

Malheur Education Service District Region 14
Board Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, October 21st, 2025, at 3:30 PM at Plaza Inn Restaurant, in Ontario, OR

Malheur ESD Board Meeting:

Pursuant to notices sent to newspapers of general circulation, the Board meeting was held on Tuesday, October 21st, 2025, at 3:30 PM at the Plaza Inn Restaurant, Ontario, OR.

Preliminary:

ESD Board Chair Les Linegar called the meeting to order at 3:30 PM. Board members in attendance and comprising a quorum were Vice-Chair Greg Alexander, Newell Cleaver, Topper Schlupe, and Jill Conant. Rebecca Martinez and Amy McGourty were not present. Also in attendance were Superintendent Mark Redmond, Director of Finance Matt Mejia, Director of Technology Randy Seals, Director of Special Education Teresa Jones, Director of Early Learning Marshall Hooker, Early Literacy Specialist Coordinator Jenny Dayton, STEM Director Nickie Shira, Malheur Works Coordinator Brian Bond, and Executive Administrative Assistant Jodi Westerberg.

Matt Mejia answered the budget question he had received:

- a. Chatter Champs is an SLP contracting service for our EI/ECSE SLP.

Consent Agenda:

A MOTION WAS MADE by Greg Alexander to approve Consent Agenda Items A-C.

Topper Schlupe seconded, and the motion carried unanimously with a 5-0 vote.

- A. Approve the Minutes of the September 16th, 2025, board meeting.
- B. Approve budget questions for October 2025
- C. Approve payment of October 2025 bills and monthly financial statements.

Business Items:

- A. Business Report/Audit progress: The Audit is completed. The only thing left to be completed before findings are presented to the Board is the Single Audit and this may be slow due to the Federal Government shutdown. The few first quarter grants that have come in are now being reconciled. In response to Board Member Jill Conant question as to how many grants have been received, Business Manager Matt Mejia stated that about 10% of them have come in.

A MOTION WAS MADE by Jill Conant to approve Business Item B. Newell Cleaver seconded and the motion carried unanimously with a 6-0 vote.

- B. Approve Columbia Bank as Bank of Record (Formerly Umpqua)

- C. State Funding Update - Superintendent Redmond went over a handout with the Board explaining the state's financial situation with regards to education. Overall, the ESD may need to tighten budgets a bit, but overall, he feels confident we are in a good position.
- D. October 28th, 6-8pm, OSBA Board Dinner/Training - All Board Members are encouraged to attend.
- E. ESD Building Update: Outer foundation walls are in and prep work for the slab has begun. They are a little behind but should still finish early. Superintendent Redmond has applied to the Roundhouse Foundation and is working with the Ford Family Foundation on potential funding.
- F. Early Literacy Update - Jenny Dayton: Jenny let the Board know that last year was the first year for her program so a lot of time was spent building relationships. This year the focus is on building data teams. With these in place they can begin to have Intervention meetings and start really addressing where literacy gaps are taking place. Huntington School District had a K-12 data meeting that went very well and helped reinforce how the data would shape what interventions will look like at each level.
- G. STEM Hub Update - Nickie Shira: Nickie reported to the Board that Melody Wilson, Education Technology/STEM Specialist, has been visiting schools this year and teaching students to use vinyl cutters and heat presses. Before she leaves, she makes sure that teachers learn how to use the equipment and models lesson plans for them. Then they are able to check out the equipment for their classes to use on their own. Melody is also on the Oregon Science Teachers Board. She encouraged teachers in the region to nominate teachers that they thought were doing good things for recognition and because of that, four teachers in the region received state awards. Melodie is also teaching students to use computer-aided design (CAD) in coordination with the equipment. Montessa Young, Computer Science & STEM Instructor, is currently teaching classes in Nyssa, Ontario, and Vale, two of which are advanced classes that students can take for dual credit. The STEM Hub is also partnering with CTE on Career Connected Learning opportunities for students in the region.
 - a. Malheur Works - Brian Bond: Brian presented this year's Malheur Works booklet to the Board and described to them how they incorporated Oregon Employability Skills into the curriculum. He also let the Board know that this year he is also team teaching a Mechatronics course at Ontario High School and is getting students ready to test for certifications. He is working with community partners and businesses to help develop the pipeline of these students.

A MOTION WAS MADE by Jill Conant to approve Personnel Items A-D. Greg Alexander seconded the motion carried unanimously with a 5-0 vote.

Personnel Items:

- A. Approve Job Postings
 - a. College and Career Coach
- B. Approve Job Descriptions
 - a. None

- C. Approve Resignations:
 - a. Ashley Hicks - College and Career Coach
- D. Approve Hires:
 - a. None

Other:

- A. October 28th, 6-8 OSBA Dinner: Les, Topper, Jill, Amy and Newell all planning to attend. Topper will bring a guest.
- B. December 3-5th, Colorado Springs (October 17th Early Bird discount): Registration is completed, need to work on flights.
- C. Director of Technology Randy Seals: Tech tickets are slowing down again now. There is talk of student SPED information going straight to ODE through a third-party vendor so waiting for more guidance as to what that will look like. Going into a new E-rate session for the next 5 years. The cabling project is done, and things are in good shape that way so there will be some new projects coming soon.
- D. Director of Special Education Update - Teresa Jones: Teresa feels that ODE SPED is going through the growing pains of new staff and rolling out plans that may not work. She is in a wait and see mode until things are figured out with the third party reporting. Teresa praised Stephanie Navarrete and Sara Byrne. EI/ECSE is short staffed right now, but they have stepped in to help make sure that testing keeps going.
- E. Director of Early Learning Update - Marshall Hooker: Marshall reported that 21 programs in the region are implementing the Pyramid Model and 5 are school districts. One of her new staff members put together a PD Day presentation that was very well received despite it being her first time planning something like this to teach adults instead of children. The DELC is doing a Caring Communities tour, and they will be coming to our region. Early learning will celebrate local providers that are successfully doing Pyramid.
- F. Superintendent Update - Mark Redmond
 - a. Mark wanted to thank his staff for making sure that ALL districts get services and for being directly involved with students as that is not what happens in all ESDs throughout the state.
 - b. Attendance in our region is the best in the state. State visitors have let us know that is the case. Mark will share this data with the County Court as soon as it can be made public.
 - c. There are no schools in Malheur County that are in school improvement next year.
 - d. Accountability is the new buzzword with the state and ODE is caught in the middle. The state is saying that they are engaging us, but they are not. It will feel like a long legislative session in the off season. We just need to remember that we are here for kids and keep doing that through it all.

Adjournment:

A MOTION WAS MADE by Jill Conant to adjourn the meeting. Newell Cleaver seconded and the motion carried unanimously with a 5-0 vote. The meeting was adjourned at 4:41 pm.

BOARD CHAIR

BOARD SECRETARY

DATE APPROVED: _____