



Board Meeting Minutes

May 8, 2025, 6PM
750 S 3rd St, Lebanon, OR 97355

Present:

Tom Oliver, Chair

Nichole Piland, Vice Chair

Melissa Baurer, Board Member

Clyde Rood, Board Member

Jennifer Meckley, Superintendent

William Lewis, Chief Operations Officer

Steven Proşoski, Finance Director

Kim Grousbeck, HR Director

1. WELCOME

1.1. The meeting was called to order at 5:01 PM by Board Chair, Tom Oliver.

2. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Staff Sergeant Davis Jollimore, Recruiting and Retention Coordinator with the Oregon Army National Guard, speaks to the Board sharing information about the Oregon Plan. A credit recovery program between the Oregon National Guard and the Oregon Department of Education, which uses military service for high school credits, for those that may need additional credits to graduate. He shares that students may participate in basic training during their junior and senior year to gain up to 8 elective credits, with a few different pathways. Sergeant Jollimore shares that he has information with him today if anyone is interested.

Community Member, Rose Kaler, speaks to the Board regarding her concerns with the proposed extension of the Superintendent's contract. She shares her perspective of challenges and proposed changes that the district could make to overall operations.

Community Member, Denese Oster Hames, speaks to the Board regarding her concerns with the proposed extension of the Superintendent's contract. She shares her concerns regarding the timing in relation to elections. She asks that the Board table this item until the newly elected Board is seated, and asks that the Superintendent withdraw her request for a contract extension.

Parent, Community Member, LEA Union President, and 20-year LHS Teacher Bonita Randklev, speaks to the Board sharing her experience with the growth that the students in the Lebanon School District has experienced in the last few years especially. She speaks upon the dedication of the School Board, district leadership, and her colleagues, which she shares has been inspiring. She also shares that Superintendent Meckley plays a large role in the dedication to student learning and on behalf of herself and the educators in the Lebanon Community School District, they give Superintendent Meckley their full support.

3. OREGON BATTLE OF THE BOOKS RECOGNITION

Deanna Chambers Varner, LHS Oregon Battle of the Books Coach and 30-year LCSD teacher, recognizes the students who participated in and ultimately won the title of State Champions at the Oregon Battle of the Books competition. She acknowledges the students for their hard work, dedication, and passion for learning.

LHS students Lillian Henderson, Kaz Dunn, and Vixen Veilbig also share their positive experiences with the team and what they learned and gained from the experience. They also share LHS student Gabriel Mann's experience in his absence.

Superintendent Meckley acknowledges Deanna's passion and time commitment to the program, and the students for their impressive work.

The State Champion trophy is presented, as well as a plaque and certificates for the team.

Board Chair, Tom Oliver, recognizes the team and thanks Deanna for her work.

4. POSTPONEMENT OF HEALTH CURRICULUM ADOPTION

After providing some background to the district's adoption schedule procedures, Superintendent Meckley shares that the district will be requesting a postponement of the health curriculum adoption from the State, in order to have ample time to go through the proper process.

She shares that stakeholders-- teachers, parents, and community members will be involved in the adoption process to provide input, and final approval will come before the Board in the spring of the 2025-26 school year.

Discussion takes place regarding the process for stakeholder involvement, and how the director will facilitate that.

Discussion also takes place regarding State approvals, where it is clarified that official State approval is not required, so long as the district goes through a School Board approval process.

There are no further questions or discussions presented.

5. SUPERINTENDENT CONTRACT

Superintendent Meckley shares that there is full transparency with her contract as presented. She explains that the three-year contract for Superintendents is common practice, and the

Board has performed their annual evaluations where the results were favorable. She shares how she appreciates the feedback from the Board and LCSD staff. Jennifer presents the contract as a benefit to the district, and the importance of longevity. She also refers to the academic data improvements and efforts. She shares that she would appreciate the opportunity to continue working in this role, supporting the Lebanon students and community.

Tom Oliver shares the importance of longevity in the Superintendent role, and agrees that it is a benefit to the district. He acknowledges that the contract renewal process is a routine process that the Board has consistently gone through in the past with other Superintendents, and that this process is not related to elections, but a duty of the Board to fulfill.

Discussion takes place regarding the process of how the contract is negotiated between the Superintendent and Board Chair, and that it is ultimately the Board's decision to approve it or not.

Board Member, Melissa Baurer shares that when she was elected on the Board, she ran on committing to transparency and listening to the community, parents, and teachers. She speaks about the positive reinforcement received by the district's staff and leadership regarding Superintendent Meckley's performance, during her evaluation. She shares that parents and students have expressed their appreciation for increased communications. She acknowledges Jennifer's involvement in the schools with her and her leadership team's visibility, the improvement to more effective facilities, forward movement on school safety, a 12.1% graduation rate increase, and a 4% increase to third grade literacy. She shares the obligation and duty of the Board to complete an annual evaluation, which was completed with a favorable performance evaluation for Superintendent Meckley. She adds that a three-year contract is typical and provides stability for the district, which she also confirmed with other districts and the OSBA. Melissa thanks the community for the emails that were received, mostly in favor of Superintendent Meckley's contract.

Board Member, Clyde Rood, acknowledges that the contract that was presented is missing the language regarding vacation days, which he noted was missing previously as well. He also notes the language that was added to section eight, and suggests that the Board table the contract approval until further review.

Some discussion takes place regarding the added language in section eight. It is noted that the new language is aligned with Senate Bill 1521.

Nichole motions to approve the contract as presented with the addition of the vacation day language from section three, which was added when the contract was previously approved, and Melissa seconds the motion. Three Board Members are in favor, and one is opposed. This motion passes, approving Jennifer's contract with the added vacation language.

It is noted that the vacation language will be added to the contract and the contract will be included in the next Board packet as informational, for review of the added language.

6. CONSENT AGENDA

Melissa motions to approve the consent agenda as presented, and Nichole seconds the motion. All in favor with a unanimous vote, the consent agenda made up of April 10, 2025 Board Meeting Minutes, and new hires Tonya Cairo and Rachel Hampton is approved in its entirety.

7. DEPARTMENT REPORTS

7.1. Operations

William Lewis shares that Seven Oak has received a \$2,493,400 seismic rehabilitation grant to retrofit the old gym, which includes removing the roof membrane. Discussion takes place regarding the excitement behind this.

7.2. Human Resources

Kim Grousbeck shares that the district has a tentative contract agreement with LESPA, the classified union, and the district is currently working with LEA, the certified union. She believes it is also going in the right direction.

7.3. Finance

Steven Prososki shares that the finance department is working heavily with the budget for next year, and that everything is in line with appropriations for the 2024-25 budget.

8. COMMUNICATION

8.1. Board

The Board gives a shoutout to Bryan Eilers, Facilities Director, who is acknowledged for his work on many of the recent school facility projects, the teachers for their amazing work in light of teacher appreciation week, and the Land Lab for providing the Board an opportunity to shop the plant sale, showcasing such a great job by the students.

8.2. Student Board

The student members share that the high school recently hosted their life skills prom, end of year testing is wrapping up the year, and prom is upcoming at a new venue in Albany. They also share that they are wrapping up their Community 101 Grant which allows students to donate grant funds to local organizations focused on youth, homelessness, or supporting people in rebuilding their lives.

An update to the buddy system program is also shared, noting that over the last 10 weeks 10 high school students were paired with 10 elementary students which has proved to be an incredible experience, with a noticeable increase in student attendance since starting the program. It is noted that the incoming ASB President, Cade Weber, will be meeting with Eric to develop a plan for this program next school year.

The student members also share that spring sports are coming to an end, and fundraising is taking place for the senior all night party.

8.3. Superintendent

Superintendent Meckley thanks the Board for their thoughtful comments, and for extending her contract, as well as the thoroughness in reviewing the contract.

Jennifer provides Jen's Zens, starting with a highlight for the great work going on at the Land Lab. She shares that on April 22nd, the FFA District Field Day was held at the Land Lab, which brings together students from across the FFA districts to compete in various career development events.

Jennifer also shares that the elementary schools hosted their incoming kindergarteners during what it is called "kindergarten kickoff". A special day where incoming kinder families have the opportunity to complete registration and explore classroom spaces.

An update on the construction program is provided, sharing that the recent home is listed, and the siding is being completed at this time. The next home project is expected to begin in the fall.

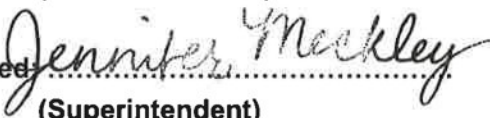
9. PUBLIC COMMENTS

No public comments were made.

10. ADJOURNMENT at 7:05 PM.

Signed: 
(Board Chairman)

Date: 6-12-25

Signed: 
(Superintendent)

Date: 6-12-25

May 8, 2025

(This sheet will become part of public record)

[illegible]

[illegible]



Oregon Plan: High School Credit Recovery through National Guard Service

Executive Summary

The Oregon Plan, authorized by the Adjutant General of the Oregon National Guard and supported by Dr. Charlene Williams, Director of the Oregon Department of Education, is a unique program that allows qualifying high school students to recover academic credits through completion of military basic training. The goal is to keep students on track to graduation and reduce dropout rates by providing an alternative pathway to success.

Key Facts

- Students must be at least 17 years old and eligible to enlist in the National Guard.
- Primarily for juniors and seniors who are behind on credits or at risk of dropping out.
- Students can earn up to 8 elective credits through successful completion of Basic Training.
- Credit award is determined by the school district, guided by the Oregon Plan's credit breakdown.
- Basic Training is typically completed during the summer to avoid interrupting the academic year.
- The program helps schools retain ADM funding and boosts graduation rates.
- Participation requires eligibility for enlistment in the Oregon Army National Guard.

Appendix: Recommended Credit Breakdown

Course Title	Possible Credits
Physical Education	2
Citizenship	1
Personal Finance	1
Career English	1
Career Math	1
Vocational Skill	1.5
Career Education	1
Cooperative Work	2
Health Education	1

Enlistment Prerequisites

Minimum age: 17
 No current medications
 No felonies
 Pass aptitude test (ASVAB)



Oregon

Tina Kotek, Governor



OREGON
DEPARTMENT OF
EDUCATION

Oregon achieves . . . together!

Dr. Charlene Williams

Director of the Department of Education

April 29, 2024

Brigadier General Alan R. Gronewold
The Adjutant General for Oregon
Oregon Military Department
230 Geer Drive NE
P.O. Box 14350
Salem, OR 97309-5047

Dear General Gronewold,

I am pleased to endorse the most recent version of the Oregon National Guard's c-credit recovery program (more commonly known as "The Oregon Plan") for use in Oregon's high schools.

For close to 30 years, the Oregon Plan has provided high school juniors and seniors with an opportunity for professional technical training while receiving high school credits. Not only can today's young Oregonians earn a part-time income for their service, but they can also train in specific career skills while continuing to work towards earning their high school diploma.

The students who take advantage of this program will benefit from the life skills and leadership training they will receive in the Oregon National Guard. In return, Oregon will benefit from a stronger, better educated National Guard and the contributions of its well-trained citizen-Soldiers and Airmen.

The Oregon National Guard's stewardship of this program, for almost three decades, is both appreciated and commendable.

I encourage and direct all school districts to grant credit under this program. The Oregon Plan offers educators another resource, another tool in the toolbox, in our continuing efforts to help all young Oregonians meet graduation requirements and set them on successful paths for the rest of their lives.

Sincerely,

Dr. Charlene Williams

Director, Oregon Department of Education

CF: The Oregon Plan