

BANDON SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 54
Regular Meeting of Board of Directors
April 13, 2026
MINUTES

The Board of Directors of Bandon School District No. 54, Coos County, Oregon, met in regular session on Monday, April 13, 2026 in the Ocean Crest Gym at 5:30 p.m. Due notice was published and a quorum was present.

PRESENT: Board members present were AJ Kimball, Martha Lane, Corrie Gant, Troy Russell and Brian Cassoday.

ALSO PRESENT: Shauna Schmerer, Superintendent; Courtney Wehner, OC Principal; Sam Dockery, BHS Principal; Amanda Steimonts, Business Manager; Brent Robertson, Executive Director of Operations; Lindi Robertson, Student Representative; and Connie Roberts, Board Secretary.

ABSENT: Angela Cardas, Board Chair; Briana Hutchens, Board Member; Becky Armistead, HLMS Principal; Jim Wright, Asst. Principal/Athletic Director;

The meeting was called to order by Vice Chair A.J. Kimball at 5:31 pm.

ADDITIONS/DELETIONS:

Martha Lane made a motion to approve the agenda as presented; Troy Russell seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

PUBLIC INPUT FOR ITEMS ON THE AGENDA:

Jessica Markham Brink referenced a recent survey conducted by BSDbetter.org and how many participants indicated that they were considering not enrolling their students in the district. Her own student is considering leaving the district.

APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA:

2.01 Approve Regular Board Meeting Minutes of March 9, 2026

Corrie Gant noted that her name was misspelled at the end of the board minutes. Troy Russell made a motion to approve the Regular Board Meeting Minutes of March 9, 2026 as amended; Brian Cassoday seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

INFORMATION

- 3.01 Hired: Jen Ells – Interim Head MS Track Coach**
- 3.02 Hired: Ashley Hutton – Interim MS Asst. Track Coach**
- 3.03 Resigned: Jessalyn Hall – HLMS Math Teacher**
- 3.04 Resigned: Jeff Caron – HLMS ELA Teacher**
- 3.05 BHS Speech and Debate Team**

Tyler Eickhoff, Co-Captain of Speech and Debate, shared how joining Speech and Debate was one of the best decisions he's made and that the team has become like family to him. He's met some of his closest friends and learned how to public speak. The team has been thriving this year and highlighted the National Qualifying tournament in March in which 3 team members earned the right to compete at the National Tournament this summer.

Jessica Burg, Tournament Lead, has been on the team since her freshman year. She's learned a lot of valuable skills including writing, researching and organizing ideas, and communication skills. She's had the opportunity to meet students from all over the state, and all over the country at the National Tournament. She explained how there is a lot of variety in the types of events that students can participate in. Looking to build and diversify the program.

Brennan McFall, Co-Captain of Speech and Debate, has been a member since freshman year. Being a member of the team, he has learned how to express himself. He spoke about the district qualifying tournament in which 4 team members qualified to compete at the state tournament, at which the team has had a history of success.

REPORTS /DISCUSSIONS:

4.01 Superintendent Shauna Schmerer addressed enrollment, which is currently at 595. Numbers for homeschooolers have stayed the same, transfers in have reduced from 61 to 58, and transfers out has reduced from 50 to 44.

4.02 Superintendent Shauna Schmerer addressed the recent level of staff absences and the shortage of substitutes. The staff absences are attributed several factors, including the most staff the district have ever had on paid medical leave, as well as staff on professional and athletic leave, and an increase the use of sick leave. She pointed out that the district did not experience a loss of substitutes in moving away from SCESD. The district has actually increased its pool of licensed substitutes this year and has saved money by not using the ESD. She noted that the only service that ESD provided for substitutes was to onboard them. Substitutes for the area are also utilized by neighboring districts. She shared some recent absence levels for certified staff: April 3rd had 14 certified staff out, April 6th had 13 certified staff absent. The district is averaging 10 licensed staff out per day, which is a significant increase over previous months and years. Administrators have been filling in when there are no substitutes available to fill absences. She also addressed rumors about staff changes and clarified the only known changes are that Mrs. Weston will be moving to the HLMS Math position, Mrs. Hambly is moving to Kindergarten, Ms. Houck is moving to 4th grade, and Mrs. Wehner will be taking a 5th grade teaching position. There are no other known changes currently. She announced that there will be another Listening Session on May 26th at the Bandon Fisheries Warehouse from 12-2 pm. She also addressed the Freedom to Read Act in which school districts will need to adopt a formal procedure the reconsideration of library materials. The school board must establish a clear, transparent process that allows parents/guardians, staff, or community members to request a review of specific materials. The science curriculum adoption that is an action item on the agenda was submitted by the science materials adoption committee that chose it. The district has applied for the 2026-28 Summer Learning Grant that allocates approximately \$35 million statewide to address academic needs. Priority points are assigned to districts that apply in a scoring system to ensure that the districts with the most need are prioritized before full application reviews are conducted. Determining factors in this scoring system are student demographics, students not ELA proficient, and students experiencing poverty. Bandon School District received a priority score of 26 of 50 points, 79 other districts received higher scores. Decisions on funding should be known on or after April 20th.

Business Manager Amanda Steimonts reported that the district has collected a little over \$134,000 in CET revenue. The funds are being prioritized for safety related capital expenditures. The district participated in an ODE Facilities Assessment pilot program that helped develop a prioritized list of projects for improvement, which is available on the website. She addressed the budget for the 2026-27 school year, which is being developed with a projected enrollment of 600 students. To balance the budget the district will have to look at reducing the contingency fund, which will be addressed at the first Budget Committee Meeting on May 13th. Furlough days could be a possibility towards the end of the 2026-27 school year. She was pleased with the response to the budget survey and more of that information will also be presented at the Budget Committee Meeting on May 13th.

Board Member Martha Lane asked for clarification on sick pay and its accumulation being a factor in the issue with certified staff absences. Superintendent Shauna Schmerer said that the district has never had so many staff on paid medical leave and a lot of certified are also coaching spring sports.

Board Member Brian Cassoday asked Dr. Dockery about Goal #1 on the District at a Glance and if there was any numerical data that showed the effectiveness of the actions being taken compared to previous school years. Dr. Dockery that the data is aggregated from the beginning and middle of the school year, looking for trends or patterns to help direct instructional decisions.

Vice Chair A.J. Kimball asked OC Principal Courtney Wehner about the recent Health Fair. She said all praise goes to the district nurses Liz Deters and Lena Hawthorne for organizing the event. It's gotten bigger and better since Liz Deters has taken it over.

Student Representative Lindi Robertson reported on recent happenings at BHS. Students volunteered at the previously mentioned Health Fair. She shared that 4 students had qualified for state in Speech and Debate, and 3 qualified for Nationals. There was a recent field trip to see Beetlejuice at the Hult Center in Eugene. Leadership visited nine sites for Community 101 recipients. Choir just competed at districts to qualify for state, band will be doing the same this week.

The Oregon Fiddlers recently came and performed for students. NHS did a quilting project with Dawna Jackson to make blankets for Pacific View. The Jazz Band attended and performed at the recent Clambake Festival.

ACTION ITEMS

5.01 Bills in the amount of \$152,863.65

Martha Lane made a motion to pay bills in the amount of \$152,863.65; Corrie Gant seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.

5.02 Approve Science Curriculum

Corrie Gant made motion to approve the Science Curriculum; Martha Lane seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

5.03 Approve Resolution #2025-03 – Surplus Equipment John Deere Tractor

Corrie Gant made a motion to approve Resolution #2025-03 – Surplus Equipment John Deere Tractor; Martha Lane seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

5.04 Board Acknowledgement and Acceptance of \$5000 Donation for OC Staff

OC Principal Courtney Wehner explained that a gentleman from Alaska, who travels to Bandon every February, wanted to do something special for the staff at OC. She did an informal survey with the staff to see how they would like to spend the money. Each staff member will be getting a jacket, chair massages on Inservice Days, and end of year staff lunch.

Martha Lane made a motion to Acknowledge and Accept the \$5000 Donation for OC Staff; Corrie Gant seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

5.05 Approve Bandon Dunes, Blast Off into STEM! Science & Engineering Fair; Marlo Dance Studio Peter Pan, and Curry County Junior Lifeguard Fliers

Corrie Gant made a motion to approve all fliers; Martha Lane seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

Public Input for Items not on the Agenda 48:21

Amber Burg thanked the administration for allowing her in their schools to sub. She stated that the kids are exhausted and apathetic. She shared some observations from students during her sub assignments. Board Member Corrie Gant asked where she was subbing when she heard these comments. Amber said the majority of the comments came from high school students, and added that she just subbed 4 times so far.

Jessica Markham Brink is concerned about the Ocean Park Development and the board's decision to proceed with the project. She feels with the new board members that more time should be taken for the new members to study the issue before it is voted on. As a business owner she feels like the project does not address the needs of the workforce for business owners in Bandon. She doesn't believe that the project won't be affordable for most residents.

Meara Stadelman stated that her middle school student is struggling with all of the teacher turnover. She mentioned the recent BSDB survey results the school district budget survey results indicating that there is a need for qualified teachers and funding for teachers should be prioritized. Worried about high school students falling behind and mentioned juniors in high school opting out of tests.

Anna Cruz worried about student learning. She mentioned serious disruptions in math classes the last two years, and that science classes have suffered this year. She contacted SCESD about the district canceling their contract with them for getting substitute teachers and worried that this may have contributed to the issues the district is facing. She also referenced the BSDB survey and the loss of quality teachers.

Allen Bollschweiler stated that there is only one chance with kids, don't get a second chance. He's concerned about processes and oversight of staff and facilities. He also referenced the BSDB survey and that there is definitely a voice speaking to issues for the board to address. He challenged the board to take the list of goals and make them more task orientated.

Dave Reed stated there is a lot of repetition in the District at a Glance report. He requested a working document for the CET revenue with more concise information about the projects. He is concerned that most of the money that has been spent so far is on employees instead of projects. Mentioned his email about concern with Public Meeting Laws violation at the previous board meeting. Also had not heard anything about the complaint he had previously filed.

Zoe Bradbury DeSurra also referenced the BSDDB survey and stated that BSDDB is not just her, but a collection of concerned parents and community members. There is a fear of retaliation from the superintendent for speaking up. Consequences are still being felt from involuntary transfers. Stated that the message is clear from the community that new leadership is needed. Questioned the district's decision to continue with litigation regarding the ULP and grievance in regards to budget constraints.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

At 6:39 p.m. Board Vice Chair A.J. Kimball opened executive session to conduct deliberations to consider the dismissal or disciplining of, or to hear complaints or charges brought against, a public officer, employee, staff member or agent, unless he or she requests and open meeting. ORS 192.660(2)(b). Present were board members A.J. Kimball, Martha Lane, Corrie Gant, Troy Russell, Brian Cassoday, Superintendent Shauna Schmerer and Board Secretary Connie Roberts.

The board moved out of executive session at 7:22.

There being no further business for the board, A.J. Kimball made a motion to adjourn the meeting; Martha Lane seconded and the motion passed unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 7:22 p.m.

Approved: 5/11/26
Date)

By [Signature]
Board Chair

[Signature]
Connie Roberts, Board Secretary