

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

March 9, 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, Vice Chair
Patrick Gregg
Kevin Dinning, Director of Human Resources
Michelle Jones, Director of Business Services
Ronda Thornburg, Executive Secretary
Michelle Jensen, PhD, Superintendent
Matt Yoshioka, Director of Curriculum, Instruction, and Assessment
Julie Smith, Director of Special Programs

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. Approve Board Agenda *Board Chair*

Director Gregg motioned to approve the March 9, 2026, Regular Board Meeting agenda. Director Lehnert seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

3. Consent Agenda *Board Chair*

3.1. Board Meeting Minutes

February 3, 2026 Work Session

February 9, 2026 Regular Board Meeting

3.2. February 28, 2026 Financial Report

Expenditures:

The majority of expenditures for the month of February are within expectations. Transportation/Travel reflects two months of invoices from First Student due to the timing of the receipt of invoices from the contractor.

Repairs continue on the HVAC systems at PHS Auditorium and Sherwood. These repairs are complete, and the system is currently functioning as designed, as is the system at the PELC. Contract education is the first semester invoice for the 9-12 PLVA through IMESD, which is typically received and paid in January.

Revenue:

Revenues for the month of February are within expectations. As stated in the January financial report, we have received the delayed first payment of the Common School Fund this month. The second payment is scheduled for July 2026.

3.3. Grants

Granting Agency	Recipient	Purpose	Amount
Friends of Pendleton Golf	PHS Golf Teams	Golf season support	\$10,000

A letter of appreciation will be sent to each donor.

3.4. Human Resources Report

NEW HIRE	Certified	Sara McCormack <i>(Temporary-finish out 2025-26 SY)</i>	Special Education Teacher	SMS
		Jennifer Henderer <i>(Temporary-finish out 2025-26 SY)</i>	Special Education Teacher	SMS
		Alexandra Williams <i>(Temporary-finish out 2025-26 SY)</i>	Third Grade Teacher	WES
		Rick Scheibner	Counselor (2026-27 SY)	SMS
	Classified	Thomas Miller	Maintenance I	PSD
		Robert Willcoxon <i>(Temporary-finish out 2025-26 SY)</i>	ASL Interpreter	SMS
		Laura Castro <i>(Temporary-finish out 2025-26 SY)</i>	Paraprofessional	WES
		Korie Spencer	Paraprofessional	WES
RESIGNATION	Classified	Elizabeth Evans <i>(Effective 2/17/2026)</i>	Paraprofessional	WES MES
	Certified	Laura Castro <i>(Effective 2/19/2026)</i>	Special Education Teacher	SMS
		Tiffanee Lewis <i>(Effective 6/10/2026)</i>	Kindergarten Teacher	PELC
	Extra Duty	Aaron Schmidt	Assistant Baseball Coach	PHS
RETIREMENT	Classified	John Olsen <i>(Effective 3/31/2026)</i>	Custodian	SMS
	Certified	Kimberley Jones <i>(Effective 6/10/2026)</i>	Math Teacher	PHS
EXTRA DUTY	Baseball	Wes Armstrong	Varsity Assistant Coach	PHS
		Kyler Eckman-Lunny	JV2 Coach	PHS
	Softball	Joshua Grass	Varsity Assistant Coach	PHS
		Jim Newland	Varsity Assistant Coach	PHS
		Delanie Kohr	JV Head Softball Coach	PHS
	Track & Field	Bill Aney	Assistant Coach	PHS
		Nicole Bowden	Assistant Coach	PHS
		Madelyn Naughton	Assistant Coach	PHS
		Jason Campbell	Assistant Coach	PHS
		Chris Thatcher	Assistant Coach	PHS
	Michael Swanson	Head Coach	SMS	

		Bethany Van Cleave	Assistant Coach	SMS
		Ian Rivera	Assistant Coach	SMS
		Nicole Somnis	Assistant Coach	SMS
	Tennis	Julie Murphy	Head Coach	SMS
		Kathleen Mueller	Assistant Coach	SMS
VOLUNTEER	Baseball	Travis Zander	Varsity Assistant Coach	PHS
		Brett Swanson	JV Assistant Coach	PHS
		Ian Rivera	JV2 Coach	PHS
		Tommy Lane	JV2 Coach	PHS
		Brady Smith	JV2 Coach	PHS
		Gabe Umbarger	JV2 Coach	PHS
		Wyatt Whitten	JV2 Coach	PHS
	Softball	Madison Parker	Varsity Coach	PHS
		Hailey Kline	Varsity Assistant Coach	PHS
	Golf	Nels Nelson	Boys Golf Coach	PHS
		Nels Nelson	Girls Golf Coach	PHS
	Track & Field	Amy Martin	Assistant Track Coach	PHS
		Mark Christiansen	Assistant Track Coach	PHS

Director Pace motioned to approve the March 9, 2026, consent agenda as presented.

Chair Harrison asked to pull the financial report from the consent agenda in order to ask a question. Chair Harrison moved to approve the board meeting minutes, the grant, and the human resources report of the consent agenda as presented. Director Gregg seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Returning to the financial report, Chair Harrison asked Michelle Jones for additional details on the HVAC systems. She gave updates for the PELC, Sherwood Elementary, and PHS.

Director Gregg moved to approve the February 28, 2026, financial report as presented. Director Pace seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

4. **Recognition & Good News** *Superintendent*

4.1. *Classified Staff Week – March 2-6, 2026*

March is School Classified Employee Appreciation Month. Their work is essential to creating schools where students can learn, belong, and succeed. We celebrate the incredible classified staff who support students and schools every day – including secretaries, paraeducators, custodial, and maintenance teams who are very valued and appreciated. On behalf of the Board, Chair Harrison expressed appreciation, noting that they are the face of the schools and cheerleaders for the students.

4.2. *Read Across America – March 2-6, 2026*

All of the elementary schools had activities around the week of Read Across America—lots of lifting literacy and celebrating.

The incredible theatre production of Peter Pan at Sunridge Middle School featured multifaceted, dynamic props. The highly skilled performing students all need to be celebrated.

5. **Board Communications** *Board Chair*
 - 5.1. Pendleton Association of Teachers *PAT Representative*
Kate Samp did not have a report.
 - 5.2. Oregon School Employees Association *Tammy Hillmick*
Tammy Hillmick did not have a report.
 - 5.3. PL974/Indian Education *Kendall Rosario*
No report.

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

7. **Superintendent’s Report**

Fifth graders visited Blue Mountain Community College in February, providing students with early exposure to secondary opportunities. Research shows that early college awareness helps students build aspirations, strengthen academic engagement, and begin envisioning their pathway after graduation.

Two Pendleton High School students were awarded a full-ride scholarship to Whitman College.

Pendleton FFA members participated in the Oregon FFA Legislative Conference at the Oregon State Capitol in Salem, OR. Students engaged in panel discussions with state agriculture and policy leaders, practiced asking thoughtful questions and discussing real issues, learned how to advocate effectively with elected officials, met with Senator Todd Nash, and shared their FFA and CTE experiences with state leaders.

8. **Reports & Discussion**

- 8.1. **Athletics/Activities Update** *Mike Somnis, Doug Gunter*

SMS Assistant Principal/Athletic Director, Doug Gunter, shared that he has the privilege of working with middle school students and learned early that more teams give students more opportunities. Gave highlights of the winter sports of girls’ and boys’ basketball and wrestling. Track and tennis are coming up. Offering positive after-school opportunities is important for students to engage in physical activities, connect with other students (including the social piece), let them shine outside the classroom, connect with families, and showcase our students’ talents.

PHS Assistant Principal/Athletic Director, Mike Somnis, gave a winter wrap-up that included swimming, girls’ and boys’ basketball and wrestling, and cheerleading. Spring sports bring girls’ and boys’ tennis and golf, softball, baseball, track and field, and OSAA competitions for choir and dance. He thanked the Board for giving our students opportunities. 36% of the student population is participating in spring sports.

- 8.2. **PERS Update** *Michelle Jones*

Michelle Jones explained how PERS rates are calculated for school districts. She detailed the background, current status, expiration dates, future projections for PERS bonds, and how that impacts the Pendleton School District. Mrs. Jones answered questions from the Board.

9. **Board Business – Action Items**

- 9.1. **Human Resources** *Kevin Dinning*

- 9.1.1. Approve 2026-27 Contract Recommendations

**CONTRACT TEACHERS
(2 Year Extension)
2026-2027; 2027-2028**

<p> Debora Airoidi Carol Aldrich Matthew Baty Michael Bittorf Danielle Blanc Katie Bodewig Serena Bontemps Angela Bork Donna Bostwick John Bradt Jacquelyn Brown Michelle Cain Jason Campbell Kirsten Campbell Marty Campbell Kaden Clark Andrew Cary Timothy Cary Kirk Case Hollie Chay Shelby Cook Jess Cooper Lisa Cope Jenny Corey Erik Davis Maria Davis Jen DeGrofft Chris Demianew Karen Demianew Jill Deutz Andrea Dinkel Erin Donnelly Kelsey Eckstine Aileen Edmonds </p>	<p> Diana Ellis Rebecca Emmons Hunter Erwin Nichole Erwin Samantha Erwin Timothy Foster Sarah Gaulke Zachary Gaulke Katie Goad Miriah Golter Aimee Gunter Tad J Haguewood Carissa Haley Christina Hall Anna Halsey Trevor Hancock Michelle Herburger Krysten Horn Sherry Hubbard Jolene Hudson Kenneth Jacobs Randy Jenness Brian Johnson Rachele Johnson Zoe Jones Shawndine Jones Enes Kaplanovic Angela Kaseberg Richard Kelm II Delanie Kohr Holly Krokosz Jessica Lambert Jaime Larsen Katelen Leighty </p>	<p> Nicholas Leonard Sarah Leonard Joshua Linehan Joshua McGraw Noele Mead Melissa Monkman Cynthia Moran Mitch Morioka Emily Muller-Cary Julie Murphy Ron Murphy Brittany Mustoe Christina Nelson Athena Nelson Taylor Nelson Linzie Noble Emma Norquist Annalise Oertwich Shannon O'Rourke-Hudson Madison Parker Andrea Paulsen Christopher Perkins Wendy Phillips Amy Pitner Alexa Pond Whitney Porter Abbey Prevot Kristyn Rangel Kimberly Richards Ian Rivera Lisa Roberts Marguerite Robinson Evan Rummerfield Annette Russo Bittorf </p>	<p> Kate Samp Aaron Schmidt Erica Schmidt Laetitia Schreier Bridget Schultz Cambree Shields Stephanie Smith Andrew Sneed Justin Speer Jessica Stephen K. Nicole Stewart Madeline Stuvland Hailey Stuvland John Summerfield Michael Swanson Corey Terjeson Patti Thorne Mary Thouvenel Stacy Tubbs Hansen Amy Umbarger Bethany Van Cleave Danielle Veintenheimer Nancy Vert Khadija Wagner Carly Walker Makenna Watkins Holly Whitten Christina Williams Jacey Wilson (Dirisu) Taylor Wilson Sarah Yoshioka Kathryn Youngman Travis Zander Janice Zaugg Brian Zimmerman </p>
--	---	---	---

**3rd Year Probationary
1 Year Renewal
2026-2027**

Katie Groshong
 Bryan Huber
 Haley Kannard
 Alexis Keene
 Makenzie Mcleod
 Kiana Rickman
 Haley Robinett
 Jillian Samp
 Samantha Spriet
 Bailey Weinke
 Erin Zacharias

**NON-RENEWAL
Contract Teachers**

Kathryn Hall

**2nd Year Probationary
1 Year Renewal
2026-2027**

Hayleigh Botkin
 Kearsten Conner
 Dana Decasas
 Katelyn Evans
 Courtney Hanson
 Jordyn Lambert
 Rebecca Lauer
 Kyler Eckman-Lunny
 Rebecca Marshall
 Kristin Olson
 Brenda Stringham
 Blakely Rudolph
 Haydyn Wallender

**ADMINISTRATOR
3 Year Extension
2026-27; 2027-28; 2028-29**

Kevin Dinning
 Pat Dutcher
 Curt Thompson

**TEMPORARY CONTRACT
Non-Renewal**

Meagan Gear Sims
 Jennifer Henderer
 Brianna Kohr
 Mike Robinson
 Tabitha Kopf
 Sara McCormack

**ADMINISTRATOR
3rd Year Probationary
1 Year Renewal
2026-27**

Rachael Olson
 Anne Sokoloski

**ADMINISTRATOR
2nd Year Probationary
1 Year Renewal
2026-27**

Malynnda Barron
 Doug Gunter
 Angie Horton

Director Murphy moved that the recommended contract status report for the 2026-27 school year be approved as presented. Director Pace seconded. Director DeGrofft abstained due to family in the report. Motion carried unanimously.

10. **Board Member Comments** *Board Chair*
No comments.

11. **Adjournment** *Board Chair*
With no further business brought forward for the good of the order, the meeting adjourned at 6:41 p.m.

DRAFT

Beth Harrison, Board Chair

Michelle Jensen, PhD, Superintendent

Ronda Thornburg, Executive Secretary

Date