

**Multnomah ESD Board of Directors'
Board Regular Session Minutes
Tuesday, April 21 , 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>

1. CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL

Board Chair Katrina Doughty called the meeting to order at 6:01 p.m. on Tuesday, April 21, 2026, in accordance with the agenda and public notice of the meeting.

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

Board Members Absent: Amanda Squiemphen-Yazzie-Vice-Chair

Administrative Staff Present: Dr. Paul Coakley, Superintendent
Sascha Perrins, Assistant Superintendent
Doana Anderson, Chief Financial Officer
Bernadette Adeniran, Director of Human Resources
Marifer Sager, Director of Strategic Engagement & Public Affairs
Heather Severns, Board Secretary

Guests: Kealani Balfour, CTE Regional Program Manager

1. Call to Order

Chair Katrina Doughty called the meeting to order at 6:01 PM.

2. Land Acknowledgement and Learning Opportunity

Director Danny Cage delivered the land acknowledgement, recognizing the traditional homelands of Indigenous tribes and bands in Multnomah County, including the Multnomah, Clackamas, bands of Chinook, Tualatin Kalapuya, Malala, and many other tribes along the Columbia River. He also acknowledged the enduring relationship between Indigenous people and the land since time immemorial and noted that not all tribes currently retain federal recognition.

Director Cage also shared a reflection acknowledging the historic Black community in Northeast Portland, the effects of settler colonialism, gentrification, the criminalization of Blackness, and displacement. He invited those present to reflect on the journeys that brought them to the meeting.

3. Proclamations

A. School Nurse Appreciation Week Proclamation

Chair Doughty read the proclamation recognizing School Nurse Appreciation Week and honoring school nurses for their critical role in student health, safety, wellness, and academic success.

B. Teacher Appreciation Week Proclamation

Chair Doughty read the proclamation recognizing **May 4–8, 2026** as Teacher Appreciation Week and honoring teachers for their dedication, preparation, support of students, and contributions to the community.

4. Public Comment

Heather Severns reported that no public comments had been received.

5. Reports to the Board

A. Union Reports

Heather Severns reported that no representatives from either union were present.

B. Superintendent's Report

Dr. Paul Coakley provided district updates and noted that the slide presentation highlighted additional staff appreciations for the month.

Key updates included:

- The **MESD Equity Film Series** resumed with a screening of *Stand and Deliver* on March 17, supporting community dialogue.
- The **District Equity Leadership Team (DELT)** relaunched this school year with 14 members selected through an application process to focus on data-informed action planning for equitable student outcomes.
- The **school improvement team** completed two professional development sessions with Parkrose School District, a partnership recognized by ODE as an example of high-quality regional support.
- Dr. Coakley reported making **43 school and program visits** between September 2025 and March 2026. He noted that the number was lower than prior years due to time devoted to long-range facilities planning, and he plans to increase school and program visits during the remainder of the year.
- MESD released new **digital accessibility resources** to support updated ADA and Title II compliance. Dr. Coakley thanked Marifer Sager and the communications team for leading that work.
- Dr. Coakley closed with an appreciation message to MESD staff, acknowledging the challenges of the current educational climate and commending staff for their resilience, adaptability, and commitment to students.

C. Program Presentation – Career Technical Education (CTE)

Kealani Balfour, CTE Regional Program Manager, presented an overview of MESD's role in Career Technical Education.

Highlights included:

- MESD serves as the **fiscal agent** for the federal Perkins CTE Basic and Reserve Grants, the **regional convener**, the **consortium lead**, and the **local CTE representative** to state committees.
- CTE programs provide hands-on learning, connect classroom instruction to careers and local industry, and increase student engagement.
- CTE is highly regulated by state and federal requirements, including standards for size, scope, and quality.
- Kealani noted that **CTE concentrators** in Oregon graduate at a significantly higher rate than the statewide average and that this positive effect is seen across student demographics.
- MESD works with:
 - **Consortium members:** Corbett, Centennial, Parkrose, Riverdale, Reynolds, and Mount Hood Community College
 - **Direct recipients:** David Douglas and Gresham-Barlow
- Services MESD provides include:
 - Equipment purchasing
 - Inventory tracking
 - Grant administration and reporting
 - Travel booking and management
 - Program development, approval, compliance, and renewal
 - Teacher licensure administration

- Industry partnership development
- Administrator training and technical assistance
- Data analysis and dashboards
- Continuous improvement support

Kealani also described efforts to expand **industry partnerships** and work-based learning opportunities, including internships and summer employment connections.

Board Question

Susie Jones asked about post-program pathways for CTE students, including community college credit, certifications, and apprenticeships.

Kealani responded that outcomes vary by program, but examples include:

- **BOLI-approved pre-apprenticeships** in construction
 - Automotive partnerships with **Mount Hood Community College**
 - Construction connections with **PCC**
 - Health-related programs, including a developing **dental assistant pathway** at Reynolds
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6. Consent Agenda

- 6.A.1. Approval of April 21, 2026 Board Regular Session Minutes
- 6.A.2. Resolution 26-016-Approval of March 2026 Personnel Recommendations

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

Discussion: None

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

7. Board Reports

Chair Doughty noted that Finance Committee documents were attached to the agenda and expressed appreciation to Doana Anderson and Sara Bottomley for their thorough work supporting the finance process and responding to board questions.

8. Executive Session

The Board entered executive session pursuant to **ORS 192.660** to review and evaluate the employment-related performance of the chief executive officer.

No decisions were made in executive session.

9. Return to Open Session

The Board returned to regular session.

Chair Doughty called for a motion to approve the Superintendent's **2025–2026 evaluation**.

Motion: Director Danny Cage moved to approve the Consent Agenda.
Director Renee Anderson seconded the motion.

Discussion: None

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

Chair Doughty thanked Dr. Coakley, board members, component districts, and educational partners for participating in the every-other-year **360 evaluation process**.

10. Announcements

Chair Doughty reminded board members to review the activity calendar and RSVP for graduations.

Heather Severns shared that the next board meeting would be **in person**, with:

- **TSCC meeting at 6:00 p.m.**
- **Board meeting at 7:00 p.m.** in the boardroom

Heather also noted plans to arrange updated **board professional portraits** at the next in-person meeting and encouraged members to attend.

11. Activity Calendar

- May 7, 12:00 p.m.-Board Policy Committee meeting (Virtual via Zoom)
- May 7, 1:00 p.m.-Board Policy Committee meeting (Virtual via Zoom)
- May 19, 6:00 p.m. TSCC Hearing In-Person
- May 19, 7:00 p.m.-Board Regular Session meeting In-Person

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 6:54 p.m. The next Board meeting will be held at 7:00 p.m. on Tuesday, May 19, 2026.

Heather Severns
Executive Assistant/Board Secretary