



**Jefferson County Education Service District  
BOARD MEETING AGENDA**

**Wednesday, May 6, 2026**

Immediately following the JCESD 1<sup>st</sup> Budget Committee Meeting

**Hybrid: In-person and Electronic Meeting via Zoom**

**IN-PERSON LOCATION:**

Jefferson County School District 509J (Board Conference Room)  
445 SE Buff Street, Madras, OR 97741

**[ACCESS ZOOM MEETING HERE](#)**

Phone: 253 215 8782 US (Tacoma)

Meeting ID: 865 9255 5651 Passcode: 786134



**2025/2026 Board Members:** Chair Heidi Casper, Vice Chair Sean Gallagher, Barbara Ibrahim, Maurice Langsev, Dani Cowdrey, Joan Starkel, Cody Roberts, and Board Advisor Paul May

## **REGULAR SESSION MEETING MINUTES**

**BOARD OF DIRECTORS ATTENDANCE:** Chair Heidi Casper, Vice Chair Sean Gallagher, Barbara (Barb) Ibrahim, Maurice Langsev, Dani Cowdrey, Joan Starkel, Cody Roberts (online) and Board Advisor Paul May (online)

**ABSENT:**

**1. WELCOME - REGULAR SESSION / PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE /BOARD MEMBER ROLL CALL**

Board Chair Heidi Casper called the regular session meeting to order at 6:38pm followed by the Pledge of Allegiance. . Quorum was established . Board Secretary noted board member attendance for the record.

**2. AGENDA ADOPTION**

Dani Cowdrey made a motion to adopt the agenda as presented, motion was seconded by Barbara Ibrahim. A vote was taken and passed unanimously – **APPROVED 7/0.**

<b>Board Member:</b>	Heidi Casper	Sean Gallagher	Maurice Langsev	Cody Roberts	Barbara Ibrahim	Dani Cowdrey	Joan Starkel
<b>Vote:</b>	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y

**3. COMMUNICATION / PRESENTATIONS / REPORTS / DISCUSSION**

**3.1. Certified Appreciation Week (May 4-8, 2026) Proclamation**

Superintendent Shay Mikalson expressed appreciation for licensed staff, including teachers, school psychologists, speech-language pathologists, and support professionals, and noted ongoing efforts to recognize all staff across the ESD.

Chair Heidi Casper directed board members to page 4 of the board packet, and read the proclamation for Certified Appreciation Week 2026.

### **3.2. Steve Rankin Mini-Grant Program Update/Next Steps & Presentations**

Chair Heidi Casper announced that there are two online presentations from recipients of last year's Steve Rankin mini-grant program.

Superintendent Shay Mikalson reminded board members that the current year's Steve Rankin award application deadline is this Friday. Superintendent Shay Mikalson introduced the two online presentations for the Steve Rankin mini-grant program.

#### **3.2.1. Kassie DeMarsh, Black Butte School K-1**

Kassie DeMarsh presented on use of Steve Rankin Mini-Grant funds in a K–1 mixed-age classroom focusing on fine motor skills and social-emotional learning through art-based instruction.

Key highlights of Kassie's presentation:

- Daily SEL and fine motor skill development through hands-on activities (weaving, painting, sewing, chalk work).
- Improved handwriting, pencil grip, and problem-solving skills.
- Integration of math patterns and collaborative learning.
- Students developed independence, creativity, and confidence.
- Notable progress in students' fine motor and language development, including English language learners.
- Use of materials such as beeswax modeling to strengthen hand muscles and coordination.

Kassie expressed gratitude for the grant's impact on student engagement and access to enrichment materials.

Superintendent Shay Mikalson and JCESD Board members thanked Kassie for her work and contributions to student learning.

#### **3.2.2. Carmen Lawson, Madras Elementary, Grade 3**

Chair Heidi Casper introduced the presentation from Carmen Lawson of Madras Elementary. Carmen provided a video file to be shared as her presentation.

Carmen Lawson's presentation was on use of the grant funds to purchase LEGO engineering kits for a third-grade classroom.

Key highlights of Carmen's presentation:

- Expansion of LEGO kits to support full-class participation (six kits total).
- Development of engineering design skills including problem-solving, prototyping, and evaluation.
- Structured "STEAM time" held weekly.
- Improved student collaboration, communication, and engagement.
- Classroom organization supports student independence and responsibility.
- Students demonstrate high engagement and enjoyment in engineering challenges.

Carmen Lawson concluded her video presentation with appreciation for continued support. and indicated future grant proposals may shift focus beyond LEGO materials.

Superintendent Shay Mikalson and JCESD Board members expressed appreciation for the program and classroom impact.

### 3.3. Board / Superintendent Goals Update / Next Steps

Superintendent Shay Mikalson reminded board members, in June they will review the Steve Rankin applications and also as an annual process he brings them the Board/Superintendent goals. He directed board members to page 10 of the board packet and shared a quick update reminding them that the bench marks slightly adjust each year.

#### **Goal 1: Student Success**

- Transition to district survey-based feedback for evaluating services (speech-language, school psychology, technology)
- Use of Student Success Act grant reporting from component districts to measure progress

#### **Goal 2: Staff Support and Retention**

- Continued use of Gallup Q12 employee engagement survey (fourth year)
- Reporting of staff retention and years of service data (format under development)
- Acknowledgement of staff departures due to personal/family reasons
- Continued emphasis on recruitment challenges in specialized roles

#### **Goal 3: Responsiveness and Innovation**

- Maintaining strong financial reinvestment in districts (~90% of resources returned)
- Continued compliance with general fund reserve benchmarks (minimum 15%)
- Participation in statewide committees to represent ESD and district interests

A brief board discussion included clarification of ESD structure across Oregon and service coverage across multiple counties

### 3.4. Teacher of the Year Update

Superintendent Shay Mikalson reported that no nominations were received for the Regional Teacher of the Year program this year, despite outreach efforts.

The Board noted this is unusual and reflective of current challenges in the education profession.

### 3.5 Proposed 2026-2027 JCESD Board Calendar – Potential Action Item

Superintendent Shay Mikalson directed board members to page 11 of the board packet and explained the proposed 2026-2027 board meeting calendar, it had no significant changes.

These are the key notes for the board to consider as this is an action item later in the meeting:

- July meeting to remain scheduled and primarily conducted via Zoom due to short agenda.
- August meeting omitted for summer break.
- Standard monthly schedule maintained throughout year.

## 4. HEARING OF CITIZENS, DELEGATIONS AND STAFF MEMBERS:

**(Option 1) (Board Chair will offer opportunity during meeting)** The Board of Directors reserves this time for citizens to speak to the Board; because time is limited, as a standard practice, and courtesy to others and to maintain our meeting schedule, guests will be allotted three minutes (or less if needed, based board chair prerogative) to speak. If you have a group attending regarding the same topic, you will need to appoint one speaker.

- **Remote access attendees:** Please raise your hand and enter your name in the chat to be called on by the board chair.
- **In-Person attendance:** Sign-in on the sign-in sheet at the room entrance and wait to be called on by the board chair.

**(Option 2) Written Comment:** The JCESD Board may accept public comment in writing prior to the meeting. If you are a member of the community and wish to provide a public comment they will be taken in written format ONLY. Written comments must be received by 1:00pm [the date of the board meeting] and may be read during the public comment section of the virtual meeting. Thank you for your understanding and cooperation.

There were no comments presented in person or online.

**5. ACTION ITEMS**

**5.1 CONSENT AGENDA**

- 5.1.1 Approval of **March 4, 2026** Meeting Minutes *[no meeting in April]*
- 5.1.2 Personnel (if any)
- 5.1.3 Accounts Payable Vouchers
- 5.1.4 Financials

JCESD Superintendent and Board discussion took place to acknowledge the staff resignations and appreciation for their service, noting that departures were due to personal and family reasons rather than workplace dissatisfaction. Recruitment efforts for specialized staff positions were also mentioned.

Joan Starkel made a motion to approve the consent agenda as presented, the motion was seconded by Sean Gallagher. A vote was taken and the motion was passed unanimously – **APPROVED 7/0.**

<b>Board Member:</b>	Heidi Casper	Sean Gallagher	Maurice Langsev	Cody Roberts	Barbara Ibrahim	Dani Cowdrey	Joan Starkel
<b>Vote:</b>	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y

**5.2 Proposed 2026-2027 JCESD Board Calendar Approval**

Cody Roberts made a motion to approved the proposed 2026-2027 JCESD Board Calendar as presented; motion was seconded by Barbara Ibrahim. A vote was take and approved unanimously – **APPROVED 7/0.**

<b>Board Member:</b>	Heidi Casper	Sean Gallagher	Maurice Langsev	Cody Roberts	Barbara Ibrahim	Dani Cowdrey	Joan Starkel
<b>Vote:</b>	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y

**6. BOARD HIGHLIGHTS**

- Barb Ibrahim informed the board that she will not be present for next month’s meeting.

**7. REMINDERS:**

It was noted that there is not a need for the 2<sup>nd</sup> Budget Committee meeting on May 13, 2026 as the budget committee approved the budget this evening; there will be a public hearing for the budget on June 3, 2026 as noted in the reminders.

- ~~2<sup>nd</sup> JCESD Budget Committee Meeting – **May 13, 2026** ONLY IF NEEDED~~
- ~~JCESD Regular Session Board Meeting – **May 13, 2026** ACTION ITEMS ONLY – IF NEEDED~~
- OAESD Spring Conference 2026, Sunriver Resort – **May 14 – 15, 2026** *[Registration is Closed]*
- Scheduled JCESD Public Hearing for 2026-2027 Budget – **Wednesday, June 3, 2026**
- JCESD Regular Session Board Meeting – **June 3, 2026** [final meeting for FY 2025-2026]

- OSBA Summer School 2026 – **Friday, July 10, 2026** in Redmond *[Please let Tessa know for registration]*

**8. REGULAR SESSION MEETING CLOSURE/ADJOURNED**

With no further business and without objection the JCESD Board Chair Heidi Casper adjourned the regular session at 7:14PM.

**Draft to Board for approval at next meeting,  
Wednesday, June 3, 2026**

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Tessa Bailey, Executive Assistant

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JCESD Board Chair Heidi Casper

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JCESD Superintendent Shay Mikalson

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Date

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Date