Work Session of the Board of Education

Thursday, June 11, 2026 5:45 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 5:45 PM, led the Pledge of Allegiance, confirmed a quorum through roll call, and welcomed attendees.

2. **Agenda Adjustments and Approval**

   A motion was made by Johnsen and seconded by LaNier McHenry to add agenda item 8.b. to consider canceling the June 25 meeting.

   Roll call vote: LaNier McHenry: Yea, Johnsen: Yea, Caballero: Yea, Zbikowski: Yea, Spicer: Yea, Williams: Yea, Ferguson: Yea
   Result: Motion passed (Yea: 7, Nay: 0)

3. **Recognitions**

   3.a. Student Athlete State Champion

   South Medford High School Assistant Principal/Athletic Director Patrick Grady recognized student-athlete Alexis Uschold for her outstanding achievement of winning the State Championship in tennis. Uschold was unable to attend the meeting, and her mother accepted a Certificate of Recognition on her behalf.

4. **Recess**

   The Board elected to proceed with the agenda without taking the scheduled recess.

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. Public Hearing for FY2026-27 Budget

Chair Ferguson opened the public hearing for the FY2026-27 Budget. No one signed up to speak. The public hearing was closed.

7. Work Session Items

7.a. Charter School Contract Renewal Review

7.a.1) The Valley School of Southern Oregon

The Board reviewed the proposed Valley School Charter contract and discussed recommendations developed through a collaborative committee process involving charter school representatives, School Board members, and District staff. Committee members reported productive discussions and noted that, while funding was a point of tension, the parties reached a positive outcome and maintained a strong partnership. Staff highlighted The Valley School's unique educational model, recent program expansion, and the challenges faced by small charter schools, including staffing, facilities, and operational costs.

The Board engaged in an extensive discussion regarding a proposal to increase The Valley School's funding allocation over a three-year period. Supporters cited the school's financial constraints, facility needs, staff retention challenges, and academic outcomes, while others expressed concern about the District's own financial pressures, declining enrollment, unfunded mandates, and the potential precedent for other charter schools. Board members also reviewed historical charter funding criteria and discussed whether those criteria remain equitable and relevant. Following discussion, the Board conducted an informal poll and reached consensus not to include the proposed additional funding language in the contract. The contract will be brought back at a future meeting for Board approval.

7.a.2) Logos Public Charter School

The Board reviewed the proposed Logos Charter contract and discussed the recommended contract term and related language. Staff explained that the proposed 10-year agreement was based on the stability of the partnership over the past decade, while also including provisions allowing for financial review and potential reopening of the agreement if concerns arise. Staff noted that Logos has remained compliant, transparent, and responsive through audits, budgeting processes, and required reporting. The Board also reviewed specific contract language and received clarification regarding financial reporting requirements and other provisions.

The Board discussed the benefits and potential concerns of extending the agreement from five to ten years, including continuity of the partnership, leadership transitions, and the strength of existing termination provisions. Board members acknowledged Logos' positive relationship with the District and successful contract negotiations, while considering whether a shorter term would provide additional flexibility. Following discussion, the Board conducted an informal poll regarding a five-year versus ten-year contract term. The Board supported maintaining the proposed 10-year agreement, and the contract will be brought forward at a future meeting for approval.

7.b. School Board Policies - *first reading*

The Board reviewed the policy packet presented for first reading. During discussion, the Board considered Policy BBE – Vacancies on the Board, including whether additional language should be added to address situations where a vacancy occurs near an election. A Board member proposed revising the policy to provide guidance on potentially postponing an appointment to allow voters an opportunity to participate in the selection process. The Board discussed election timelines, appointment requirements, and the balance between allowing voter input and ensuring the Board has sufficient membership to effectively conduct business.

Following discussion, the Board agreed to remove Policy BBE from the first reading packet for further review and discussion at the Board Retreat. The remaining policies in the packet were moved forward for consideration at the next Board meeting.

8. Board Action Item

8.a. Budget Calendar Update

A motion was made by Caballero and seconded by LaNier McHenry to approve the revised budget calendar as presented, moving the budget adoption to the June 18 Special Board meeting.

Roll call vote: Spicer: Yea, Williams: Yea, LaNier McHenry: Yea, Caballero: Yea, Johnsen: Yea, Zbikowski: Yea, Ferguson: Yea
Result: Motion passed (Yea: 7, Nay: 0)

8.b. Consider Canceling the June 25 Board Meeting

A motion was made by Johnsen and seconded by Caballero to cancel the June 25 Board meeting.

Discussion: The Board discussed the proposed cancelation of the June 25 Board meeting. It was noted that the business originally scheduled for that meeting had been moved to the June 18 Special Board Meeting, eliminating the need for the additional meeting. In response to a question regarding quorum, it was confirmed that four Board members had indicated they would be available to attend the June 25 meeting. Discussion clarified that while a quorum would be present, the cancelation was being considered due to the lack of remaining business requiring Board action.

Roll call vote: Johnsen: Yea, Caballero: Yea, LaNier McHenry: Yea, Spicer: Yea, Williams: Nay, Zbikowski: Yea, Ferguson: Yea
Result: Motion passed (Yea: 6, Nay: 1)

9. Announcements

Chair Ferguson noted the Special Board Meeting scheduled for June 18.

10. Adjournment

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 6:50 PM.