall membership meeting, which was well attended. Members discussed both challenges and positive developments at the beginning of the school year. MEA is beginning preparations for upcoming collective bargaining and will be surveying members to identify their priorities and concerns.

   B. Superintendent's Report-

      Dr. Paul E. Coakley highlighted the ongoing professional learning, collaboration, and continuous improvement efforts occurring throughout MESD. He reported that the Ainsworth building recently hosted several professional learning and planning activities, including Social Science for a Better World workshops, school safety and emergency preparedness discussions, and instructional leadership planning. Dr. Coakley emphasized the importance of these efforts in supporting educators, strengthening regional partnerships, and improving student outcomes.

   C. Division 22 Compliance Report

      Senior Program Administrator Christine Otto presented the annual Division 22 Compliance Report. Otto explained that Division 22 of the Oregon Administrative Rules establishes requirements for public schools. Although these requirements do not generally apply to education service districts, MESD must demonstrate compliance because it operates school programs, including Rivercrest and Helensview.

      The report highlighted several changes to state requirements, including:

      - Continued state waivers related to essential skills graduation requirements.
      - Updated requirements for Educational Equity Advisory Committees.

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- Changes related to state assessments and administration of the SEED Survey.
- Updated Talented and Gifted identification requirements.
- New requirements related to instructional minutes.

Otto explained that the district must provide additional instructional time information as part of this year's reporting process following changes to state requirements.

MESD met all applicable Division 22 requirements and was fully compliant, including meeting state instructional minute requirements.

Looking ahead, staff will continue preparing for changes involving diploma requirements, emergency planning and safety programs, instructional time assurances, and administrator evaluation standards.

No Board questions were raised.

D. Program Presentation-Hospital Programs

Program Administrator Angie Turner presented an overview of MESD's Hospital School Programs.

Turner explained that the program provides educational services to students receiving medical treatment in hospitals throughout the Portland metropolitan region. Services are available to students from across Oregon, Southwest Washington, and occasionally other states and countries.

Hospital School Program locations include:

- Doernbecher Children's Hospital
- Shriners Children's Hospital
- Randall Children's Hospital
- Fresenius Kidney Care
- Unity Center for Behavioral Health
- Providence Willamette Falls Medical Center

Turner reported that the program served approximately **1,500 students** during the previous school year, including students in grades K–12 and eligible students receiving special education services through age 21.

The program is staffed by 12 licensed teachers with special education endorsements and five educational assistants. Four staff members are bilingual.

Educational services are provided in hospital classrooms or at students' bedsides, depending on individual needs and medical circumstances.

Turner emphasized the importance of collaboration among educators, medical professionals, families, community partners, and students' home school districts to ensure educational continuity during hospitalization and successful transitions back to school.

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The program continues to strengthen its integration of social-emotional learning, individualized instruction, and student-centered educational supports.

Board members expressed appreciation for the program and its important role in supporting students and families during challenging circumstances.

E. Legislative Update

Government Affairs Administrator Lisa Merrick presented an overview of the upcoming Oregon legislative session, state budget conditions, and MESD's legislative priorities.

Merrick reported that the November general election could significantly influence legislative leadership, state budget priorities, and education policy.

She outlined several important upcoming dates, including the November 3 general election, November 18 revenue forecast, December legislative days, and the beginning of the legislative session in January.

State Budget and Education Funding

Merrick discussed the significant financial pressures facing Oregon school districts, including rising PERS costs, healthcare expenses, special education costs, transportation, collective bargaining, and unfunded mandates.

She also highlighted potential state budget challenges resulting from changes in federal funding, particularly reductions affecting Medicaid and SNAP.

The current service level for the State School Fund is projected at approximately $12.6 billion. However, Merrick noted that the Quality Education Commission has identified significant gaps between current funding levels and the resources needed to fully support Oregon's education system.

Upcoming Legislative Issues

Potential legislative topics include:

- Modernization of the State School Fund formula and Quality Education Model.
- Chronic absenteeism and student attendance.
- Educational technology, screen time, and artificial intelligence.
- School safety.
- Special education funding.
- Class sizes and caseloads.
- Investigation timelines and accountability requirements.

MESD and East County Legislative Priorities

Merrick reported that MESD has collaborated with East County school districts to develop a shared legislative agenda.

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Key priorities include protecting education funding, modernizing the school funding system, addressing rising operational costs, reducing unfunded mandates, strengthening specialized services, protecting alternative educational pathways, fully funding Outdoor School, and improving assessment participation.

The legislative agenda also establishes guiding principles for evaluating proposed legislation and providing feedback to lawmakers.

Board Discussion

Chair Doughty asked about the possibility of separating PERS costs from education budgets. Merrick indicated that the issue is beginning to receive attention but acknowledged that the current budget environment may make significant changes difficult in the upcoming session.

Director Cage asked about potential legislative proposals related to truancy and student attendance. Discussion emphasized the importance of positive interventions and student supports rather than punitive approaches.

Director Cage also asked about Outdoor School funding. Merrick reported that the outlook is more positive than in the previous legislative session, although continued advocacy will be necessary.

6. **ACTION ITEMS**

A. Consent Agenda

1. Approve September 15, 2026 Board Regular Session meeting minutes
2. Resolution 26-062-Approval of October 2026 Personnel Recommendations
3. Resolution 26-057-Approval of New Board Policy IGDG-Student Activity Funds
4. Resolution 26-058-Approval of Amended Board Policy IGDK-Non-MESD Sponsored Study and Activities/Tours/Trips/Competitions
5. Resolution 26-059-Approval for deletion of Board Policy JHFDA-Suspension of Driving Privileges
6. Resolution 26-060-Approval for deletion of Board Policy EBBCC-Use of Automated External Defibrillator

Motion: Director Susie Jones moved to approve the Consent Agenda. Director Danny Cage seconded the motion.

Discussion: None

Action: The motion carried with Directors Anderson, Arzate, Cage, Doughty, Jones, Peterson and Squiemphen-Yazzie voting aye. Motion passed 7-0.

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B. **Action Agenda**

1. **Resolution 26-055-OSBA Board of Directors Position 17 Election-**The Board considered the candidates for Position 17, including Katrina Doughty of MESD and Kris Howatt of Gresham-Barlow.

Motion: **Director Susie Jones moved to elect MESD Board member Katrina Doughty for OSBA Board position 17.**
Director Jessica Arzate seconded the motion.

Discussion: There were no motions to vote for Kris Howatt

Action: **The motion carried with Directors Anderson, Arzate, Cage, Doughty, Jones, Peterson and Squiemphen-Yazzie voting aye. Motion passed 7-0.**

2. **Resolution 26-056-OSBA Board of Directors Position 19 Election-**The Board considered Jose Gamero-Georgson, the sole candidate for OSBA Board of Directors Position 19.

Motion: **Director Katrina Doughty moved to elect Jose Gamero-Georgeson for the position 17 on the OSBA Board of Directors position 19.**
Director Susie Jones seconded the motion.

Discussion: None

Action: **The motion carried with Directors Anderson, Arzate, Cage, Doughty, Jones, Peterson and Squiemphen-Yazzie voting aye. Motion passed 7-0.**

3. **Approval of OSBA Bylaws Amendment-**Chair Doughty provided an overview of the proposed OSBA bylaws amendments and the organization's ongoing governance review.

She explained that the proposed revisions are intended to improve Board effectiveness, streamline governance structures, clarify accountability, and provide opportunities for broader representation.

Discussion included changes to nonvoting ex officio positions and the caucus structure.

Motion: **Director Danny Cage moved to approve the proposed OSBA bylaw amendments.**
Director Susie Jones seconded the motion.

Discussion: During the roll-call vote, Director Jessica Arzate expressed concerns regarding changes to the caucus structure, noting the significant work undertaken in previous years to establish and strengthen representation through the caucus model.

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Director Cage requested additional discussion to better understand her concerns. Director Arzate shared her perspective and encouraged Board members to make their own informed decisions.

Following discussion, the roll-call vote continued.

Action: The motion carried with Directors Cage, Doughty, Jones, and Squiemphen-Yazzie voting aye. Director Arzate voted no, and Director Peterson abstained. Motion passed 4-1.

4. **Resolution 26-061-Approval of Fiscal Year 2026-2027 Budgeted Beginning Fund Balance Adjustment and Supplemental Budget Less than 10% of Appropriation.** Sara Bottomley presented a proposed budget amendment related to the Creeks Transition Facilities Project. Bottomley explained that the project spanned two fiscal years and that a larger portion of the expenditures than originally anticipated will occur during fiscal year 2026–2027. The amendment increases appropriations in the Facilities Acquisition and Construction category to reflect the timing of project expenditures.Staff explained that the district's regular beginning-of-year budget amendment will still be presented in November.

   During discussion, Director Cage asked about the timing of the expenditures and whether additional amendments would be necessary.

   Doana Anderson explained that the proposed amendment is expected to cover anticipated expenditures for the project, although additional adjustments could be required if late billings occur.

   Motion: Director Danny Cage moved to approve Resolution 26-061. Director Susie Jones seconded the motion.

   Discussion: None

   Action: The motion carried with Directors Arzate, Cage, Doughty, Jones, Peterson and Squiemphen-Yazzie voting aye. Motion passed 6-0.

7. **BOARD BUSINESS**

   B. Board Finance Committee- The minutes from this committee meeting are attached to the packet and no further updates were presented.

   C. Board Policy Committee-Director Jones asked whether MESD has established a regular schedule for reviewing and updating district policies. Heather Severns reported that staff are currently reviewing older policies, prioritizing those that have not been reviewed in more than ten years. The district is working toward establishing a regular policy review rotation. Chair Doughty noted that the review process incorporates the MESD Equity Lens and comparisons with current OSBA policy guidance. Staff emphasized that even when

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substantive policy changes are unnecessary, the review process provides an opportunity to ensure policies remain appropriate, current, and aligned with district values.
Board Policy Committee minutes were provided with the meeting materials.

D. Superintendent Evaluation Committee- This committee did not meet.

E. OAESD- No Update

F. OSBA-Chair Doughty provided additional context regarding the OSBA governance review and the proposed caucus structure changes. She acknowledged the significant contributions of Board members and other leaders who helped establish the existing caucus model and emphasized that the proposed changes represent an ongoing effort to strengthen representation and organizational effectiveness. Chair Doughty committed to continuing to provide updates as the governance changes are implemented and evaluated.

8. **ACTIVITY CALENDAR-** Board members were reminded to review the activity calendar and respond to calendar invitations. Timely RSVPs are particularly important for meetings and events because attendance numbers affect catering, facilities, and other logistical arrangements.
   A. November 12, 12:00 p.m. Board Policy Committee-Virtual
   B. November 12, 1:00 pm. Board Finance Committee-Virtual
   C. November 13-14, OSBA Convention, Marriott Downtown Portland Waterfront
   D. November 17, 6:30 p.m.-Board Regular Session meeting-Virtual

9. **ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 7:49 p.m. The next Board meeting will be held at 6:00 p.m. on Tuesday, November 17, 2026.

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Heather Severns
Executive Assistant/Board Secretary

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