



Minutes

The Board of Education Molalla River School District

April 23, 2026

I. **BUSINESS MEETING - Molalla River School District Office** CALL TO ORDER

Chair Craig Loughridge called the business meeting to order at 7:00pm and proceeded with the pledge of allegiance.

Board members attending included: Chair Craig Loughridge, Vice Chair Linda Eskridge, Amy McNeil, Rob Cummings (virtually), Neal Lucht, Mark Lucht, Terrie Stafford and Student Representative Josiah Lopez.

MRS D Administrators present: Dr. Tony Mann/Superintendent, Jennifer Ellis/Assistant Supt, Director of Human Resources, Andy Campbell/Chief Financial Officer, Daniel Haworth/Technology Specialist, Mike Lord/Athletic Director, Associate Principal Molalla High School, Tamara Jackson/Director of Teaching and Learning, Tony Tiano/Facilities Supervisor.

Also present: Doug Hill, Julie Deardorff Gilkison, and Becky Wilson

A. **PUBLIC COMMENT**

There was none.

B. **CONSIDER CHANGES TO THE AGENDA**

A statement written and submitted by Ms. Betsy Siedel regarding the High School Robotics program was read out loud.

C. **STUDENT BOARD REPRESENTATIVE REPORT**

Mr. Josiah Lopez was not able to be present so he sent a video with some updates from Molalla High School. Third trimester has started, AP exams are coming up the first week of May, and Prom spirit week went well. He stated Prom was well attended. ASB Leadership candidates for the 26-27 school year submitted videos for their campaign. Mr. Lopez and Ms. Miranda Salgado won for President and Vice President for next year. Mr. Lopez gave a spring sports update. He wished the Board and stated he would be back in May.

D. **ACTION ITEMS**

1. *Consent Agenda – March Meeting minutes, personnel report, surplus*

Ms. McNeil made a motion to accept the consent agenda as presented. Vice Chair Eskridge seconded the motion. There was no discussion, and the motion passed unanimously by a roll call – 7 ayes, no nays, no abstentions.

2. *Gifts to the District – Deardorff donation to Turf project*

Dr. Mann expressed deep gratitude to the community, and the Deardorff family are anchors. With a collective donation of \$15,000, he stated it is Board policy for the Board to accept large donations. Ms. Julie Gilkison, Deardorff family member, was present and stated she is proud to be part of the project. She stated athletics were a large part of her high school experience at Molalla and this is a wonderful full circle moment for her and the family. Mr. Neal Lucht made

a motion to accept the Deardorff Family donation totaling \$15,000 for the Burghardt Stadium Turf Project. Vice Chair Eskridge seconded the motion. The Board thanked the Deardorffs for their generous donation. There was no further discussion and the motion passed unanimously by a roll call – 7 ayes, no nays, no abstentions.

3. *Complaint Response*

Mr. Neal Lucht made a motion that the Board take no further action related to the Complaint discussed in executive session and delegate authority to the Chair to draft a response to the complaint based on the Board's discussion. Mr. Mark Lucht seconded the motion. There was no discussion, and the motion passed unanimously by a roll call – 7 ayes, no nays, no abstentions.

4. *Recommendation to approve – Contract for Seismic Grant Work*

Mr. Tony Tiano reviewed the process for selecting Woodburn Construction for the seismic work at Mulino. There was discussion about the bid process and whether it was a fixed bid. Ms. McNeil made a motion to approve the Woodburn Construction contract for seismic work. Vice Chair Eskridge seconded the motion. There was no further discussion, and the motion passed unanimously by a roll call – 7 ayes, no nays, no abstentions.

5. *Recommendation of approval – Budget Committee Membership*

Mr. Andy Campbell stated community involvement in the budget process is vital for community support. Mr. Doug Hill submitted an application and his term will be for three years. Mr. Neal Lucht made a motion to approve Mr. Doug Hill's application for budget committee membership. Mr. Mark Lucht seconded the motion. Mr. Hill stated he is happy to participate as he believes school budgeting is important work and he wants to stay informed. There was no further discussion, and the motion passed unanimously by a roll call – 7 ayes, no nays, no abstentions.

6. *Second Reading of Policy*

Mr. Mark Lucht made a motion to approve policies CBG, JFCEB, JOA, and IKFB as presented. Vice Chair Eskridge seconded the motion. There was no discussion, and the motion passed unanimously by a roll call – 7 ayes, no nays, no abstentions.

E. INFORMATION/DISCUSSION

1. *Financial Review*

Mr. Andy Campbell gave a monthly financial review. He reported to the Board that the 26-27 budget is in the system and being fine tuned for the budget committee. He stated his team is monitoring 25-26 budget and spending through the end of June. The district received the final 24-25 enrollment numbers, which was down 10 students. 25-26 enrollment is down and there is no update for 26-27 currently. Mr. Campbell stated the budget committee orientation was tonight with the first meeting on April 30th. There was no further discussion.

2. *Social Studies Curriculum Adoption Update*

Ms. Tamara Jackson gave an update to the social studies curriculum adoption process. She stated since November the committee of 12 has been reviewing curriculum, giving a recommendation, receiving and reviewing community feedback and piloting the recommended curriculum. She stated that tonight is for information only, and the board would be asked to approve next month. Ms. Jackson reviewed the community input phase explaining where and when the curriculum would be available. Mr. Grant Boustead, Social Studies Dept. Chair at Molalla High School, sent a video discussing the process in which the secondary materials were selected and piloted. Mr. Jeff Claxton, Social Studies teacher at Molalla River Middle School,

sent a written statement about the middle school materials through National Geographic. Ms. Jackson read the statement out loud. Ms. Becky Wilson, teacher at Rural Dell Elementary, was present to explain the elementary social studies recommendation and why the team chose McGraw Hill and Gibbs Smith. All three team members discussed the curriculum's ability to make history relevant for today's students, including real world photography, and alignment with current state standards. There was discussion about public access to the materials at the public library. There was also discussion regarding textbooks and costs, and how librarians track the books. Ms. Jackson thanked the team of teachers for their time in researching curriculum and piloting the materials. There were no further questions.

3. *Defined Learning Agreement – First Discussion*

Dr. Mann stated the District has recently focused on less traditional teaching and is looking to engage kids in different ways. One of those ways is through project based learning and career related work. One of the tools the district uses and is very pleased with is Defined Learning. Ms. Jackson read a statement from Ms. Sheryl McElfish, Language Arts teacher at Molalla River Middle School, about the tool Defined Learning and how it has positively impacted her students through hands on learning projects. Dr. Mann stated across the district teachers are asked to use a Defined Learning lesson at least once a trimester. He stated the Molalla Elementary 5th graders presented park designs to the Molalla City Council last year. Dr. Mann said the Board will be asked to take action on the agreement at a future meeting. There were no further questions.

The Board recessed at 7:58pm for a short break. The meeting was called back to order at 8:03pm.

4. *Winter Sports Recap*

Mr. Mike Lord gave a recap of the 25-26 winter sports and activities season for Molalla High School. He stated the success of the teams was due to hard work from athletes and coaches. The mission of the athletic department – Excellence in Academics, Athletes, and Character – continues to create a solid foundation for sports to teach life skills. He stated he met with 8th graders today at the high school and challenged them to get involved in sports and activities, as studies show student-athletes are more successful in school and life when they have involvement. He thanked the board for their approval of the Burghardt Sports Complex project and is excited to see it continue to move forward. There were no questions.

F. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Dr. Mann commended the students, parents for a great winter sports season and Mr. Mike Lord for his leadership. He thanked Ms. Emmely Briley for her years of coaching robotics, as she is retiring from coaching at the end of this year. He gave the board an update on the ELPA dollars from ODE. He and Ms. Jackson met with ODE leadership yesterday and were pleased with the outcome. Dr. Mann gave an update to the Leroy Ave easement work for the middle school project. There was discussion about town halls and the next steps.

1. *Department Reports*

There was no discussion.

G. BOARD COMMENTS

Ms. Stafford thanked the Deardorffs for their generous donation. Ms. McNeil thanked them as well and thanked the staff for their hard work on the social studies curriculum. Vice Chair Eskridge also thanked staff. Chair Loughridge thanked Mr. Hill for his attendance and commented on standards for high school diplomas in Oregon. He also thanked everyone for their well wishes the past couple of weeks after his mom passed. Mr. Neal Lucht thanked the Deardorffs and their commitment to the Molalla Community has always been there. No further comments.

H. UPCOMING MEETINGS

- April 29th policy committee meeting **RESCHEDULED FOR MAY 27th at 7pm**
- April 30th executive session at 6pm, special board meeting at 6:30pm, first budget committee meeting at 7pm at the District Office
- May 14th executive session at 6pm, business meeting at 7pm at the District Office
- May 21st second budget committee meeting at 7pm at the District Office

I. ADJOURN

Vice Chair Eskridge made a motion to adjourn. Mr. Neal Lucht seconded the motion and Chair Loughridge adjourned the meeting at 8:32pm.

Chair

Superintendent

Board Secretary