

BLACK BUTTE SCHOOL DISTRICT No. 41
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
Camp Sherman, Oregon

REGULAR SESSION MINUTES
March 10, 2026 AS AMENDED

Board Members Present:

Bear Brown, Chair; Karen Lajoy, Vice Chair; Jennifer Green

Staff Members Present:

Delaney Sharp, Principal and Teacher; Jane Petke, Business Manager;
Daniel Petke, Facilities and Grounds Specialist (c. 4:30)

Consultant/Community/Public Present:

Emma Prescher, BBS parent

OPENING OF REGULAR SESSION BOARD MEETING

Board Chair Bear Brown called the Regular Session of the Black Butte School District Board of Directors to order at 3:31 p.m.

ADDITIONS, DELETIONS, CORRECTIONS TO AGENDA

- Bear asked for a brief discussion on whether or not to move the Board Field Trip to Teacherage to 4:30, when Daniel can be here. The Board agreed to do that.

ADOPTION OF AGENDA

Karen Lajoy: Moved to adopt the proposed agenda as amended. Jennifer Green: Seconded. All in favor. Agenda adopted.

COMMUNICATION

The Board of Directors reserves this time for citizens, parents, or staff to speak to the Board on concerns of the agenda items. After concerns on the agenda items are heard, the Board may hear concerns on non-agenda items. Please note that because of privacy and due process rights, the Board will *not* hear complaints about individual school personnel, nor against any member of the school community. We also will *not* hear compliments about individual staff members. In either case, the Board asks that you first contact the District office about such matters. The Board does not take action on these communications at this meeting. The Board may put concerns and topics related to communication on future agendas for discussion and possible action. We would appreciate you keeping comments to three (3) minutes per individual or five (5) minutes if you are representing a group of patrons.

- None.

INFORMATION AND REPORTS

Board Chair and Vice-Chair

See attached Board Chair and Vice-Chair Report for details.

- There were no questions or comments.

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Principal

See attached Principal Report for details.

- Bear asked Delaney to explain “Staff collections report.” Delaney said that each year, schools report to the Oregon Department of Education (ODE) who is working in what position, at what FTE, salary, and years of experience. That goes into our ODE report card. It is somewhat confusing for us because some things don’t really apply to our situation.
- She was also curious about the memorandum of understanding with High Desert Education Service District for “translation and interpretation services.” Delaney said that we’ve been working on this all year. HDESD has a department that provides language interpretation and translation services, for which we will pay extra. We haven’t had students with this need before. We will meet with parents soon; the interpreter will participate via Zoom.
- She also asked, since we’re not exactly an “outdoor school,” how do “future funding formulas” affect us? Delaney said that we get funding from the state Outdoor School Program (OSP) to help us pay for our outdoor trips. Funding has been reduced; OSP staff are working to ensure equitable distribution of the funds. Since Delaney has had a lot of experience with outdoor school, his input was helpful.
- Karen asked how Oregon Battle of the Books went. Delaney said that third through fifth graders will have an OBOB assembly tomorrow, a fun event with students not competing against each other but showing other students what they’ve done. Emma is their coach. The sixth through eighth graders have had two practice tournaments and are doing quite well. Another event on Saturday will determine who goes to state. About half of our students are participating ~ a higher percentage than usual. The ultimate goal is to generate interest in reading.
- Delaney expanded on one item. We have had a lot of conversations about middle school students and transitions. What is our vision for middle school? He gave a bit of history. Sometimes kids think it’s their decision whether or not to transfer to Sisters Middle School; whose is it, actually? Bear noted that kids usually want to do what they want to do. Delaney said that it creates unnecessary anxiety among the kids. Karen said that she and Tim made the decision of where their son would go to high school, and that was a good decision. Delaney said that the workshop in April will address this. Creating structure could be helpful.
- Delaney said that we will wrap up music classes next week. These have been positive.
- Delaney said that we finished the Ski & Ride Program last week, after six of eight sessions (fewer than planned because of less snow). We had no injuries, and most kids learned.
- Jenni asked about mental health issues. Is there anything that the Board needs to be aware of that might be of concern to the community? Delaney said that lack of access to services has been an issue; Sisters has a school-based clinic (Mosaic)

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that offers mental health services. Rachel has been very busy in her two days a week. The question of FTE is part of our budget considerations. The issues are typical kid stuff involving friendships and sometimes family matters. Jane added that conflict resolution on the playground is sometimes needed.

Business Manager/District Clerk

See attached Business Manager/District Clerk Report for more details.

- Bear asked, concerning the section on Debt Service Prepayment, if we make the prepayment in December or later, which would require further consultation with the tax experts, how much more would we have to pay them for this consultation? Jane said that when we Zoomed with them in December, they charged \$750. She said that we're getting quotes on resurfacing the basketball court. Jenni asked if bond money is available for Internet at the school. Jane replied that the timeline would be the hard part.
- About the Oregon Ethics Commission filing, Bear noted that, each year, she has phoned the Ethics Commission, answered a few questions, and gotten the job done in less than ten minutes. Your mileage may vary. Karen said that she's done it online ~ also a simple process.
- Jane explained some of the new items on the February report. One big adjustment is new estimates of State School Fund payments for the rest of this school year.
- In the Capital Improvement section, Jane estimates that we will have \$150,000 remaining to decide how to handle.

Communication and Engagement Specialist

See attached Communication and Engagement Specialist Report for more details.

- Bear asked if the "BBS Transitions" parent night is a new development. Delaney said that it is. We will set a date in April.

Special Projects Manager

See attached Special Projects Manager Report on the Internet.

- Bear said that, overall, she has seen lack of accountability by various Internet-related entities since 2013, when she started serving on the Board. A company might have great ideas (for us to pay more for) and then be bought up by another company that has other plans. There have been variations on this theme for many years. She had looked up "boondoggle" on Wikipedia. Bear would not want BBS to make the initial commitment, pay more, and have no recourse should various entities, including possible funders, bail with no consequences to themselves. The BBS Board has no authority to hold such entities to account.
- Delaney said that we're already spread thin tending to our main purpose as a school. On the other hand, Jennie has been meeting with a lot of people who encourage her to continue, for the long-term benefits. The universal feedback is that fiber is best.
- Karen said that the general community is probably not thinking long-term. It

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might be hard to get the community behind fiber, because people come and go. She likes the idea of a bigger and better solution but wonders if we can get reliable partners.

- Jenni asked if fiber would be valuable for the school, itself. Delaney said that, with Starlink now available at a low monthly rate, the short-term value of fiber is less; the long-term value is hard to predict. It is important for the school to have reliable Internet. Also, Internet access (or lack of it) can be an issue for families looking to move here.
- Jenni said that it would be helpful to get an idea of what the project management cost would be.
- She also said that our priority is the school. If the broader community wants to do something to improve Internet access in Camp Sherman, let them take the initiative.
- Bear noted that, according to Jennie's report, there will be an apparent funding gap after 2026.

Facilities and Grounds Specialist

See attached Facilities and Grounds Specialist Report for more details.

- Daniel said that we did the One-Year Warranty Walk Through this month (see Molly's report). We might invest in wainscoting in the corner where chairs are stored.

Transportation Specialist

See attached Transportation Specialist Report for more details.

- There were no questions or comments.

Jefferson County Education Service District

There is no written report this month.

REVIEW ANNUAL SCHOOL CALENDAR 2026–2027

Bear invited Delaney to explain any significant changes from this year's calendar.

- First, she asked why December 11 and April 30 are not school days. Delaney said that we have a couple of floating no-school days. We try to have continuity year-to-year on the number of days, and we try to match Sisters as closely as possible. Next year, Labor Day is late; Sisters is starting a week early. We decided to match Bend and start the day after Labor Day. December 11 is the day after the Winter Performance. April 30 is a floating no-school day, which is also a no-school day for Sisters.
- Delaney also explained that we're making the terms more equal. The actual term would end in early February.
- May 7 is a floating teacher work day. October 16 is also a Sisters work day.
- Delaney said that he has gone over this with staff.

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REPORT ON SHORT-TERM RENTAL APPLICATION AND JEFFERSON COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

Bear said that an update is included in the Board Chair and Vice-Chair Report.

DISCUSSION OF PREPAYMENT FOR DEBT SERVICE

Bear said that Jane included some considerations in her Business Manager/District Clerk Report.

- Jane said that this month's discussion is for information. She would prefer Board action next month. Prepayment must be made when an interest payment is already due (June 15 if we decide on this). Making the payment in June would simplify all of the taxes. We might delay until December if we still have projects to do.
- Jane will have a list of estimated expenses next month.

BOARD FIELD TRIP TO TEACHERAGE

Bear explained that the purpose of this field trip is to get an idea of possible repairs needed before a change of residents. Also, some Board members have never been inside the Teacherage.

- Delaney, Jennie, and Daniel showed the Board around; Jane took notes.

ACTION ITEMS

APPROVE BUDGET GOALS AND COLA FOR 2026-2027

Bear referred to Jane's report, above, and asked for discussion of items in RED in the Budget Goals. She asked Jane and Delaney to advise on COLA and health insurance options.

- Jenni and Karen suggested a 3.5 percent COLA increase and that the monthly insurance contribution cap be raised by \$50. Delaney agrees that inching it up each year, even though it doesn't benefit everyone equally, would be a good idea.

Karen Lajoy: Moved to approve the FY 2026-2027 Budget Goals with a 3.5 percent COLA increase and \$50 increase in the monthly insurance contribution cap. Jennifer Green: Seconded. All in favor. Motion passed.

APPOINT EMMA PRESCHER TO BOARD POSITION 4

Bear thanked Emma for her interest in serving in Position 4 and for her biography. She invited Board members to ask any questions.

- Karen said that she's very impressed by Emma's biography.
- Delaney asked Emma in which other states she has worked. Emma replied, "Washington, Colorado, Hawaii, Chicago, all over in Oregon ~ several cities."
- Bear clarified that, if appointed today, Emma would need to be sworn in by Jefferson County Clerk Kate Zemke AFTER Kate has received and processed the approved minutes of today's meeting.

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- Jane said that she had called Kate today and asked if it would be possible for Emma to receive the oath next month even though the March minutes would not yet be approved. Kate said that that would be reasonable.

Karen Lajoy: Moved to appoint Emma Prescher to serve in Position 4 of the Board of Directors of Black Butte School District 41 for fiscal year 2025-2026 and 2026-2027 until the next election. Jennifer Green: Seconded. All in favor. Appointed.

APPOINT BUDGET COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Bear said that, typically, the Budget Committee comprises equal numbers of Board members and community members. Technically, we still have just four actual Board members until Emma is sworn in by Kate Zemke. She recommended tabling this item.

- The item was tabled.

FOR THE GOOD OF THE ORDER

- Bear reminded everyone of Wine & Women tonight from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m. at the Community Hall.

MINUTES

Bear asked for suggested revisions to the Minutes of the February 10, 2026 Regular Session.

- Bear said that, in the Principal report section, “Jennie” should be “Jenni.”
- In Bear’s account of chatting with a local taxpayer about the bond measure, “I said” should be “Bear told her that”

Jennifer Green: Moved to approve the Minutes of February 10, 2026 Regular Session as amended. Karen Lajoy: Seconded. All in favor. Motion passed.

CALENDAR

- Next Regular Board Meeting ~ Tuesday, April 14, 2026, 3:30 p.m.
- Budget Committee Training ~ Tuesday, April 14, 2026, 4:45 p.m.

ADJOURN

There being no further business, Board Chair Bear Brown adjourned the Session at 6:10 p.m.

Minutes respectfully submitted,
Jane Petke, Recording Secretary

SIGNED APPROVED MINUTES ARE ON FILE IN THE BBS ADMIN OFFICE.

Marie Sheahan “Bear” Brown, Board Chair

Date approved