

On January 24, 2026, the Central Linn School Board convened at approximately 8:30 a.m. in the Central Linn Elementary Conference Room for Board Training.

1.0 ATTENDANCE

Members Present: Stacey Winter, Garrett Leabo, Levi Farris, Mandy Brady, Jason Curtis, Steve Irwin, Donald Fleckenstein

Members Absent: Grant Wahl

Others Present: Rob Hess, Celeste Van Cleave, Dena Crowell, Cathy Hurowitz, Andy Dey

2.0 BOARD TRAINING

Dr. Dye opened the session by clarifying that the meeting was a properly posted public Board work session and training. Because no Board decisions were scheduled, the session was not subject to Oregon Public Meetings Law decision-making requirements. By consensus, Board members agreed not to record the meeting. The training began with a review of the January 23 CTE tours, followed by an agenda review focused on effective governance practices.

Dr. Dye and Mrs. Hurowitz explained that the work session focused on Board governance and emphasized that the Board's primary goal is to improve student outcomes. Key topics included the distinction between governance and operations, effective decision-making, legal compliance, clarity of Board and Superintendent roles, budget understanding, and effective Board meeting structures and behaviors.

Board members engaged in individual reflection activities examining the purpose of schools, the purpose of a School Board, individual roles as elected officials, and personal Board priorities. A guiding quote emphasized that school systems exist to improve student outcomes. Participants discussed how student success may be defined in multiple ways, including academic achievement, graduation rates, career readiness, and extracurricular success. Board members shared responses and reviewed district policy, particularly the B Policies, reinforcing that Board authority exists only when acting collectively in legally noticed meetings.

Dr. Dye reviewed the core responsibilities of the Board, including setting district vision, establishing policy, hiring and evaluating the superintendent, budget oversight, performance monitoring, and community engagement. The distinction between governance and District responsibilities was emphasized, with the Board focused on policy and oversight while the Superintendent manages day-to-day operations. Key governance concepts were reinforced, including the One Voice Principle, delegation of authority, strategic oversight, accountability, and the legal implications of individual Board actions.

The Board discussed meeting practices, voting procedures, and the appropriate use of abstentions and tabling items when additional information is needed. A deeper discussion of District budgeting followed, addressing state and federal budget timelines, audits, committees, budget development and approval, budget management, and alignment of financial decisions with district goals. It was emphasized that clearly defined Board goals are essential to budget development and to evaluating superintendent performance.

Strategic alignment discussions focused on student achievement and growth goals, budget alignment, evaluation processes, and communication with the community. Board members identified a need for stronger, more consistent Board-led communication regarding district goals, progress, and district storytelling.

Following lunch, the training addressed Board accountability to the public, Oregon Public Meetings Law, effective Board meeting structures, and common governance pitfalls, including micromanagement, breaching confidentiality, and publicly undermining Board decisions. Strategies for improving meeting effectiveness, transparency, preparation, and community engagement were discussed.

The session concluded with a self-reflection activity revisiting the initial foundational questions to assess how Board members' perspectives evolved through the training and to reinforce a shared commitment to effective governance and improved student outcomes. The Superintendent Evaluation Committee also shared superintendent survey results in preparation for the February Executive Session.

3.0 ADJOURN

The meeting adjourned at approximately 1:30 p.m.

Dena Crowell, Board Secretary

Jason Curtis, Board Chair

Date Approved

Board meeting minutes approved on January 12, 2026.
Original minutes with signatures on file at the District Office.