

Malheur Education Service District Region 14
Board Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, April 21st, 2026, 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, April 21st, 2026, 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 Schluppe, Jill Conant, and Rebecca Martinez. Amy McGourty was not able to attend. Also in attendance were Superintendent Mark Redmond, Director of Finance Matt Mejia, Director of Special Education Teresa Jones, Assistant Director of Early Learning Rod Belknap, and Jason Echeverria as a guest.

Matt Mejia answered the budget questions he received:

- a. Matt shared that the only question he had received was regarding BSAT Training.
- b. Jill Conant asked about the SPED grant. Matt said that it had just been received.

Consent Agenda:

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

Greg Alexander seconded, and the motion carried unanimously with a 6-0 vote.

- A. Approve the minutes of March 17th, 2026, board meeting.
- B. Approve budget questions for April 2026
- C. Approve payment of April 2026 bills and monthly financial statements.

Business Items:

- A. Business Report: Matt Mejia shared copies of the audit report with everyone. The audit is completely finished and there were no findings. Matt is working with directors on closing up this year and working on 26-27.
- B. Legislative Update: Superintendent Redmond went over the list of items from the last session that are being talked about. PERS is a very hot topic right now. Poverty weighting across the state needs to be updated. Online schools, SPED weighting and a statewide salary schedule are also getting a lot of discussion.
- C. ESD Building Update/Schedule: Superintendent Redmond updated the Board on where things are with the building. The revolving loan from Vale is in place.

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

- D. Approve 2026-2027 Board Goals- Superintendent Redmond shared a brief history of where the ESD has been and updated on how things are now and why.

Matt Mejia left mtg at 3:51pm.

Personnel Items:

A MOTION WAS MADE by Topper Schlupe to approve Personnel Items A and B. Newell Cleaver seconded and the motion carried unanimously with a 6-0 vote.

- A. Approve 2026-2027 Superintendent's Evaluation Tool- Jill Conant asked about how one of the charts worked and Teresa Jones shared a google doc training with her.
- B. Approve Superintendent's Contract, July 1st, 2026-June30, 2029

A MOTION WAS MADE by Jill Conant to approve Personnel Items C-F. Rebecca Martinez seconded and the motion carried unanimously with a 6-0 vote.

- C. Approve Job Postings:
 - a. Special Education Administrative Assistant
- D. Approve Job Descriptions:
 - a. None
- E. Approve Resignations:
 - a. Debbie Belnap - Special Education Administrative Assistant (effective June 30th, 2026) Retirement 16 years of service.
- F. Approve Hires
 - a. Paul Quinn - Technology Specialist.

Other:

- A. OAESD Sun River, May 13th-15th: Superintendent Redmond went over schedule and room plans for conference.
- B. CTE Certification Ceremony, May 4th FRCC, 6-8pm: Les Linegar and Superintendent Redmond both shared thoughts about this event and its importance. Ken Hart will be the guest speaker. Greg Alexander also wanted to take a moment to praise the PD Day from last month. PE Teachers had shared with him that they were grateful to have a session geared towards them.
- C. Director of Curriculum Update - Angie Arriola: Very busy helping districts with Interim Testing.
- D. Director of Special Education Update - Teresa Jones: Monitoring is done, so now they are clarifying until May 1st. Once those are reviewed by ODE they will have 60 days to make any corrections. ODE may be here in the fall to provide training for SPED.
- E. Assistant Director of Early Learning Update - Rod Belknap: With regards to the Legislative Long Session the DELC is wondering about funding. Over 180 people attended Pyramid Training and feedback was that it was the best run conference in the country. There was great attendance at the PD Day and Rod gave a shout out to the REN for having such diverse PD. Malheur EI/ECSE numbers look great.
- F. Superintendent Update - Mark Redmond:

- a. Washington DC Trip - Thank you Jason, the Facebook page is getting a lot of traction with the article about this trip.
- b. Director of Oregon STEM was here two weeks ago, ODE came for a visit last week, OSBA will be here all day Monday and Superintendent Redmond will be showing them around, Pooja Bhat will be here May 12th and Superintendent Redmond will show her around as well.
- c. Trying to get a date on the calendar for Board Retreat. Looking at second week in July around Wednesday the 8th. Hoping to have it in the new building. Rebecca will not be available that day and Les is not sure if he will be available or not.

Good of the Order:

- A. Les Linegar stated that he needed to make a correction from the last Executive Session. He relinquished the chair to Greg Alexander in order to do so. He had made a motion during the session instead of afterwards and wanted to correct that.

A MOTION WAS MADE by Les Linegar to name the new building the Mark Redmond STEM an Innovation Center. The motion was seconded by Newell Cleaver and carried unanimously with a 6-0 vote.

At 4:32pm Greg Alexander relinquished the chair to Les once again and the regular meeting resumed.

- B. Les Linegar and Greg Alexander are both receiving awards from the Ontario School District this year.
- C. Jill Conant brought up a concern about traffic safety and children crossing the street. She wondered if there were any ideas on some way to do safety lessons to help get kids trained to look.

Adjournment:

A MOTION WAS MADE by Jill Conant to adjourn the meeting. Greg Alexander seconded and the motion carried unanimously with a 6-0 vote. Les Linegar declared the meeting adjourned at 4:39pm.

BOARD CHAIR

BOARD SECRETARY

DATE APPROVED: _____