



Pullman School District

Minutes

Board Work Session

Date and Time

Wednesday March 4, 2026 at 4:30 PM

Location

Franklin Elementary
850 SE Klemgard St.
Pullman, WA 99163

Directors Present

Arron Carter, Craig Nelson, Deena Bayoumi, Lisa Waananen Jones, Stephanie Horn

Directors Absent

None

Guests Present

Bob Maxwell, Courtney Hodge, Diane Hodge, Ryan Mulvey

I. Opening Items

A. Record Attendance

B. Call the Meeting to Order

Arron Carter called a meeting of the board of directors of Pullman School District to order on Wednesday Mar 4, 2026 at 4:30 PM.

Arron Carter

Signed by Arron Carter on 3/12/2026

II. Agenda Items

A. Franklin Elementary Showcase

Presenter: Franklin Kindergarten Team - Lonna Carrier, Madalynn Hall, and Whittney Graham

The Franklin Kindergarten team provided an overview on the science of reading, including the instructional strategies that have been implemented this school year and the progress observed in students, as measured by DIBELS assessments. The strategies are designed to support all students, including low-income and ELD students, providing consistency across languages. It was suggested that future implementation be prioritized for grades K–2, with grades 3–5 addressed optionally or through interventions. The discussion included training for Core+ and classroom teachers, exploring in-house trainers, teacher observations for professional learning, and family engagement to support reading at home. Cost and scheduling challenges were noted, and a phased approach to implementation is under discussion.

B. Alternative Learning Experiences (ALE) Update

Presenter: Jerrod Fleury, Pullman High School Principal

The board received the annual spring update on the high school Alternative Learning Experiences (ALE) program, including an overview of the program, its guiding principles, and how FTE is claimed for students accessing the ALE platform, APEX. Information was provided on program staffing, the benefits of in-person versus fully online instruction, and how funding is based on student progress. The MTSS team monitors students who are struggling and develops individualized support systems. Discussion included the individualized nature of course selection for ALE students and the Guided Practice Study (GPS) program, which differs from ALE by offering structured online courses that tend to result in high credit completion rates for students who are credit deficient. While ALE success rates for reintegration into traditional classes are estimated at 40–50%, GPS has shown higher success in supporting students toward graduation. District staff noted that without ALE and GPS, many students would disengage entirely, impacting both student outcomes and district funding, highlighting the importance of these programs in keeping students engaged and enrolled in the district.

C. Policy Review

Presenter: Board of Directors

The Board discussed communication practices related to Board policy, including who responds on behalf of the Board and the use of social media. It was noted that current policy designates the Board President, or a board designee when needed, to respond on behalf of the Board to ensure consistent messaging and avoid confusion. The Board also

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discussed the role of social media, noting that while the district has a social media policy, there is not a specific policy governing Board members' personal social media use. Board members emphasized the importance of being cautious with language, limiting engagement, and avoiding soliciting feedback on behalf of the Board through social media, as posts and responses may constitute public records. Members acknowledged that individuals may gather feedback independently but should not represent their comments as speaking on behalf of the Board.

The Board also discussed how to respond to requests for statements from news or media groups, reiterating that official responses should come from the Board President or a designated representative. Board members expressed interest in the ability to respond in an individual capacity, provided they do not speak on behalf of the Board. It was suggested that using the Board Reports section of a meeting agenda could help ensure information shared by individual members is distributed equitably. The Board also noted interest in communication training opportunities and invited members to suggest topics they would like to explore. Additionally, Board members expressed interest in further reviewing current communication protocols, including Policy 1101F2, and examining how other districts address social media use to provide greater clarity while maintaining opportunities to engage with and gather feedback from the community.

D. Budget Information

Presenter: Diane Hodge, Finance Director

The Board received information regarding the district's levy timeline and fund balance considerations. Director Hodge shared that planning for the next levy would begin in fall 2027, with certification required by November, with an election in February 2028 and implementation beginning in January 2029. The Board discussed how levy funds support staffing, Director Hodge noted that additional information will be reviewed by the Finance Committee and shared with the Board.

The Board also discussed the district's minimum fund balance, which is currently set at 7.5 percent but has fallen behind its intended purpose of covering one month of salaries. Director Hodge indicated a recommendation, based on auditor guidance, to increase the minimum fund balance to 10 percent so it could better cover both payroll and accounts payable, particularly given fluctuations in district funding throughout the year. Superintendent Maxwell also shared pending legislative proposals related to reserve requirements. The topic will return as a discussion item at a future meeting.

III. Closing Items

A. Adjourn Meeting

There being no further business to be transacted, and upon motion duly made, seconded and approved, the meeting was adjourned at 6:00 PM.

Arron Carter

Signed by Arron Carter on 3/12/2026

Respectfully Submitted,
Arron Carter

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