



Regular Meeting of the Board of Education

Thursday, March 19, 2026 6:00 PM

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

Board members present: Lilia Caballero (attended virtually), Kendell Ferguson, Erik Johnsen, Sandra LaNier McHenry, Sunny Spicer (attended virtually), Michael Williams, and Angela Zbikowski

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 Kendell Ferguson called the meeting to order at 6:39 PM, 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

A motion was made by Ferguson and seconded by LaNier McHenry to remove item 7.a. Superintendent Contract Approval from the agenda.

Discussion: Board members discussed whether to retain the item on the agenda to allow for conversation regarding the contract process, reasons for the delay, and the need to ensure clarity and shared understanding among the full Board.

Roll call vote: LaNier McHenry: Yea, Johnsen: Nay, Caballero: Yea, Zbikowski: Nay, Williams: Nay; Ferguson: Yea; Spicer (not present for vote)

Result: Motion failed (Yea: 3, Nay: 3, not present: 1)

3. Consent Agenda

The following items were presented on the consent agenda:

- Staff Assignment Report
- Minutes from previous Board meeting

No objections were raised. The consent agenda was approved by unanimous consent.

4. Items for Information & Discussion

4.a. Superintendent Report: Dual Language Program

Jackson Elementary Principal Jordan Gieg, along with Two-Way Immersion Teachers Yasmin Bennet and Megan Muro, presented an overview of the dual language program, highlighting areas of growth, along with positive outcomes in family engagement, attendance, and behavior. Principal Gieg emphasized the importance of sustaining the program to support meaningful learning experiences and the value of bilingualism. A video featuring student perspectives was also shared.

Board Directors asked questions and provided comments regarding program cohorts, assessment through i-Ready, and preparation for students to earn the Seal of Biliteracy. Directors also expressed appreciation for the staff's work and the positive energy and environment at Jackson Elementary.

4.b. Student Report

Student Representatives from South Medford (SMHS) and North Medford (NMHS) provided updates on school activities and achievements.

Brandon Fullenwider, SMHS Class President, highlighted the upcoming Milli Vanilli dance and lip-sync competition and the girls basketball team's strong season.

Max Barnard, NMHS Class President, reported that band and choir qualified for state and earned a trip to San Francisco, shared updates on sports and class competitions, and noted progress on the gymnasium rebuild and new field house.

Both expressed appreciation for support of new OSAA-sanctioned sports. Board Directors thanked them for their presentation and expressed excitement for graduation.

4.c. Board Priority: Financial Stewardship

Assistant Superintendent of Operations Brad Earl reported he will speak at an open session for NMHS parents and students on April 22 regarding the gymnasium project. He provided an overview of the fiscal sustainability group meetings, noting one remaining session, and reviewed the Board's financial reports. Earl also updated the Board on the recent legislative short session, highlighting positive outcomes from strong education advocacy, while noting a \$3 million ODE budget reduction with uncertain district impact. He acknowledged the City of Medford's partnership and valuable input.

Board Director Johnsen expressed confidence in Earl and appreciation for his efforts in educating group members on school financing.

Board Director Sunny Spicer joined the meeting virtually during this presentation.

5. Citizen Comments

Chair Ferguson reviewed the citizen comments guidelines.

Jake Austin, a parent, spoke in objection to what he described as disproportionate discipline of his daughter following a student walkout at Oakdale Middle School, noting that Board policies were not properly followed.

Sarah Giddings, a parent and civics teacher, noted that the walkout did not cause disruption and was known to the school, but expressed concern over what she viewed as unfair discipline of her student. She urged the Board to ensure consistent discipline practices across all schools.

Chair Ferguson thanked all who participated and closed citizen comments.

6. Recess

The meeting was recessed for 10 minutes.

7. Board Action Items

7.a. Superintendent Contract Approval

A motion was made by Johnsen and seconded by Williams to form a subcommittee with the Chair, Vice Chair and Johnsen to handle any subsequent changes to the superintendent contract.

Discussion: Johnsen noted his experience with high-level contracts and cited delays in counsel responsiveness as a reason to expedite the process and avoid further delay. Discussion also addressed the option of using different legal counsel and identified communication between the two representatives as the cause of the current delay.

Roll call vote: LaNier McHenry: Yea, Johnsen: Yea, Caballero: Yea, Zbikowski: Yea, Williams: Yea; Ferguson: Yea; Spicer (issues with audio – did not vote)

Result: Motion passed (Yea: 6, Nay: 0, unable to vote due to technical issues: 1)

7.b. Health Instructional Materials Adoption

A motion was made by LaNier McHenry and seconded by Caballero to approve the adoption of the K-12 health instructional materials as recommended.

Roll call vote: LaNier McHenry: Yea, Spicer: Yea, Williams: Yea, Caballero: Yea, Johnsen: Yea, Zbikowski: Yea, Ferguson: Yea

Result: Motion passed (Yea: 7, Nay: 0)

7.c. Science Instructional Materials Adoption

A motion was made by LaNier McHenry and seconded by Caballero to approve the adoption of the secondary science instructional materials for grades 6-12 as recommended.

**Roll call vote: Spicer: Yea, Caballero: Yea, LaNier McHenry: Yea, Johnsen: Yea, Williams: Yea, Zbikowski: Yea, Ferguson: Yea
Result: Motion passed (Yea: 7, Nay: 0)**

7.d. Budget Calendar Adoption

A motion was made by Zbikowski and seconded by LaNier McHenry to approve the budget calendar for the fiscal year 2026-27 budget as presented.

A question was raised regarding the compressed timeline and if it could present a potential challenge.

**Roll call vote: Williams: Yea, Caballero: Yea, Spicer: Yea, LaNier McHenry: Yea, Johnsen: Yea, Zbikowski: Yea, Ferguson: Yea
Result: Motion passed (Yea: 7, Nay: 0)**

7.e. Declare Number of Interdistrict Student Transfers for Release 2026-27

A motion was made by Johnsen and seconded by Caballero to allow Kindergarten through 5th grade students to be released for out-of-district transfers through approved hardship criteria only, and allow all 6th through 12th grade students to be released for out-of-district transfers upon request.

**Roll call vote: Johnsen: Yea, LaNier McHenry: Yea, Spicer: Yea, Caballero: Yea, Williams: Yea, Zbikowski: Yea, Ferguson: Yea
Result: Motion passed (Yea: 7, Nay: 0)**

7.f. School Board Policy - *second reading*

A motion was made by LaNier McHenry and seconded by Caballero to adopt policy BBG as presented.

Discussion: Board Chair Ferguson noted that policy BBG had been reviewed by OSBA and the Board's legal counsel, with additional revisions provided by Board Director Williams. Conversation focused on the necessity of the policy, respecting the work invested in its development, potential legal challenges, and whether it should be implemented at all. Concerns were raised regarding the indefinite timeline for consequences and a recap was provided of the meeting with legal counsel, including whether any revisions were suggested at that time.

An amendment was made by Williams and seconded by Johnsen to include the policy revisions as presented.

Discussion: The Board reviewed the proposed revisions and engaged in a detailed discussion on each, considering the timeline for consequences, the principle of assuming positive intent, and concerns that the policy could be misused against a Board member by a majority.

A secondary amendment was made by Ferguson and seconded by Johnsen to remove strike out in Step 1, leaving in, "the Board Norms, Board Code of Ethics, Board Operating Procedures, and State or Federal law;" remove strike out in Censure, leaving in "should be reviewed and reaffirmed on a regular and frequent basis, at least quarterly;" and adding, "and shall terminate one year after implementation; and striking out, "shall be for a period no greater than 4 months or beyond the term of the current school year;" and remove strike out in Privileges, leaving in, "access to district staff, access to district facilities, access to district events, access to district athletics."

Roll call vote on secondary amendment: Johnsen: Yea, Caballero: Yea, Zbikowski: Yea, Williams: Nay; Spicer: Yea, LaNier McHenry: Yea, Ferguson: Yea

Result: Motion passed (Yea: 6, Nay: 1)

Roll call vote on primary amendment as amended: Johnsen: Yea, Caballero: Yea, Spicer: Yea, LaNier McHenry: Yea, Williams: Nay, Zbikowski: Yea, Ferguson: Yea

Result: Motion passed (Yea: 6, Nay: 1)

Roll call on main motion as amended: Williams: Nay, Johnsen: Yea, Caballero: Yea, Zbikowski: Yea, Spicer: Yea, LaNier McHenry: Yea, Ferguson: Yea

Result: Motion passed (Yea: 6, Nay: 1)

7.g. Action on Complaint

A motion was made by LaNier McHenry and seconded by Johnsen to delegate authority to the Board Chair to respond to the complaint reviewed in executive session.

A question was raised regarding the policy timeline to respond to complainant.

Roll call vote: LaNier McHenry: Yea, Spicer: Yea, Williams: Yea, Caballero: Abstain (not present during executive session), Johnsen: Yea, Zbikowski: Yea, Ferguson: Yea

Result: Motion passed: (Yea: 6, Nay: 0; Abstain: 1)

8. Announcements

Chair Ferguson noted that spring break is next week and reminded the Board of the upcoming Work Session on April 9 at Oakdale Middle School.

9. Adjournment

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 9:07 PM.

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