



Regular Meeting of the Board of Education

Thursday, May 21, 2026 6:00 PM

Oakdale Middle School Room 230
815 S. Oakdale Ave.
Medford, OR 97501

Board members present: Lilia Caballero, Kendell Ferguson, Erik Johnsen, Sandra LaNier McHenry, Sunny Spicer, Michael Williams and Angela Zbikowski

A video recording of the Board meeting can be found on the district website at [this link](#). The slide presentation can be viewed by clicking on Extras listed next to the meeting at [this link](#).

1. Call to Order / Pledge of Allegiance / Roll Call

Board Chair Kendell Ferguson called the meeting to order at 6:00 PM, led the Pledge of Allegiance, and confirmed a quorum through roll call. She welcomed those in attendance.

2. Agenda Adjustments and Approval

No objections were raised. The agenda was approved by unanimous consent.

3. Recognitions

Superintendent Jeanne Grazioli explained the criteria required to earn the Oregon State Seal of Biliteracy and recognized the dedication and academic achievement demonstrated by the valedictorians and students who earned their associate degrees.

North Medford High School Principal Allen Barber recognized students earning awards for various accomplishments. The valedictorians shared college and/or career plans following graduation.

Innovation Academy Principal Cass Thonstad recognized the 2026 valedictorian and salutatorian. The students shared college and/or career plans following graduation.

South Medford High School Principal Jonathan Lyons recognized students earning awards for various accomplishments. The valedictorians shared college and/or career plans following graduation.

Board Directors were formally invited to the graduation commencement.

4. Recess

The Board took a recess to take photos with the students.

5. Consent Agenda

The following items were presented on the consent agenda: Staff Assignment Report and Minutes from Previous Meetings.

No objections were raised. The consent agenda was approved by unanimous consent.

6. Citizen Comments

Chair Ferguson read the citizen comment guidelines.

Meadowsweet Levi, a parent, expressed concerns about the use of glyphosate and other synthetic pesticides on school grounds, stating her child became ill following exposure and was later withdrawn from the school. She requested that the District discontinue pesticide use to ensure student safety.

Jenny James, an MSD teacher, spoke about challenges in the current education system, noting concerns about students performing below grade level. She encouraged the Board to visit classrooms to better understand current student needs and school conditions.

7. Items for Information & Discussion

7.a. Medford Education Association (MEA) Report

Jessica Fitzsimmons, MEA President, reported that recent bargaining sessions were both productive and demanding. She noted a generally collaborative tone, expressed appreciation for the district's HR team, and shared that participants feel heard and respected in the process. She highlighted concern over curriculum guide issues and the possibility of entering summer without a completed contract, while acknowledging progress made and continued work ahead on remaining complex items. Fitzsimmons also reflected that negotiations are in a stronger place than in the previous cycle, attributing improvements to changes in district leadership and interest-based bargaining practices.

7.b. Superintendent Report: Strategic Planning Update

Superintendent Jeanne Grazioli provided an update on the district's strategic planning process, outlining the work being done to align resources, monitor progress, and support student success. She shared that feedback was gathered throughout the year and reviewed the timeline and process for refining the district's new vision map. Grazioli noted that additional discussion with the Board is planned for the June 18 special meeting. She also shared the draft vision statement, mission

statement, motto, and the district's priorities and strategies. Grazioli stated that the finalization of the strategic plan will depend on continued Board input and discussion.

Board Directors shared questions and comments regarding the importance of connecting goals to measurable outcomes. Directors also inquired about teacher feedback and buy-in related to curriculum alignment and the strategic planning process and expressed hope that the alignment work will lead to improved student proficiency.

7.c. Board Priority: Financial Stewardship

Assistant Superintendent of Operations Brad Earl presented the April financial report, noting minimal deviation from projections and slightly lower revenues. He reported the Budget Committee approved the proposed FY2026-27 budget, with the budget hearing scheduled for the next Board meeting and adoption planned for the final meeting in June.

Earl also shared an update on the state revenue forecast and noted ongoing uncertainty around education funding priorities. He discussed the district's long-term strategic planning efforts related to declining enrollment, including proactive community conversations about the future of the district and potential options for addressing enrollment trends.

Board members asked questions regarding staffing impacts, class sizes, and the balance of support for special education and general education programs. Earl stated that staffing reductions have primarily been tied to declining enrollment and that average class sizes have generally remained consistent.

8. Recess

The scheduled recess was not taken.

9. Board Action Items

9.a. Board Operating Agreement Approval

A motion was made by LaNier McHenry and seconded by Caballero to adopt the Board Operating Agreement as presented.

Discussion: Director Williams reiterated concerns previously discussed regarding the provision limiting school visits to no more than 1.5 hours. Chair Ferguson shared that the Board had previously asked Superintendent Grazioli to survey building principals regarding the proposed time limitation and their comfort level with extending the duration of Board member school and classroom visits. Survey results indicated principals preferred that visits not exceed 1.5 hours. Director Williams stated he had also reached out to Medford Education Association leadership, who polled teacher union representatives regarding the proposed limitation. He shared the

feedback was almost unanimous in welcoming Board members beyond the 1.5-hour timeframe and noted teachers did not view extended visits as disruptive to classrooms.

Amendment to Main Motion:

An amendment was made by Williams and seconded by Johnsen to insert “classroom” before visit; strike “not to exceed;” and insert “to be scheduled for” before 1.5 hours.

Discussion:

Topics of discussion included the teacher survey was not endorsed by the entire Board; the need to build trust with building leaders; acting in good faith; and considering the amendment now and potentially revisiting the BOA at the summer Board Retreat.

Roll call vote on amendment: Johnsen: Yea, Caballero: Nay, LaNier McHenry: Nay, Spicer: Nay, Williams: Yea, Zbikowski: Yea, Ferguson: Nay

Result: Motion failed (Yea: 3, Nay: 4)

Roll call vote on main motion: LaNier McHenry: Yea, Spicer: Yea, Williams: Nay, Caballero: Yea, Johnsen: Yea, Zbikowski: Yea, Ferguson: Yea

Result: Motion passed (Yea: 6, Nay: 1)

9.b. Board Retreat Date Discussion & Approval

Superintendent Grazioli proposed several possible dates for a Board Retreat where the Board could meet to discuss the superintendent evaluation process, the Board meeting schedule for the upcoming school year, coordinated school visits, professional development interests, and other topics of interest.

A motion was made by LaNier McHenry and seconded by Spicer to schedule the Board Retreat on July 25.

Roll call vote: Zbikowski: Yea, Caballero: Yea, Spicer: Yea, LaNier McHenry: Yea, Johnsen: Yea, Williams: Yea, Ferguson: Yea

Result: Motion passed (Yea: 7, Nay: 0)

Chair Ferguson encouraged Board Directors to email suggested agenda items for the Board Retreat by May 29.

10. Announcements

Chair Ferguson announced the following event and noted the budget hearing will take place at the June 11 Work Session.

- May 26 - Grad Walk - Jackson St./Medford Center at 10:15 - 10:45 AM

- May 27 - Innovation Academy Graduation - Spiegelberg Stadium at 7:00 PM
- May 28 - SMHS Graduation - Spiegelberg Stadium at 7:00 PM
- May 29 - NMHS Graduation - Spiegelberg Stadium at 7:00 PM
- June 11 - Work Session - Oakdale Middle School at 6:00 PM

11. Adjournment

With no further business before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 7:22 PM.

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