



**Regular Board Meeting
Sisters School District Office
May 7, 2025 at +/-6:00pm**

MEETING MINUTES

ATTENDEES

Board	Erik Benton, Jenica Cogdill, Edie Jones, Asa Sarver, Jeff Smith
Student Representative	-
Superintendent	Curt Scholl
Administrators	Jana Giles, Matt Hilgers, Joe Hosang, Tim Roth, Steve Stancliff, Lorna Van Geem, Joan Warburg
Supervisors	Sherry Joseph, Todd Pilch, Ryan Stock
Board Secretary	Amy Bionda

* late arrival / (virtual)

CALL TO ORDER / FLAG SALUTE

Call to Order	Asa Sarver called the Regular Board Meeting to order at 6:00pm .
Pledge of Allegiance	Asa Sarver led the Pledge of Allegiance.

ADDITIONS, DELETIONS, AMENDMENTS TO AGENDA / ADOPTION OF AGENDA

Additions	Under Board Business, add 2025-2026 Calendar Update action item. Under Board Business, add Lundgren Mill Fund action item.
Deletion	Under Board Business, remove District Asset - Cloverdale Property action item.
Amendment	Under Administrative Reports, K-5 Literacy Curriculum needs to be a separate line.

Jeff Smith moved and Erik Benton seconded that the Board adopt the 2025-05-07 Regular Board Meeting Agenda with the above additions, deletion and amendment. Vote was unanimous in favor. Motion passed 5-0.

COMMUNITY COMMENTS

Steve Swisher 69339 Ox Yoke Sisters, OR 97759	Steve Swisher noted that current commercials for the Sisters Rodeo are inaccurately stating that transportation will be available from the Elementary School. He emphasized the need to clarify for the public that the correct location is the Community Center (formerly the Elementary School). Additionally, he suggested that the City consider incorporating the old school bell into the public art installation at the new roundabout.
Regan Roberts 16016 Cattle Drive Road Sisters, OR 97759	Regan Roberts invited the Board to attend the SistersGRO Scholarship Ceremony on May 14 at 7:00 PM in the Sisters High School Auditorium. This year, SistersGRO will award a record-breaking \$350,000 in scholarships to graduating seniors—a milestone celebration of community support and student achievement.

BUSINESS / FINANCE REPORTS**Revenue / Expenditures**

Sherry Joseph shared the [2025-05-07 General Fund Report](#) and the [2025-05-07 General Fund Projected vs Actual Report](#). Sherry asked the Board if they had any questions. No questions were asked.

ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS / QUESTIONS / ANNOUNCEMENTS**K-5 Literacy Adoption**

Joan Warburg introduced the newly selected K–5 literacy curriculum, *Benchmark Advance*, which was available for public review at the district office throughout April. During the trial period, the curriculum received positive feedback from both teachers and students, who felt it was the strongest option to support elementary instruction. While no publisher has yet fully integrated the Science of Reading, Benchmark Advance is partnered with UFLI—a resource already familiar to teachers. Additionally, its use in neighboring districts will help streamline the onboarding and implementation process.

Edie Jones moved and Jeff Smith seconded that the Board approve the adoption of the new K-5 Literacy Curriculum (Benchmark Advance). Vote was unanimous in favor. Motion passed 5-0.

High School

Steve Stancliff introduced a new high school course led by Tara Morris, developed in collaboration with HDESD and COCC, aimed at enhancing career readiness for students. The long-term goal is to expand the course to align with the new career class requirement and to create additional internship opportunities for students.

Special Programs

Lorna Van Geem shared key insights from her in-depth analysis of the Youth Truth surveys. She highlighted that special education students reported notably high satisfaction across all categories—belonging, academic challenge, teacher relationships, college readiness, school culture, and engagement—with all scores at 73% or higher. Most notably, 95% of these students reported a strong sense of belonging. These results reflect the outstanding commitment of special education teachers and educational assistants, and the impactful work being done to support special education students across our schools.

SUPERINTENDENT REPORTS**Enrollment Update**

Curt Scholl noted that enrollment is down for the first time in seven years, which has had a direct impact on the district’s budget. He expressed hope that this decline does not become a continuing trend. He attributed the drop in part to the ongoing lack of affordable family housing in the area and emphasized the need to strengthen communication efforts to help boost enrollment moving forward.

Bond Update

Curt Scholl explained that seeding of the elementary field will take place over the summer. The remaining bond funds will be used to construct an additional walkway along the outside of the stadium and to install fencing in select areas. Additionally, the pods will soon be relocated to the high school.

BOARD BUSINESS**District Asset - District Office**

Curt Scholl provided a brief summary of the previous work session, during which the Board interviewed three realtor candidates to represent the District in the sale of the District Office.

Jeff Smith moved and Edie Jones seconded that the Board authorize Curt Scholl to contract with Kizziar Property Co. as realtor for the sale of the District Office. No vote.

The Board acknowledged the importance of selling the District Office to better serve students but expressed concerns about the property being sold for commercial use to a buyer who might not honor its historical significance. The Board requested that all offers of interest be presented for Board approval prior to any final sale decision.

Jeff Smith and Edie Jones withdrew their motion.

Erik Benton moved and Asa Sarver seconded that the Board authorize Curt Scholl to contract with Kizziar Property Co. as realtor for the sale of the District Office with the final decision left up to the Board. Vote was unanimous in favor. Motion passed 4-0. Jenica Cogdill abstained.

Lundgren Mill Funds **Curt Scholl** requested Board approval to allocate \$50,000 from the Lundgren Mill Fund to hire an architect to begin planning renovations and navigating the permitting process for converting the Coffield Center into a new District Office.

Edie Jones moved and Jeff Smith seconded that the Board approve the revision to the 2025-2026 SSD School Calendar as proposed. Vote was unanimous in favor. Motion passed 5-0.

Calendar Update Proposal **Joe Hosang** presented an issue with the 2025–2026 SSD School Calendar, noting a scheduling conflict with the in-service day originally set for Friday, September 26. That date coincides with SFF Presents' school performances leading up to the Folk Festival weekend. To accommodate this important partnership, Joe proposed moving the teacher in-service day to Monday, September 29.

Edie Jones moved and Jeff Smith seconded that the Board approve the revision to the 2025-2026 SSD School Calendar as proposed. Vote was unanimous in favor. Motion passed 5-0.

Recess **Asa Sarver** declared recess of the Regular Board Meeting at **7:36pm**.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Call to Order **Asa Sarver** declared in the Executive Session: Superintendent Evaluation at **7:48pm**.

Executive Session The Board discussed the superintendent evaluation.

Adjourn **Asa Sarver** declared the Executive Session adjourned at **8:48pm**.

Reconvene **Asa Sarver** declared the Regular Board Meeting reconvened at **8:48pm**.

CONSENT AGENDA

Meeting Minutes 2025-04-02 Regular Board Meeting Minutes
2025-04-16 Board Work Session Minutes

Release **Matt McClellan**, SHS Teacher
Susan Seaney, SHS Teacher

Jenica Cogdill moved and Jeff Smith seconded that the Board adopt the 2025-05-07 Consent Agenda. Vote was unanimous in favor. Motion passed 5-0.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Date	Event	Time	Location
June 4, 2025	Regular Board Meeting / Budget Hearing	5:00pm	DO

ADJOURNMENT

Adjourn

Asa Sarver called the Regular Board Meeting adjourned at **8:54pm**.

Asa Sarver, Board Chairman

Amy Bionda, Board Secretary