MINUTES
Pendleton School District 16R Board of Directors
WORK SESSION

March 3, 2026

8:00 a.m. | District Office | 107 NE 10th Street, Pendleton, OR 97801

Present: Beth Harrison, Board Chair
Ryan Lehnert
Jill Pace
Ryan DeGrofft
Mason Murphy (virtual)
Anne Keeler
Patrick Gregg
Michelle Jones, Director of Business Services
Matt Yoshioka, Director of Curriculum, Instruction, and Assessment
Ronda Thornburg, Executive Secretary
Michelle Jensen, PhD, Superintendent
Kevin Dinning, Director of Human Resources

Absent: Julie Smith, Director of Special Programs (with prior notice)

The meeting was in person and offered virtually.

1. **Opening and Call to Order** *Board Chair*
   Chair Harrison welcomed everyone and called the work session to order at 8:00 a.m.

   1.1. Pledge of Allegiance
   The group stood and recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

   1.2. Meeting Audio/Video Recorded
   Chair Harrison stated that this meeting is being audio and video-recorded.

2. **PVLA Report** *Jenny Corey*
   Jenny Corey, Pendleton Virtual Learning Academy Kindergarten through Grade 8 Coordinator, gave an overview of the program that included enrollment numbers by school and grade, student groups, success stories, her daily schedule, and weekly check-ins with students and families. She wrapped up her presentation with comments from parents. Mrs. Corey answered many questions from the board.

3. **Committee Update: Key Communicators** *Director Pace*
   As the Board Representative, Director Pace recapped the Key Communicators meeting held on February 12, 2026, at the District Office. Chair Harrison likes having meetings at the DO, welcoming the community into our buildings, telling them our story, and hoping to get communication back from them.

4. **Review Agenda – March 9, 2026, Regular Board Meeting** *Board Chair*
   No additions or deletions

5. **Public Comment** *Board Chair*
   No comments.

6. **Information**

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7. **School Visit Reports** *Board Chair*

Adopt-A-School Assignments:

PELC – Ryan Lehnert
McKay – Patrick Gregg
Sherwood – Ryan DeGrofft
Washington – Mason Murphy
SMS – Jill Pace
PHS/HHS – Anne Keeler
All Schools – Beth Harrison

Director Keeler attended the mid-year meeting at Pendleton High School. She shared her takeaways, including the team effort put into student success by Tim Foster and Pat Dutcher for students at Hawthorne Alternative High School. Equally impressive is the amount of planning, data collection, and communication with Sunridge Middle School for the Freshman on Track by Evan Rummerfield, Mike Bittorf, and Karen Demianew.

Director Pace had the opportunity to watch the play, Peter Pan, at Sunridge Middle School. She was involved in the community read-in at the PELC.

8. **Board Business – Action Items**

8.1. Human Resources *Kevin Dinning*

8.1.1. Approve 2026-27 School Year Calendar

Mr. Dinning detailed the changes to the previously approved 2026-27 school year calendar. With continued engagement from district and building administration and union input, this calendar leverages opportunities to increase time for the execution of district initiatives and teacher planning, maintain the current number of student contact days, and shift conferences to reflect the timing that we feel is best for all schools.

Director Keeler moved to approve the 2026-27 school year calendar as presented. Director Pace seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

9. **Recess Regular Board Meeting** *Board Chair*

Chair Harrison recessed the regular board meeting at 9:05 a.m.

10. **Convene Executive Session** *Board Chair*

(Per ORS 192.660(2)(i) to review and evaluate the employment-rated performance of the Chief Executive Officer)

Chair Harrison convened the executive session at 9:08 a.m. and ended it at 10:26 a.m.

11. **Reconvene Regular Board Meeting** *Board Chair*

12. **Adjournment** *Board Chair*

With no further business brought forward for the good of the order, the meeting adjourned at 10:26 a.m.

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Beth Harrison, Board Chair

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Michelle Jensen, PhD, Superintendent

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Ronda Thornburg, Executive Secretary

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Date

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