

**Multnomah ESD Board of Directors'
Board Regular Session Minutes
Tuesday, February 17, 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 Vice-Chair Amanda Squiemphen-Yazzie called the meeting to order at _____ p.m. on Tuesday, February 17, 2026, in accordance with the agenda and public notice of the meeting.

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

Board Members Absent: Katrina Doughty-Chair

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

Guests: Jamie Smith, Senior Program Administrator-School Health Services
Nelly Patino Cabrera, Title I-C Program Administrator

1. Call to Order

Vice Chair Amanda Squiemphen-Yazzie called the meeting to order at 6:00 PM. Board Chair Katrina Doughty was absent; Vice Chair Squiemphen-Yazzie presided.

2. Black History Month Proclamation

Director **Denyse Peterson** read the Black History Month Proclamation recognizing February 2026 as Black History Month and noting the 100th anniversary of the commemoration of Black History (50 years as Black History Week and 50 years as Black History Month).

The proclamation reaffirmed the Board's commitment to **Blueprint 28**, equity-centered practices, and the recognition of Black history and contributions year-round.

The proclamation was adopted by the MESD Board of Directors on February 17, 2026.

4. Educational Opportunity & Land Acknowledgement

Director **Jessica Arzate** delivered remarks honoring the legacy of Carter G. Woodson and recognizing Black leadership within MESD, including Directors Anderson, Cage, Peterson, and Superintendent Dr. Paul Coakley.

Director Peterson additionally acknowledged:

- Senator Avel Gordly (first African American woman elected to the Oregon Senate)
- Reverend Jesse Jackson

Director Arzate delivered the official land acknowledgement recognizing the traditional homelands of Indigenous tribes in Multnomah County and reaffirmed responsibility toward Indigenous sovereignty and equity.

5. Public Comment

No public comment was received.

6. Union Representative Reports

Jess Rohrbacher, Co-President of MEA:

- Thanked Dr. Coakley and Sasha for visiting Wheatley.
- Expressed appreciation for collaborative problem-solving.
- Requested clarification regarding board policy governing communication between union leadership and board members.

Staff indicated follow-up would occur via email.

No AFSCME representative was present.

7. Superintendent's Report

Dr. Paul Coakley

Community Safety & Immigration Concerns

Dr. Coakley addressed community concerns regarding immigration enforcement, affirming:

- Schools remain safe, supportive environments.
- MESD is committed to protecting students' right to education.
- Schools are not the epicenter of immigration enforcement.

Black History Month Recognition

- Recognized Black leaders and community members.
- Shared that the Portland Trail Blazers honored Black Portland leaders, including:
 - Paul Coakley Sr.
 - Director Renee Anderson

Additional Recognitions

- Career & Technical Education (CTE) Month
- Lunar New Year

Immunization Reminder

- Reviewed Oregon immunization requirements.
- Directed families to the MESD website for updated information.

Program Presentation: School Health Services

Jamie Smith, Senior Program Administrator

Jamie Smith provided a comprehensive overview of MESD's School Health Services department, highlighting the scope, reach, and strategic alignment of services across Multnomah County and beyond.

Department Overview & Scope

School Health Services (SHS) is a large, countywide department consisting of over **200 staff members**, including:

- Licensed Registered Nurses
- School Health Assistants (SHAs)
- A Hearing & Vision Screening Team
- An Audiologist
- Administrative Support Staff

The department serves **all students within MESD's component districts**, totaling over **80,000 students**, and also contracts with districts outside the MESD service area, including Oregon Trail, Oregon City, North Clackamas, and Clackamas ESD.

In addition, SHS is expanding its involvement with **Preschool for All** as that program grows across Multnomah County.

The department also provides:

- State-mandated health education training
- Support for Sun School staff
- Collaboration with Portland Parks & Recreation
- Services for select private schools

Service Delivery & Student Impact

As of January 15 (current school year):

- **26,000 students served**
- **Approximately 88,000 office visits**
 - Office visits include chronic condition management, acute illness support, and other health-related interactions
- **16,000+ students screened** for hearing and vision

SHS supports students in managing chronic health conditions (such as diabetes), provides delegated nursing services, and works to ensure students with medical needs can safely and fully participate in their education.

Jamie emphasized that health barriers directly affect educational attainment, and SHS works to reduce those barriers through:

- Case management
 - Staff training
 - Health consultation
 - Community partnerships
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Community Partnership Example

Jamie shared an example of proactive problem-solving by an MESD nurse who identified unmet dental needs at a school. Through partnership with the “Tooth Taxi” mobile dental service, the nurse facilitated the delivery of tens of thousands of dollars in free dental care to students.

This example highlighted the department’s approach:

- Identifying local health needs
 - Leveraging partnerships
 - Reducing health-related inequities
 - Increasing student access to learning
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Alignment with Blueprint 28

Jamie outlined how School Health Services aligns with MESD’s Blueprint 28 priorities.

Goal 1: Create a High-Quality Learning Experience for All

Key initiatives include:

- Reviewing and revising materials to ensure appropriate **health literacy levels**
 - Strengthening state-mandated health education training for school staff
 - Ensuring staff feel confident and competent in health-related responsibilities
 - Analyzing disparities in immunization compliance and exclusion rates, particularly among students of color
 - Partnering with county agencies to reduce immunization-related inequities
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Goal 2: Operationalize Systems that Engage and Empower Communities

Jamie noted that as an ESD-based service provider, SHS sometimes operates one layer removed from students and families. To address this, the department is:

- Developing systems to gather **direct student and family feedback**
- Exploring satisfaction and engagement tools
- Addressing high-turnover or hard-to-fill assignments to increase consistency
- Improving continuity of care within schools

Consistency, Jamie emphasized, strengthens trust, relationships, and program effectiveness.

Goal 3: Build a Culturally Responsive Workforce

Focus areas include:

- Empowering School Health Assistant (SHA) staff
- Ensuring psychological and physical safety for staff working in school environments
- Reviewing hiring processes to reduce systemic disparities
- Increasing workforce diversity to better reflect the student population served
- Strategizing recruitment and retention improvements

Jamie emphasized ongoing reflection to ensure staffing systems are equitable and inclusive.

Key Themes from the Presentation

- Health access is directly tied to educational equity.
- School Health Services is both broad in scale and deeply individualized in approach.
- The department serves as a bridge between education, health systems, and community resources.
- Equity-centered analysis is embedded into operational decision-making.
- Workforce diversity and staff well-being are essential components of student success.

No board questions were raised.

8. Consent Agenda (Items 6A.1 – 6A.6)

- 6.A.1. Approval of January 20, 2026 Board Regular Session Minutes
- 6.A.2. Resolution 26-007-Approval of February 2026 Personnel Recommendations
- 6.A.3. Resolution 26-008-Approval of 2026 Budget Committee Representatives
- 6.A.4. Resolution 26-009-Approval of 2026-2027 TSPC Contract Renewals for Staff and Supervisors
- 6.A.5. Resolution 26-010-Approval of Amended Board Policy JECDA-Transcript Evaluation
- 6.A.6. Resolution 26-013-Approval of Amended Board Policy KG-Use of MESD Facilities

Motion: Director Susie Jones moved to approve the Consent Agenda.
Director Jessica Arzate seconded the motion.

Discussion: None

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

9. Action Agenda

1. Resolution 26-011-Approval of 2026-2027 MESD Budget Planning Parameters
Presenter: Doana Anderson, Chief Financial Officer

Background: The resolution planning process and budget development begins with the Multnomah Education Service District Budget Officer's recommendation of planning parameters.

Motion: Director Susie Jones moved to approve Resolution 26-011.
Director Denyse Peterson seconded the motion.

Discussion: None

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

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2. Resolution 26-012-Request for Board Approval of Title I-C Student Participation in Close-Up Trip to Washington D.C.
Presenter: Nelly Patino Cabrera, Title I-C Program Administrator

Background: The Title I-C Program is proposing to send eight students and two chaperones to participate in Close Up, a national non-profit based in Washington, D.C. The program provides students with immersive learning experiences designed to deepen their understanding of U.S. government, civic engagement, and public policy. Close Up manages all logistics for the trip, including flights, lodging, meals, transportation, and daily programming.

Motion: Director Jessica Arzate moved to approve Resolution 26-012.
Director Susie Jones seconded the motion.

Discussion: The Board engaged in discussion regarding student participation in the Close Up Program in Washington, D.C., which would allow eight Title IC students and two staff chaperones to attend an overnight, out-of-state civic engagement program.

Board members raised thoughtful questions regarding student safety, particularly given the current political climate and concerns about the safety of Black and Brown students during air travel and while in Washington, D.C. The discussion reflected a shared commitment to ensuring student well-being while also recognizing the importance of providing equitable access to enriching educational opportunities.

Program staff outlined comprehensive safety protocols, including:

- Close Up's trained supervision staff (27 trained staff members),
- Continuous student supervision,
- Hotel security,
- Emergency response procedures,
- Required family information meetings,
- Coordination with airport pickup and transportation in Washington, D.C.

Board members also discussed the governance process, clarifying that Board approval is required under policy for out-of-state overnight travel.

The conversation concluded with acknowledgment of both the importance of student safety and the value of maintaining access to high-quality civic learning experiences for Title IC students.

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

3. Resolution 26-014-First Reading of Amended MESD Board Policy EFA-Local Wellness Program

Presenter: Chantell Kaawa, HR Specialist II, Benefits and Leaves

Background: A triennial assessment, required by one of the components of the federal National School Lunch Program and delayed by COVID, of the ESD's local wellness plan (aka policy) has become due for the first time. In anticipation, the Oregon Department of Education (ODE), Oregon School Boards Association and other stakeholders (OEA Choice Trust) began discussing how to help members realize more effective local wellness planning and implementation in their ESDs. One of the supports was to revamp the model local wellness policy and bring elements of the accompanying model administrative regulation into the policy.

Motion: Director Denyse Peterson moved to approve Resolution 26-014. Director Jessica Arzate seconded the motion.

Discussion: None

Action: The motion carried with Directors Arzate, Cage, Peterson and Squiemphen-Yazzie voting aye. Motion passed 4-0.
(Board member Renee Anderson had to leave the meeting and Board member Susie Jones was having technical difficulties)

4. Resolution 26-015-First Reading of Amended Board Policy BBDD-Board Attendance
Presenter: Sascha Perrins, Assistant Superintendent

Background: This policy has been updated to align with ORS 334.095 regarding Education Service District board member duties and vacancies. The statute provides that a board position may be declared vacant if a member ceases to discharge the duties of office for two consecutive months, unless prevented by sickness or other unavoidable cause.

The revised policy clarifies expectations for Board member attendance at Executive Sessions, Regular Sessions, and Special Sessions, and establishes a clear process for

excused and unexcused absences. It further outlines the procedure for review and potential action should a Board member's absences exceed allowable limits under statute.

These updates ensure statutory compliance, promote accountability, and provide a transparent and consistent process for addressing attendance concerns while honoring circumstances permitted under law.

Motion: Director Denyse Peterson moved to approve Resolution 26-015.
Director Susie Jones seconded the motion.

Discussion: None

Action: The motion carried with Directors Arzate, Cage, Jones, Peterson and Squiemphen-Yazzie voting aye. Motion passed 5-0.
(Board member Renee Anderson had to leave the meeting)

10. Committee Reports

Finance Committee

No additional questions.

Policy Committee

No additional updates.

Superintendent Evaluation Committee

Director Jessica Arzate formally notified Superintendent Dr. Paul Coakley that his self-evaluation is due at the next board meeting.

OAESD / OSBA

No report (Chair absent).

11. Activity Calendar

Upcoming events:

- March 12 – Policy Committee Meeting
- March 12 – Finance Committee Meeting (1:00 PM)
- March 17 – Next Board Meeting
- March 23–27 – Spring Break (Schools and Programs Closed)

Board members were reminded to RSVP for meetings and respond regarding retreat scheduling.

12. Board Member Comments

Director Danny Cage shared appreciation for legislative advocacy efforts during Lobby Day and acknowledged support from legislative staff.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 6:58 p.m. The next Board meeting will be held at 6:00 p.m. on Tuesday, March 17, 2026.

Heather Severns
Executive Assistant/Board Secretary