

Coquille School District #8

Monday, June 16, 2025
Special Board Meeting Minutes
970 N. Central Blvd.
Coquille, OR 97423

Order

Melinda Millet called the meeting to order at 6:04 PM. Board Members present were Steve Britton, Melinda Millet, Marsha Frost, and Cliff Wheeler. Luke Taylor arrived at 6:06 pm. Absent was Board Member Heather Echavarria. Others present were Superintendent Wayne Gallagher, Assistant Business Director Denese Hale, and Board Secretary Julie Simpson.

1.0 Meeting Business

Motion made by Steve Britton to approve the Meeting Minutes for April 9, 2025, & May 21, 2025, and Marsha Frost seconded the motion; it passed unanimously with the following votes:

- Melinda Millet – Yes
- Marsha Frost – Yes
- Cliff Wheeler – Yes
- Steve Britton – Yes

Opened the meeting for Public Comment regarding the Budget at 6:10 PM.

Cliff Wheeler was presented with a plaque for his 18 years of service as a Board Member for the Coquille School District.

2.0 Presentation

School Schedule Survey Presented by Superintendent Gallagher.

3.0 Fiscal Report

Assistant Business Manager Denese Hale provided an end-of-year financial update, noting that the financials presented reflect the District's position as of the end of April. She stated that the District is currently projecting an ending fund balance of just under \$900,000 for the fiscal year. Denese expressed confidence in this projection and noted that final adjustments may occur during the audit process. She also acknowledged receipt of a letter from Business Manager Rachel Amos, which offered guidance and support during the budget process. Also shared her gratitude and pleasure for partnering with the District the last two years.

4.0 Superintendent's Report

Superintendent Wayne Gallagher reported that the District ended the year with **1,226 students**, which is **six students above** the adjusted budget projection of 1,220. He noted this as a positive indicator and reminded the Board that the projected enrollment for the 2025–26 budget is set at 1,200 students.

He then addressed recent communications with the public that resulted in the circulation of a school calendar survey, emphasizing the importance of community input.

Mr. Gallagher provided an overview of **Senate Bill 141**, a new accountability law passed during the recent Oregon legislative session. This legislation introduces six state-monitored performance metrics:

1. **K–2 Attendance** – Coquille’s kindergarten attendance is currently at 75%, exceeding the state average.
2. **3rd Grade English Language Arts (ELA)** – Coquille is at 40%, meeting the state average.
3. **8th Grade Math** – Coquille is at 13%, below the state average of 27%.
4. **9th Grade On-Track to Graduate** – Coquille is at 63%, compared to the state average of 85%.
5. **On-Time Graduation Rate** – District-wide, Coquille is at 37%; the state average is 81%.
6. **5-Year Completer Rate** – Coquille is at 58%, while the state average is 87%.

The legislation includes a four-year accountability framework:

- **Years 1–2:** Local districts are expected to improve independently.
- **Year 3:** ODE assigns a coach to support and advise on improvements.
- **Year 4:** If improvements are not made, ODE can assume control of **25% of the district’s discretionary budget**, which includes critical areas such as curriculum, athletics, and extracurricular programs.

Superintendent Gallagher emphasized that **75% of the District’s budget is already committed through contracts** for certified, classified, administrative, and confidential staff. The remaining 25% covers all flexible and programmatic spending. If ODE were to assume control of that portion, it could have a serious impact on the District’s ability to maintain local priorities and offerings.

He acknowledged that the District cannot continue with the status quo and expect improved outcomes. Changes will be necessary. Some positive shifts are already underway:

- **Coquille Valley Elementary** implemented a new **attendance initiative**, led by Amando and Angela, resulting in significant gains.
- **Lincoln School of Early Learning** is planning similar initiatives and parent outreach to reinforce the importance of regular attendance in kindergarten, now an academic-grade level.
- **Departmentalized math instruction** for grades 5 through 8 is expected to improve 8th-grade math outcomes over time.
- **Coquille Jr/Sr High School** has made scheduling changes to better support 9th grade students, including new elective offerings to help keep students on track to graduate.
- In response to low graduation rates, the District is considering changes to its **inter-district transfer (IDT) policy**, potentially including a student/parent interview prior to accepting a transfer. The goal is to ensure that incoming students and families are aligned with the District’s academic expectations and values.

Mr. Gallagher clarified that while the District's overall graduation rate is low, **Coquille Jr/Sr High School's 2024–25 on-time graduation rate was 98%**, reflecting strong work by staff in supporting students toward completion. He praised the school's efforts, particularly in re-engaging students who had previously fallen off track.

In closing, Superintendent Gallagher acknowledged the delicate balance between maintaining enrollment and enforcing higher academic standards, noting that limiting IDTs could reduce funding but may also help improve outcomes. These are ongoing conversations the District will continue to evaluate and report on regularly.

5.0 Discussion/Action

Board Chair opened the floor for public comment on the 2025–2026 Budget. After allowing time for public input and seeing no further comments, the public comment period was closed.

There were no additional questions from the Board regarding the discussion/action items presented.

Motion made by Steve Britton to approve Discussion/Action Items:

- 5.1 Approval of MOU – CEA - CVE Schedule
- 5.2 Resolution No. 25-6 Appropriation – Intrafund Transfer
- 5.3 Resolution No. 25-7 Adoption of Budget

Marsha Frost seconded the motion; it passed unanimously with the following votes:

- Melinda Millet – Yes
- Marsha Frost – Yes
- Cliff Wheeler – Yes
- Steve Britton – Yes
- Luke Taylor - Yes

6.0 Consent Agenda

Motion made by Steve Britton to approve Consent Agenda items:

- 6.1 Hired – Peyton Rodriguez - LSEL, 1st Grade Teacher
- 6.2 Hired – Cody Miller – CVE, 5th Grade Math Teacher
- 6.3 Hired – Michele Crook – LSEL, Kindergarten Teacher
- 6.4 Resignation – Cindy Highly - LSEL
- 6.5 Resignation – Sarah Moss – LSEL
- 6.6 Resignation – Jennifer Raimondo - CVE
- 6.7 Resignation -Mista Johnson – Daycare
- 6.8 Resignation – Jennifer Boettcher – LSEL
- 6.9 Resignation – Elissa Coonce – LSEL
- 6.10 Resignation – Nate Leslie - WLE
- 6.11 Retiring – Lisa Palmer
- 6.12 Policy First Reading
 - GCBDF/GDBDF -AR - Paid Medical Leave Insurance
 - JECBB-AR – District-Wide Transfer Policy
 - JG – Student Discipline

Marsha Frost seconded the motion; it passed unanimously with the following votes:

- Melinda Millet – Yes
- Marsha Frost – Yes
- Cliff Wheeler – Yes
- Steve Britton – Yes
- Luke Taylor – Yes

7.0 Public Comment

None

8.0 Executive Session

Board Chair convened an Executive Session at 6:36 PM under ORS 192.660(2)(d), and ORS 192.660(2)(f).

Return from Executive Session Time: 6:51 PM

Adjournment

Melinda Millet adjourned the meeting at 6:51 PM


Approved