

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

REGULAR AND WORK SESSIONS MINUTES

May 12, 2026 APPROVED

Board Members Present:

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

Staff Members Present:

Delaney Sharp, Principal and Teacher; Jane Petke, Business Manager;

Consultant/Community/Public Present:

Craig Mackie, community member

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 3:30 p.m.

ADDITIONS, DELETIONS, CORRECTIONS TO AGENDA

- Bear said that the End-of-Year Program year on the Calendar should be 2026.

ADOPTION OF AGENDA

Jennifer Green: Moved to adopt the proposed agenda as amended. Karen Lajoy: 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.

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 said that she appreciated the Small School Tour report. What a great idea to organize those days as part of the end-of-year trip!
- Jenni said that she was stunned by the amount of Education Service District (ESD) support that the other districts have, and that each school has a full-time secretary. Delaney said that we do a lot of it on our own. The schools are much bigger and used to have more students; the towns have been shrinking since employers moved away. Some schools have empty rooms. They are similar to each other but not to us.
- Karen asked if most of these schools did not have a high school close by. Delaney replied, "Not close enough to be consolidated."
- He said that all of these schools have fiber. It was being laid down along the highway as Delaney drove.
- He found people whose jobs are the closest to his. They are mostly newer than Delaney is in their jobs. Superintendents are either at the beginning or end of their careers and don't plan to stay long.
- Jenni asked if staff housing is common. Delaney said that it is. Some of the schools previously had boarding for international students, which no longer pertains, and that these facilities have been converted to staff housing. The schools are hard to staff, though.
- He said that Pinehurst School District near Ashland seems to be more like BBS; he'd like to visit next year.
- Two of the schools contract with bus companies. The companies own and manage the busses and train the drivers; the school employs the drivers.
- Classroom set-ups and grade breakdowns are similar to those at BBS.
- Delaney said that there are a lot of different community traditions.
- Jenni said that it's a helpful perspective to know that we are IT. None of these districts is quite like BBS.
- Delaney said that with stable staffing, the schools did better.
- Craig asked if Delaney picked up anything to try here. Delaney replied, "Probably the ESD element."
- Jenni asked about the BBS Transitions: Parent Info Meeting in April. Delaney said that it was the first time that we've done this. It's been a conversation every year without a lot of clarity. We put together a presentation. The meeting led to great conversations among staff and also among parents. Parents shared their experiences. It really depends on the kid and the context. We solidified better guidance. We are still a K-8 school; one consideration is how to provide positive closure if a student leaves before 8th grade. It shouldn't be a year-long conversation, which is stressful for the kids. We will encourage parents not to start the conversation until winter. Killian is working on a checklist of things to consider and a timeline. It should ultimately be a parent's decision, not a kid's decision. Jenni said that it's great that Killian articulated the decision. Delaney said that Killian has new perspectives, as does Rachel.

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Business Manager/District Clerk

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

- Bear asked if Infinite Visions School ERP Pro is also on the cloud ~ it seems so, since people can access it from various places. Jane said that we can log into the Jefferson County server; it's not on the cloud. With our current format, we're at the bottom of the list for support services. She has asked about ease of connection; people say that the connection is better than connecting with Madras. Jefferson County Education Service District (ESD) will pay for training. The High Desert ESD accounting trainer is very experienced and helpful. She has worked for Tyler Technologies, creator of Infinite Visions.
- Jane said that the transition to new accounts was a huge topic at last week's statewide Oregon Association of School Business Officials (OASBO) meeting. Delaney said that many are concerned that the transition won't be smooth. No two districts are alike, so the crossover could be quite complicated. He said that inconsistency with school systems makes it very hard for the legislature, etc., to analyze the data across school districts.

Communication and Engagement Specialist

See attached Communication and Engagement Specialist Report for more details.

- There were no questions or comments.

Special Projects Manager

There is no written Special Projects Manager Report this month.

- Delaney said that he asked some of the small schools about their E-Rate systems. Ukiah School District had a large project. Overall, working with InterMountain ESD was great. They're paying about \$1,200 a month and are happy with the service, although it is a little pricey.

Facilities and Grounds Specialist

See attached Facilities and Grounds Specialist Report for more details.

- There were no questions or comments.

Transportation Specialist

See attached Transportation Specialist Report for more details.

- Bear said that, when the bus needed unexpected repair, parents gathering to drive the students to Hancock Field Station was admirable.
- Delaney said that most of the schools have extra small vehicles to handle such things. Long-term, we might budget some transportation money for this. CDLs are not required for the small vehicles.

Jefferson County Education Service District

There is no written report this month.

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- Delaney said that the ESD passed the budget. He attended the meeting on his way home from Hancock Field Station. Cody was on Zoom. The ESD's budget is tighter because of reduced enrollment.

END-OF-YEAR PROGRAM AND GRADUATION PLANS

Bear asked Delaney to give a brief report.

- The program will be held on Thursday, June 11, at 6:00 p.m. at the Community Hall. It will be similar to programs in years past. We will celebrate and honor students, those moving on, and Kindergarten graduates. Each student will share something that they've worked on in class.
- The last day of school is Friday, June 12. We have had lots of volunteer support this year; it will be hard to determine the Volunteer of the Year!

DISCUSS DATES FOR BOARD RETREAT IN AUGUST

Bear said that Delaney has spoken with Rachel at House on Metolius about holding our retreat there. Available dates would be on a weekday between August 10 and 28.

- Delaney said that Rachel will check their schedule and let Delaney know specific dates. The idea is to spend a day there.
- Karen said that, for her, the week of August 17 is not good, although Monday might be okay.
- Jenni said that she has a lot of flexibility in August.
- Emma said that earlier in the month would be better; she is trying to schedule a trip with the kids later in the month.

ACTION ITEMS

APPROVE RESOLUTION 26-04 FOR DEBT SERVICE SPECIAL PREPAYMENT

Bear asked Jane to go over the highlights of the resolution and supporting documents.

- Jane said that the resolution was straightforward; Harmony Piazza, CPA, Solutions Certified Public Accountants, PC, helped.
- Jane noted that the transfer total in the resolution is \$180,000 + up to \$320,000 = \$500,000, not \$400,000. "Up to" provides flexibility until we finish the year and close the bond account. Harmony suggested allowing this flexibility.
- On the question of paying off the bond faster (which would reduce interest payments overall) or paying off on schedule but with more interest overall, Bear preferred lower annual payments, which will mostly affect current taxpayers.
- Jenni said that she preferred to pay off the bond faster, which would save the District more than \$100,000 in interest payments.
- Karen said that the Pro-rata Payoff looks better up front for annual taxes, but the shorter payoff (inverse) is actually more responsible.
- Jane ran the math on an example of \$300,000 assessed value. The annual taxes would be:
 - \$369 original
 - \$354 inverse at 94 percent

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- \$317 pro-rata at 86 percent
- Karen said that we should do the financially responsible thing and communicate this to the community.

Jennifer Green: Moved to approve Resolution 26-04, A Resolution Authorizing a Special Prepayment of the 2023 General Obligation Bond for Capital Improvements & Related Matters During the Fiscal Year 2025-2026. Karen Lajoy: Seconded. All in favor. Motion passed.

The second consideration was whether to choose the inverse option at 94 percent or the pro-rata option at 86 percent.

- There was no further discussion.

Jennifer Green: Moved that we use an accelerated payoff schedule for Special Prepayment of the 2023 General Obligation Bond for Capital Improvements & Related Matters During the Fiscal Year 2025-2026. Karen Lajoy: Seconded. All in favor. Motion passed.

APPOINT CRAIG MACKIE TO BUDGET COMMITTEE

Bear said that community member Craig Mackie has expressed interest in serving on the Budget Committee. Craig attended the Budget Committee training on May 1. She invited Craig to introduce himself.

- Craig said that he has held various jobs over the years. In the education field, for ten years, he taught math at South Umpqua High School near Roseburg. The school was smaller than Sisters High School, and teachers had a lot of responsibilities besides teaching. Then, he taught math for three years at Bend High School without being asked to do a single other thing. Class size ranged from twenty-five to forty students. Algebra 1 was crowd control, and he didn't feel effective. He started an after-school math tutorial business, which was a great joy. In five years, only one student was forced to attend by his parents. Grades went up, parents were happy, etc. He is also a ski instructor at Hoodoo and has taught BBS students.
- Delaney said that Craig has been a Ski & Ride Program liaison for BBS.

Karen Lajoy: Moved to appoint Craig Mackie to serve on the Budget Committee for three years. Jennifer Green: Seconded. All in favor. Craig Mackie was appointed.

APPROVE INTERMOUNTAIN ESD-BLACK BUTTE SCHOOL DISTRICT E-RATE CONSULTING AGREEMENT 2027

Bear asked Jane to summarize the contents of this agreement and also to explain what the acronym "BEAR" stands for in the IMESD part of the agreement.

- Jane will find out what "BEAR" stands for.

Karen Lajoy: Moved to approve the InterMountain ESD-Black Butte School District E-Rate Consulting Agreement 2027. Jennifer Green: Seconded. All in favor. Motion passed.

FOR THE GOOD OF THE ORDER

- None.

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MINUTES

Bear asked for suggested revisions to the Minutes of the April 14, 2026 Regular Session.

- Bear said that on pages 2 and 6 concerning the fiber line, the proper spelling is "E-Rate."
- Bear said that on page 6, a phrase should read: "having a substantial reserve."

Jennifer Green: Moved to approve the Minutes of the April 14, 2026 Regular Session as amended. Karen Lajoy: Seconded. All in favor. Motion passed.

CALENDAR

- Budget Committee Meeting ~ Tuesday, May 12, 2026, 4:45 p.m.
- Next Regular Board Meeting ~ Tuesday, June 9, 2026, 3:30 p.m.
- End-of-Year Program ~ Thursday, June 11, 2026, 6:00 p.m., Community Hall

ADJOURN

There being no further business, Board Chair Bear Brown adjourned the Session at 5:04 p.m.

Minutes respectfully submitted,
Jane Petke, Recording Secretary

Marie Sheahan "Bear" Brown
Marie Sheahan "Bear" Brown, Board Chair

June 9, 2026
Date approved