

Board Policy Committee

Thursday, March 12, 2026

2022-2028 Agency Goals

- #1 – Creating a high quality learning experience for all
- #2 – Operationalizing systems that engage and empower communities
- #3 – Building a culturally Responsive workforce

MESD Board Equity Lens- <https://www.multnomahesd.org/board-equity.html>

The meeting was called to order at 12:03 p.m. Thursday, March 12, 2026 by Committee Chair Renee Anderson.

● CALL TO ORDER

Present: Renee Anderson, Committee Chair
Amanda Squiemphen-Yazzie, Board member

Absent: Denyse Peterson, Board member

Administration: Marifer Sager, Strategic Communications & Public Affairs Director
Bernadette Adeniran, Human Resources Director
Heather Severns, Board Secretary

Guests: None

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by Chair Renee Anderson at approximately 12:00pm

2. Policy Review Items

A. GCBD – Sick Leave and Illness / Injury Leave

Heather explained this was an OSBA-required update reviewed by HR (Bernadette's team).

A question from Committee member Denyse Peterson was raised regarding the removal of redlined language related to union and bargaining information.

HR Director Bernadette Adeniran joined the meeting to clarify that the removed language was addressed under ADA (Americans with Disabilities Act) requirements. She explained:

- The district must engage in an interactive process under ADA when employees are unable to perform essential job functions.
- The prior language could bypass required federal procedures.
- Reassignment and accommodations are governed by ADA and related law rather than this policy.

Heather will send a written response to Denyse. If necessary, the policy may be pulled from the upcoming Board agenda for further review.

Committee Action:

- Move forward to Board under **Consent Agenda**, pending Denyse's response.
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B. IKJA – AI & Language Access (New Policy)

Heather introduced a new policy drafted by Marifer addressing the use of Artificial Intelligence in language access, translation, and interpreting.

Marifer explained:

- The policy establishes guardrails for when AI may be used.
- It clarifies when human translation or human review is required.
- It ensures meaningful access for families who speak languages other than English.
- It reflects MESD's equity commitments.
- The policy was reviewed by members of the American Translators Association.
- It may be the first policy of its kind in Oregon, and possibly nationally.

The policy was run through MESD's Equity Lens tool and met all criteria strongly.

Committee Action:

- Approved to move forward under **Consent Agenda**.
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C. JGA – Corporal Punishment

Heather noted this policy had not been reviewed since 2013. Although OSBA provided optional language updates in April 2024, the team chose to:

- Replace the phrase “physical force upon a student” with “physical guidance and restraint.”
- Reference existing policy JGAB (Use of Restraint and Seclusion).
- Maintain clear language affirming that MESD does not use corporal punishment.

Committee Action:

- Approved for **Consent Agenda** with updated language.
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D. JN – Student Fees, Fines, and Charges

Heather reviewed OSBA-recommended updates (highlighted in yellow).

No concerns were raised.

Committee Action:

- Approved for **Consent Agenda**.
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E. JE – Attendance

This policy had not been reviewed since 2011. After review with administrators Todd Greaves, Angela Hubbs, and the policy committee no changes were recommended.

- Review date will be updated and the policy will be re-submitted to OSBA
-

F. JFCC – Student Conduct on Buses/Vehicles

This policy had not been reviewed since 2010. After review with administrators Todd Greaves, Angela Hubbs, and the policy committee no changes were recommended.

- Review date will be updated and the policy will be re-submitted to OSBA
-

G. JGB – Detention of Students

This policy had not been reviewed since 2011. After review with administrators Todd Greaves, Angela Hubbs, and the policy committee no changes were recommended.

- Review date will be updated and the policy will be re-submitted to OSBA
-

H. JFCA – Student Dress and Grooming

This policy had not been reviewed since 2013. After review with administrators Todd Greaves, Angela Hubbs, and the policy committee no changes were recommended.

- Review date will be updated and the policy will be re-submitted to OSBA
-

I. JFCB – Care of MESD Property by Students

This policy had not been reviewed since 2013. After review with administrators Todd and Angela, and the policy committee no changes were recommended.

- Review date will be updated and the policy will be re-submitted to OSBA
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J. JGDA/JGEA-Discipline of Students with Disabilities

This policy had not been reviewed since 2013. After review with administrators Todd and Angela, and the policy committee no changes were recommended.

- Review date will be updated and the policy will be re-submitted to OSBA
-

K. JH-Student Welfare

This policy had not been reviewed since 2011. After review with administrators Todd and Angela, and the policy committee no changes were recommended.

- Review date will be updated and the policy will be re-submitted to OSBA
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Adjourn

There being no further discussion, the meeting was adjourned at 12:33 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Heather Severns
Executive Assistant/Board Secretary