



HISTORIC REVIEW BOARD
Meeting Notes of May 14, 2026

Members present: Kirsten Solberg, Dan Saltee, BreAnn Borgaard, and John Steele
Members Absent: James Manning
Public: Amanda Brookshire
Staff present: Lynn Schroder, Management Analyst and Steve Koper, Community Development Director

Staff Liaison: Lynn Schroder - lschroder@westlinnoregon.gov

The meeting [video](#) is available.

1. Call Meeting to Order and Roll Call

Chair Solberg called the meeting to order at 6:00pm.

2. Public Comment: Non-Agenda items

None.

3. Approval of Draft Meeting Notes for 02/17/26

Member Borgaard moved to approve the HRB meeting notes for 02/17/26. Member Steele seconded.

Ayes: Saltee, Steele, Borgaard, and Solberg. Nays: None. Abstain: None. The motion passed 4-0-0.

4. Bolton Primary School National Register Nomination Public Meeting

The Historic Review Board (HRB) meeting centered on reviewing a National Register of Historic Places nomination for Bolton Primary School, prepared by West Linn resident Christi Lanz. Staff Liaison Schroder provided an overview of the National Register program, the HRB's responsibilities under the Oregon State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) Certified Local Government Agreement, and the HRB's role in the nomination process.

West Linn is a Certified Local Government (CLG) participating in the National Register program, with the HRB serving as the community's designated local landmarks commission. Under the federal program, nominations are evaluated by both the HRB and the State Advisory Committee on Historic Preservation (SACHP) before a final decision is made by the National Park Service. All nominations must follow the standards outlined in National Register Bulletin 16A, *How to Complete the National Register Form*.

Schroder noted that the West Linn-Wilsonville School District was notified of the HRB meeting and invited to comment on the proposed Bolton Primary School nomination; no comments were received.

The nomination for Bolton Primary School is scheduled for review by the SACHP on Friday, June 26, 2026, and the HRB's recommendation will be included in the official nomination record.

Christi Lanz presented the draft nomination, emphasizing the school's historical significance and distinctive architectural design. She explained that the building, constructed in 1956, is an example of post-war educational architecture that incorporates child-centered design principles. Bolton Primary School was built using a modular concept that allows additions and alterations to blend seamlessly with the original

structure. She highlighted features such as abundant natural light, direct access to the outdoors from classrooms and shared spaces, and the inclusion of window boxes. Lanz also noted the strong community support for recognizing the school as a historic site and acknowledging its role in the community. She stated that she contacted the West Linn–Wilsonville School District regarding the nomination but they did not have any questions.

Amanda Brookshire, a West Linn resident and former West Linn–Wilsonville School District employee, shared that her family has lived in the Bolton neighborhood since 1878. She noted that her grandfather helped build the first Bolton schoolhouse, and that her mother played at the school before she was old enough to attend kindergarten. She explained that before the Bolton School was built, the Bolton community felt Sunset School on the other side of the hill was too far for young children to walk, and they wanted a school in Bolton because it was the center of the area. She applauded the effort Lanz put into the nomination and emphasized the pride the community feels for the school as a centerpiece of their neighborhood, expressing how meaningful it is to see it considered for the historic registry so it can be preserved.

Member Steele, who graduated from the school, expressed his excitement about its nomination to the Historic Register. He asked Lanz about her research on the building's history and architecture. Lanz explained that she reviewed PTA records dating back to 1937, which showed the PTA's involvement in researching and requesting various design features for the building. She emphasized that the Bolton community has long played a significant role in supporting the school.

Member Solberg conducted a site visit to the building. She expressed appreciation for how the nomination narrative highlighted the strong connection between indoor and outdoor spaces, the surrounding landscape, and accessibility to it. She also commented on the school's midcentury entry design, noting the modern columns holding up the covered walkway and small-scale steel I-beams enclosed by seating intended for children. She observed that modern Roman bricks are used throughout the building and remarked that, despite numerous additions, the alterations remain unobtrusive and consistent with the overall design.

Member Saltee asked why the 2010 Bolton Neighborhood Reconnaissance Level Survey did not include Bolton School. Schroder responded that it is unclear why the school was omitted but speculated that the survey may have excluded non-residential buildings.

Member Saltee expressed concern regarding the integrity criteria, noting the absence of original architectural drawings as well as drawings that clearly depict the building's additions and alterations. He noted that additional information distinguishing original features from later modifications would make a stronger nomination. He encouraged Lanz to locate the original architectural drawings and subsequent alteration plans. Solberg added that the aerial photographs were difficult to interpret, making it challenging to understand how the property evolved over time. Lanz responded that she referenced historic notes from a school district planner that included dates of additions, their size, and associated costs.

Member Solberg appreciated how the nomination clearly outlined when alterations and additions occurred and noted the effort taken to ensure that new construction matched the existing materials. She observed that, to the average person walking around the building, it appears as though the entire structure was built at the same time, except for one addition at the rear that is not visible from the front.

Member Steele, who is familiar with the school's original condition, remarked that the building has remained remarkably consistent over time. He appreciated that there has been no drastic shift in appearance—no “giant leap into the 21st century”—when additions were made in the late 20th century. He noted that he frequently passes the building, and the front façade facing Highway 43 looks substantially the same as it did when he attended the school. He added that the work done on the rear of the building had also been handled well. Steele noted that it looks like a very well documented nomination. He noted that the nominator could use a current photograph of the building, it should be possible to identify the different structures and the periods in which they were added. The changes are distinct enough that a clearer timeline of alterations could be illustrated. He added that obtaining an aerial photograph from 50 years ago may not be possible, though it might still be worth exploring.

Member Borgaard expressed concern about moving forward with the Bolton School's National Register nomination without explicit support from the West Linn–Wilsonville School District. She noted potential implications for future building upgrades and ongoing maintenance. Borgaard thought the nomination description was well done.

Members discussed historical alterations and additions to the building, focusing on significant years and changes in structure. Members expressed satisfaction with the integrity criteria, the document's detailed descriptions, and the context regarding the building's significance. Members agreed on the adequacy of facts, sources, and supporting materials included in the nomination. There were not any concerns with the facts and sources or technical aspects of the nomination.

Members voted “ok” on the integrity, description, significance and context, factual basis and sources, technical information, and supporting materials of the draft Bolton School National Register nomination.

Ayes: Saltee, Steele, Borgaard, and Solberg. Nays: None. Abstain: None.

5. Items Of Interest - Board Members

None.

6. Staff Announcements

Staff Liaison Schroder informed the board members that the next meeting in July will be a quasi-judicial historic design review. She will poll members to determine the exact date and will send the agenda in June.

7. Adjourn

Chair Solberg adjourned the meeting at approximately 7:10pm.