

Malheur Education Service District Region 14
Board Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, February 18th, 2025, at 3:30 PM at the 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, February 18th, 2025, at 3:30 PM at the Plaza Inn Restaurant, Ontario, OR.

Preliminary:

Board Vice Chair Les Linegar called the meeting to order at 3:30 PM. Board members in attendance and comprising a quorum were Greg Alexander (arrived after the Consent Agenda vote), Newell Cleaver, Jill Conant, and Rebecca Martinez. Amy McGourty and Don Hodge were not present. Also in attendance were Superintendent Mark Redmond, Business Manager Matt Mejia, Special Education Director Teresa Jones, Assistant Director of Early Learning Rod Belknap, and Executive Administrative Assistant Jodi Westerberg.

Consent Agenda:

A MOTION WAS MADE by Jill Conant to approve Consent Agenda Items A-C.

Newell Cleaver seconded, and the motion carried unanimously with a 4-0 vote.

- A. Approve the minutes of the January 21st, 2025, board meeting.
- B. Approve budget questions for February 2025: questions from Greg Alexander
 - a. Kaseya - Malware/Ransomware program that allows tech team to also remote in to employee computers
 - b. Lawrence Company - unemployment service that handles unemployment for ESD.
 - c. White Hat Matt - company that helps with website management for EI/ECSE and REN.
- C. Approve payment of February 2025 bills and monthly financial statements.

Business Items:

- A. Business Report and Audit Update: Business Manager Matt Mejia let the Board know the legislative session is three weeks in and the big topic right now is federal funding, and what will happen with it. There is not much information on the state budget yet, but the forecast comes out next Tuesday, so by next meeting we should know more. The state school fund will be out by March 1st. He also mentioned 2nd quarter payments were submitted.
- B. Update on Legislation and Funding: Superintendent Redmond discussed some of the key bills that would go before the legislature this session and ways funding could be affected. He will keep the board updated as things progress.

- C. 12 Month Board/Superintendent Monthly Calendar: Superintendent Redmond went over a monthly schedule with the Board that identifies key tasks for the ESD. He will present this annually to the board during the Board Retreat.
- D. Board Elections: Superintendent Redmond discussed with the Board the members that will be up for re-election this spring and when they will need to file if they intend to run again. He shared registration documents with them.
- E. Update on Architecture Plans: Superintendent Redmond let the Board know that a contract has been signed. He will be meeting with the architects and members of staff who will be utilizing the new building to go over preliminary plans.

Personnel Items:

A MOTION WAS MADE by Rebecca Martinez to approve Personnel Item A, SPED stipends and additional stipends to all staff. Greg Alexander seconded and the motion carried unanimously with a 5-0 vote.

- A. Approve staff and SPED Stipends: Superintendent went over the SPED grant with the Board. He does not like the idea of dividing staff members and feels this grant would have the potential to do just that. To avoid this outcome, he proposed to the Board that the ESD would cover the necessary funding to make up the difference required to make sure that all staff would receive the same stipend amount. There are sufficient funds in the budget to do this.

A MOTION WAS MADE by Greg Alexander to approve Personnel Item B. Newell Cleaver seconded and the motion carried unanimously with a 5-0 vote.

- B. Approve Board Resolution for 2025-2026 Employment Contracts
 - a. Licensed Staff (March 15th, 2025 (Deadline)
 - b. Administrative Staff
 - c. Confidential Classified Staff

- C. Approve Job Postings:
 - a. None

- D. Approve Job Descriptions:
 - a. None

- E. Approve Hires:
 - a. None

- F. Approve Resignations:
 - a. None

G. Superintendent Evaluation: Open Executive Session: ORS 192.660 (2) (i) To review and evaluate the employment-related performance of the chief executive officer of any public body, a public officer, employee or staff member.

- H. Close Executive Session 4

A MOTION WAS MADE by Jill Conant to Approve Personnel Item I. Newell Cleaver seconded and the motion carried unanimously with a 5-0 vote.

- I. Accept Superintendent Evaluation: Jill Conant thanked Teresa Jones for all of her help compiling the evaluation form data from the staff.

Other:

- A. OAESD Sun River, May 7-9th: Superintendent Redmond will keep this on the agenda as a reminder and will start determining who would like to attend in the next couple of months.
 - a. SCHED app: Superintendent Redmond let all Board members planning to attend the conference that they would need to download and register using this app.
- B. Director of Curriculum Update: Superintendent Redmond let Board know that Angie is in Juntura helping to conduct interviews. She is continuing to work with Early Literacy. We are hopeful and working with OAESD to receive funding for a regional program.
- C. Director of Special Education Update: Teresa Jones let the Board know EI/ECSE Preschools are doing well. They are doing a new parent involvement model using a video format they can do at home. They are currently serving 133 students w/ more on referral. She is planning to meet with OTs, SLPs, etc. and working on a new referral system that will work better.
- D. Director of Early Learning Update: Rod Belknap let the Board know that 11 of 19 Early Literacy grants went to Malheur County programs and served over 900 kids. CC&R was able to use grant funding to build libraries comprised of 25 books that went to 22 childcare providers. Every school in Malheur County is now doing some sort of Kindergarten transition event. There are also now 10 pyramid model sites in the county.
- E. Superintendent Update:
 - a. Staff Wellness Days: Kristia Simmons set up two staff wellness days on 2/28/25 and 3/7/2025
 - b. CTE Certification Ceremony reminder: This will be at Four Rivers on May 6th.

Adjournment:

A MOTION WAS MADE by Jill Conant to adjourn the meeting. Rebecca Martinez seconded and the motion carried unanimously with a 5-0 vote. The meeting was adjourned at 4:31 pm.

BOARD CHAIR

BOARD SECRETARY

DATE APPROVED: _____