

MINUTES
Pendleton School District 16R Board of Directors
REGULAR BOARD MEETING

July 13, 2026

6:00 p.m. | District Office | 107 NW 10th Street, Pendleton, OR 97801

Present: Beth Harrison, Board Chair
Ryan Lehnert
Jill Pace
Ryan DeGrofft
Mason Murphy
Anne Keeler (virtual)
Patrick Gregg, Incoming Chair
Michelle Jones, Director of Business Services
Ronda Thornburg, Executive Secretary
Michelle Jensen, PhD, Superintendent
Matt Yoshioka, Assistant Superintendent

Absent:

The meeting was in person and offered virtually.

1. Opening and Call to Order *Board Chair*

Chair Harrison welcomed everyone and called the regular board meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

1.1. Pledge of Allegiance

The group stood and recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

1.2. Meeting Audio and Video Recorded

Chair Harrison stated that this meeting is being audio and video recorded.

2. Election of Board Officers *Chair Harrison*

2.1. Board Vice-Chair

Director Pace moved that Patrick Gregg be elected as Board Vice-Chair for the 2026-27 school year. Director Murphy seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

2.2. Board Chair

Director Gregg moved that Anne Keeler be elected as Board Chair for the 2026-27 school year. Director Lehnert seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Due to newly elected Chair Keeler attending virtually, newly elected Vice-Chair Gregg conducted the remainder of the meeting.

3. Approve Board Agenda *Board Chair*

Director Lehnert motioned to approve the July 13, 2026, Regular Board Meeting agenda. Director Murphy seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

4. Approve Consent Agenda *Board Chair*

4.1. Board Meeting Minutes

June 2, 2026 Work Session

June 8, 2026 Budget Hearing

June 8, 2026 Regular Board Meeting

4.2. June 30, 2026 Financial Report

Expenditures:

Salaries and benefits reflect final compensation for any staff that is retiring or resigning. Contract Education expenditures are the total cost to the district to provide Pendleton Virtual Learning Academy through InterMountain ESD, and those costs are offset by the collection of revenue through the State School Fund for those students.

Revenue:

Revenue for the fiscal year-end is in line with projections. Property tax collections for 2025/26 were approximately 95%.

4.3. Grants

Granting Agency	Recipient	Purpose	Amount
Wildhorse Foundation	PTTC	Replacement dishwasher for Culinary Arts Program	\$20,000
YouthLine	SMS/Rick Scheibner	Suicide Prevention and Wellness	\$1,000

A letter of appreciation will be sent to each donor.

4.4. Human Resources Report

NEW HIRE	Certified	Alexandra Williams	Math Teacher	SMS
		Kimberly Gonzalez	Counselor	SMS
		Andrew Creasy	Grade 4 Teacher	SHES
		Brooklyn Lunny	Special Education Teacher	SHES
		Carson King	Paraprofessional	PELC
	Classified	Kourtney Hayes	Paraprofessional	MES
		Mercedes Walter	Paraprofessional	SHES
		Anny Welch	Paraprofessional	SHES
		Myranda Spicknall	Paraprofessional	SHES
		Alexis Keene	Paraprofessional	SHES
		Isaac Johnston	Paraprofessional	SHES
		Brittany Ware	Bookkeeper	SMS
		Mary Barfknecht	Paraprofessional	PHS
		Alcira Campbell	Paraprofessional	PHS
		Tess Welk	Teaching & Learning Coordinator K-5	District
	Administration	Aaron Cooke	Teaching & Learning Coordinator 6-12	District
		Rebecca Marshall	Student Services Coordinator	District
EXTRA DUTY	Cross Country	James Thatcher	Assistant Coach	PHS
	Tutor	Wyatt Taylor	Summer School	PHS

RETIREMENT	Administration	Julie Smith	Director of Special Programs (Effective 8/25/2026)	District
	Classified	Sue Caldwell	Paraprofessional (Effective 6/5/2026)	MES
RESIGNATION	Classified	Tonya Cortes	Bookkeeper	SMS
	Administration	Pat Dutcher	Principal	PHS
	Certified	Courtney Hanson	Grade 2 Teacher	WES
	Extra Duty	Bill Aney	Assistant Track Coach	PHS
		Dillon George	Assistant Girls Soccer Coach	PHS

Director Harrison motioned to approve the July 13, 2026, consent agenda as presented. Director Pace seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

5. Recognition and Good News *Superintendent*

Superintendent Jensen shared that in addition to typical repairs and deep cleaning of school buildings, we take on a couple of projects each year. They include the kitchen remodel at Sunridge Middle School and the installation of a new commercial dishwasher at Pendleton Tech and Trades Center (PTTC). Districtwide, 20 security cameras are being replaced as part of the ongoing commitment to campus safety. As funding allows, 20-30 cameras will be replaced each year. McKay Elementary has one classroom that has undergone flooring abatement and will receive new flooring.

6. Board Communications *Board Chair*

6.1. Pendleton Association of Teachers *PAT Representative*
No report.

6.2. Oregon School Employees Association *Tammy Hillmick*
No report.

6.3. PL874/Indian Education *Kendall Rosario*
No report.

7. Public Comment *Board Chair*

No comments.

8. Superintendent's Report *Michelle Jensen*

The confidential group at the District Office and summer meals provided by Sodexo at the PELC all summer were highlighted.

District Update: Superintendent Jensen provided a brief update on the Pendleton High School principal search. We completed an active recruitment process and carefully evaluated options. After thoughtful consideration, we've determined a path forward that prioritizes stability for students and staff while positioning the district for long-term success. Because this involves personnel matters, communicating those decisions with the individuals involved and the school communities before making a broader public announcement.

One of the strategic priorities is ensuring that every school has consistent systems that support both learning and positive behavior. At the August work session, the draft Code of Student Conduct and Behavior Response Guide will be brought forward for Board discussion before implementation this fall.

9. Reports & Discussion

10. Board Business – Action Items

10.1. **Superintendent** *Michelle Jensen*

10.1.1. **Approve OSAA Cooperative Sponsorship – Helix SD**

Griswold High School in the Helix School District has students who would like to play interscholastic sports and are looking for a neighboring school district to provide them with this opportunity. They do not have enough student/athletes to field their own team.

Director Harrison moved to approve the OSAA Cooperative Sponsorship between Griswold High School and Pendleton High School for girls golf, boys golf, and baseball for the 2026-27 through 2029-30 school years. Director Pace seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

10.1.2. **Approve 2026-27 Work Session & Board Meeting Dates**

Per Policy BD/BDA – Board Meetings, the Board will establish the year's schedule of Board meetings no later than the next regular meeting following July 1. The Regular Board Meeting is held at the District Office at 6:00 p.m. every second Monday of the month, and a Board Work Session is held every Tuesday of the month preceding the Board Meeting at 8:00 a.m. in the District Office Boardroom. One Board Meeting per year is held on the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation.

Please note the August work session and regular board meeting be held one week later due to schedule conflicts. The September regular board meeting be held on the third Monday of the month due to the Pendleton Round-Up and Happy Canyon the second full week of September.

Director Pace moved that the 2026-27 dates for the Work Sessions and Regular Board Meetings be approved as presented. Director Murphy seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

10.2. **Business Services** *Michelle Jones*

10.2.1. **Approve Continuing Resolution 2027-01**

The Continuing Resolution is presented annually to the Board to establish the basis for conducting district business throughout the fiscal year. Continuing Resolution 2027-01 reflects fiscal year changes, updated substitute rates, and secondary registration fee schedules.

Director Gregg recused himself as his law firm and partners are listed in section 3.16 as legal counsel; therefore, he cannot participate in this decision.

Director Murphy moved that Continuing Resolution 2027-01 be approved as presented. Director Lehnert seconded. Motion carried with one recusal.

10.3. **Board** *Board Chair*

10.3.1. **Approve 2026-27 Board/Superintendent Goals**

The proposed 2026-27 Board/Superintendent goals were developed through discussion during the May 5, 2026 and June 2, 2026 work sessions, with additional refinement in collaboration with Board leadership.

Director Murphy moved to approve the Board/Superintendent 2026-27 goals as presented. Director Pace seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Director Harrison provided additional comments from the executive team in relation to the goals and how they will be used as a tool, a perspective to share. They are aspirational goals to be used with the Board self-evaluation on the schedule a couple of times during the year.

11. Board Member Comments *Board Chair*

Directors asked for clarification on the personnel report regarding new positions and duties, the day-to-day schedules, and their roles in the buildings. Comments also included that the Board represents the public/community – two big key elements are the communication between the District Office and the schools, and that morale is low. Change is difficult. We have to adjust and move forward. When significant change happens, the Board is contacted.

12. Recess Regular Board Meeting *Board Chair*

The regular board meeting was recessed at 6:36 p.m.

13. Convene Executive Session *Board Chair*

(Per ORS 192.660(2)(b) to consider the dismissal or disciplining of, or to hear complaints or charges brought against a public officer, employee, staff member or individual agent who does not request an open hearing.)

The Board met in executive session at 6:39 p.m. and ended at 6:49 p.m.

14. Reconvene Regular Board Meeting *Board Chair*

The regular board meeting reconvened at 6:50 p.m.

15. Action Items (if needed) *Board Chair*

No action items.

16. Adjournment *Board Chair*

With no further business brought forward for the good of the order, the meeting adjourned at 6:51 p.m.

Anne Keeler, Board Chair

Michelle Jensen, PhD, Superintendent

Ronda Thornburg, Executive Secretary

Date