



Regular Meeting of the Board of Education

Thursday, April 23, 2026 6:45 PM

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

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

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 6:47 PM, led the Pledge of Allegiance, and confirmed a quorum through roll call. She welcomed attendees and read the district's vision statement.

2. Agenda Adjustments and Approval

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

3. Recognitions

3.a. Teacher Appreciation

Superintendent Jeanne Grazioli recognized Teacher Appreciation Week as an opportunity to honor teachers for their dedication, relationship-building, and daily support of students. Appreciation was expressed on behalf of the district for the important role teachers' play in the success of students and the community. Teachers will be recognized through school-level celebrations and the presentation of milestone pins honoring significant years of service.

MEA President Jessica Fitzsimmons, acknowledged teachers' professionalism, devotion, and commitment to students despite challenging working conditions. She offered special recognition to special education teachers and expressed appreciation for the dedication and resilience demonstrated by all teachers.

Board Directors expressed their gratitude to teachers for their dedication and

commitment to students. Several members shared appreciation for the work of special education teachers and acknowledged the meaningful impact teachers have on students' lives.

4. Consent Agenda

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

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

5. Citizen Comments

Chair Ferguson read citizen comment guidelines.

Taryne Saunders, a parent, shared her disappointment regarding what she described as a lack of engagement by certain Board members in schools and in matters she believes are important to supporting students.

Rob Schlapfer, a resident, spoke in opposition to specific social science instructional materials, citing concerns related to selection bias and partisan influence.

Margaret Anna Alice, a resident, also spoke in opposition to specific social science instructional materials recommended for adoption, citing concerns about groupthink in the selection process.

Cheyln Breedlove, a parent, expressed appreciation for the support of agriculture and for the recognition of the Jackson County Farm Bureau.

Chair Ferguson acknowledged the Board received written comments from Jennifer Mock, Tom Clunie, Chaim Ward, and Mark Hutto. She thanked everyone for sharing their thoughts.

6. Items for Information & Discussion

6.a. Superintendent Report: South Medford High School Hybrid High

South Medford High School Principal Jonathon Lyons provided an update on the SMHS Hybrid High program. The presentation outlined program components, including credit recovery, original credit, hybrid learning through Engage, and traditional in-person instruction. He also reviewed the program's philosophy and priorities, hybrid scheduling options, staffing, intake and tracking processes, student credit opportunities, key metrics, and overall takeaways.

Board Directors asked questions and shared comments regarding student participation in extracurricular activities, the impact of the program on student attendance, and how hybrid learning prepares students for future online college

coursework and real-world learning environments. Directors also commented on the value of offering alternative pathways for students and inquired about current challenges and ways the Board could provide support.

6.b. Board/District Priority: Foster Inclusive School Communities & MSD Relationships — YouthTruth Report

Director of Community Engagement - Communications & Partnerships Marisa Poling presented insights from the February 2026 YouthTruth survey. The presentation included an overview of key YouthTruth themes aligned to district priorities, survey participation rates, and results from middle school and high school students, as well as family responses. Highlighted strengths included improved perceptions of school safety across all levels, high school college and career readiness reaching a multi-year high, and continued strong family-teacher relationships.

Board Directors asked questions and shared comments regarding community connectedness, next steps for using the survey data to inform planning, and ways the Board can support ongoing improvement efforts.

6.c. Board/District Priority: Financial Stewardship - Update on Fiscal Sustainability Study Group

Assistant Superintendent of Operations Brad Earl presented an overview of the March financial statements and highlighted a proposed budget amendment that will establish the baseline for next year's budgeting process without impacting the ending fund balance.

He also provided an update on the Fiscal Sustainability Study group, noting that the five meetings focused on Oregon school funding, district budgeting processes, and the effects of declining enrollment driven by lower birth rates and shifts in market share. The presentation included a 30-year overview of district enrollment trends, an explanation of district revenue sources, and a review of approximately \$10 million in unfunded special education costs.

Board Directors expressed appreciation for the comprehensive discussions and the willingness to address challenging topics, including potential school closures. Directors also inquired about next steps and ways the Board can support future planning efforts.

7. Recess

The Board took a short recess.

8. Board Action Items

8.a. Budget Amendment #2-2025-26

A motion was made by Caballero and seconded by Johnsen to approve Budget Amendment #2-2025-26 as presented.

**Roll call vote: Caballero: Yea, Johnsen: Yea, Zbikowski: Yea, Ferguson: Yea, LaNier McHenry: Absent, Spicer: Absent, Williams: Absent
Result: Motion passed (Yea: 4, Nay: 0, Absent: 3)**

8.b. K-5 Science Instructional Materials Adoption

A motion was made by Johnsen and seconded by Caballero to approve the adoption of the science instructional materials for grades K-5 as recommended.

Discussion: A Board Director inquired whether the district had received any concerning feedback regarding the proposed instructional materials. Board members also expressed appreciation for the time, dedication, and professionalism demonstrated by teachers in objectively reviewing and selecting the materials.

**Roll call vote: Johnsen: Yea, Caballero: Yea, Zbikowski: Yea, Ferguson: Yea, LaNier McHenry: Absent, Spicer: Absent, Williams: Absent
Result: Motion passed (Yea: 4, Nay: 0, Absent: 3)**

8.c. Social Science Instructional Materials Adoption

A motion was made by Johnsen and seconded by Caballero to approve the adoption of the social science instructional materials for grades K-12 as recommended.

Discussion: Board members referenced citizen comments on the social science instructional materials, noting concerns about bias and appropriateness. They acknowledged teacher expertise, confirmed staff followed policy and state guidelines, and recognized adoption is required for use this fall. Written citizen comments were considered, and the Board affirmed moving forward with the curriculum while remaining open to future dialogue.

**Roll call vote: Zbikowski: Yea, Caballero: Yea, Johnsen: Yea, Ferguson: Yea, LaNier McHenry: Absent, Spicer: Absent, Williams: Absent
Result: Motion passed (Yea: 4, Nay: 0, Absent: 3)**

9. Announcements

Chair Ferguson announced the Budget Committee meeting scheduled for April 30 at Oakdale Middle School.

10. Adjournment

With no further business before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 8:36 PM.