

Minutes

1. Call to Order and Roll Check

Chair Dyson called the meeting to order at 6:31 PM. Roll check confirmed that all board members were present: Chair Dyson, Vice Chair Hatch, Director Ferguson, Director Ruby, and Director Rooklyn.

2. Land Acknowledgment

Student Board Representative, Alice Carnahan, read the Land Acknowledgement aloud.

3. Adoption of Agenda

Chair Dyson requested that Item 8, Science Curriculum Update, be tabled.

❖ **Motion:** Director Ruby moved, and Vice Chair Hatch seconded adoption of the agenda as amended.

Aye: Ferguson, Dyson, Hatch, Rooklyn, Ruby

Nay: none

Result: The motion carried by unanimous vote of the five members.

4. Consent Agenda *(All items may be adopted by a single motion unless pulled for special consideration.)*

Chair Dyson requested clarification on Policy IKJ, Artificial Intelligence, and Policy JHCA, Immunization, School Sports Participation, Concussion, and Other Brain Injuries.

Director Rooklyn requested that Policy JHCA Immunization, School Sports Participation, Concussion, and Other Brain Injuries be pulled from the consent agenda and brought for first read in January.

❖ **Motion:** Director Ruby moved, and Vice Chair Hatch seconded approval of the consent agenda with the exception of item 4.E.5, which will be brought back for first read in January.

Aye: Ferguson, Dyson, Hatch, Rooklyn, Ruby

Nay: none

Result: The motion carried by unanimous vote of the five members.

4.A. Approval of Minutes

4.B. Personnel Report for December

4.C. Enrollment Report for December 2025

4.D. 2025-26 Pinehurst Tuition & Transportation Agreement (annual renewal)

4.E. Policy Updates (first read)

4.E.1) Policy KBA Public Records Request

4.E.2) Policy IKJ Artificial Intelligence

4.E.3) Policy CEA Educational Equity Advisory
Committee

4.E.4) Policy DBEA Budget Committee

4.E.5) Policy JHCA Immunization, School Sports
Participation, Concussions and Other Brain Injuries

4.E.6) Policy JOA Directory Information

4.E.7) Policy JHFE/GBNAB Suspected Abuse of a Child

4.E.8) Policy GCAB Personal Electronic Devices and
Social Media - Staff

4.E.9) Policy GCAA Standards for Competent and
Ethical Performance of Oregon Educators

4.E.10) Policy LBEA Denial for Virtual Public Charter
School Student Enrollment

4.E.11) Policy GBDA Expression of Milk or
Breastfeeding in the Workplace

4.E.12) Policy IF District Curriculum

4.E.13) Policy IIA Instructional Materials

5. School Presentation: TRAILS/Ashland Connect

Principal Ericka Beck-Brattin presented an overview of the TRAILS School Improvement Plan, highlighting strong reading growth with goals being met and ongoing math growth, including student goal-setting using IXL. TRAILS continues to attract families seeking a non-traditional, holistic learning environment with strong family engagement. YouthTruth results show high levels of student engagement and ongoing work to strengthen a shared definition of belonging. Staff reported feeling safe and supported in the new building.

Board discussion included alignment between OSAS and IXL data and expressed interest in future information on student outcomes after transitioning from TRAILS.

On behalf of Amanda Groover, Principal Beck-Brattin, provided an update on Ashland Connect, the district's K–8 online learning option. The update included a revised mission, current enrollment of 15 students, with anticipated steady growth. Assessment data show strong growth in ELA, with continued focus on targeted math intervention and individualized, one-on-one student meetings. Student success increases with longer participation in the program, supported by strong student-teacher connections. Discussion also highlighted the need for continued district support in family engagement and exploration of program opportunities, noting that many Ashland Connect students eventually transition to other online or homeschool programs.

6. Inclement Weather Report

Executive Director of Operations Steve Mitzel reviewed the inclement weather decision-making process, noting that coordination begins the evening prior with regional superintendents, the National Weather Service, and district operational leaders. Early-morning assessments include on-road evaluations by the Transportation Director and safety checks by the Operations Director and Superintendent, with the goal of reaching a decision by approximately 5:30 a.m. Decisions are informed by multiple data points, including evaluations of snow and mountain routes. Once determined, information is shared with local media and district leadership, followed by phone/text notifications to families and an updated website by approximately 6:30 a.m. Steve emphasized the district's role as a regional point of reference and its commitment to making the best possible decision based on the available information at the time.

7. English Learners Data Report

Director of Student Services April Harrison, together with EL Program Coordinator Dylana Garfas-Knowles, presented a data report on the district's English Learner (EL) program and provided updates to the EL Plan, which is reviewed annually with the Board each December. The presentation included a review of prior-year data and program structures, including SIOP training for 66 staff to support sheltered instruction within general education classrooms.

Elementary school services include small-group instruction based on language proficiency levels, while secondary school services are delivered through designated EL classes. The EL team, though small, continues to effectively meet student needs through targeted instruction, family engagement events, and community-supported programming funded by Title III and the Ashland Schools Foundation.

Data highlighted strong outcomes, including 93% of multilingual learners on track to English proficiency, among the highest rates in the state, and a 100% graduation rate for EL students in 2024–25. The program's maintenance goal is to sustain at least 80% of multilingual learners on track to proficiency. Board discussion included a request to include the number of languages represented in the district in a future presentation.

8. K-12 Science Curriculum Update- TABLED

9. Finance Report

9.A. Finance Report for the period ending Nov. 30, 2025

Director of Business Services Sherry Ely reported that the TAN has been fully paid off and that November property tax revenues and the operating levy are trending higher than anticipated. Trends will be monitored through February, with potential adjustments to our current year's state school funding. Expenditures remain below projections overall, though IDEA costs are trending higher, and some costs are being shifted to the General Fund. The final draft of the audit has been received and will be presented in January. Updates were

also provided on the special revenue account, the health care fund (which may require the use of reserves), and upcoming revenue forecasts, with current indications that funding will not be reduced this year.

10. Recurring Reports

10.A. OSEA Report

OSEA Representative James Johnson provided updates on various school activities, including the scavenger hunt, middle school play, and new portable speakers at the middle school, funded by an ASF grant.

10.B. AEA Report

AEA Representative Alan Parowski shared the following school updates: Ashland Middle School is in its second trimester and is currently running two fundraisers. Musical events and the Mt. Ashland Youth Ski Program are also underway. At the elementary level, parent-teacher conferences saw strong attendance, although scheduling within a two-day window was challenging, with interest shown in adding more conference days to the 2026-27 calendar. Schools reported that the Winter Care Box program is underway and TRAILS LEGO Robotics teams performed well.

10.C. Student-Board Representative Report

Student Board Representatives Alice Carnahan & Milo Leiserson highlighted recent student activities and accomplishments, including basketball and wrestling, completion of *The Wizard of Oz* with *A Midsummer Night's Dream* as the next production, Holiday Spirit Week, the Winter Fine Arts Festival, and a Hanukkah celebration. They also recognized Abdiaziz Guled, AMS Youth Advocate and Ashland High School 5A Soccer Coach, who was named Coach of the Year, and shared updates on affinity group collaboration, the District Equity Committee, and a student-written youth column in the *Ashland News*.

11. Board Reports

Board members shared recent activities including attendance at school and community events such as the TRAILS Winterfair, *The Wizard of Oz*, and upcoming Winter Fine Arts Festival featuring culinary arts students. Members also reported meeting with community members, families, and education partners; engaging in policy review and professional learning; and monitoring regional discussions on enrollment, demographics, and district finances.

12. Hear Public Comments (*The Ashland School District Board of Directors reserves this time for individuals to relay comments in writing to the Board regarding topics, not on the printed agenda.*)

1. Community member Stacia Stimac expressed concern about the possible closure of Bellview Elementary School.
2. Community member Ian Cropper urged caution about moving too quickly in the consolidation decision-making process.
3. Community member Ashleigh Cropper shared that a parent petition requested the option to change survey responses from “run” to “walk” and voiced support for the walk timeline.
4. Community member Matt Hoffman spoke about ASF’s relationship with the Ashland Sarcasm Festival, opposed school closures, and supported the walk timeline.
5. Community member Dennis Freese raised concerns about sixth-grade band class size and potential burnout for the AMS band teacher.

13. Superintendent Report

Superintendent Hattrick announced Ashland High School’s December Rotary Student of the Month, Solee Lustmun, a junior at Ashland High School. Solee is recognized for his professionalism, creativity, and strong work ethic as a student photographer who positively represents school spirit at events and activities. Solee exemplifies empathy, leadership, and the core values of Ashland High School, making him a deserving Rotary Student of the Month.

Upcoming out-of-state travel includes: Boys basketball playing in Yreka on December 16, and Wrestling may be traveling out of state on December 27.

Superintendent Hattrick reported that members of the leadership team attended the Oregon Education Law Conference hosted by COSA and OSBA and will keep the Board informed of relevant legal and legislative

updates. The Ashland High School principal search is underway, with initial interviews scheduled for next week, and process details available on the school website. Updates were also shared on the posting and upcoming implementation of the cell phone policy beginning January 5, ongoing work of the District Equity Committee and Superintendent Advisory Council, and appreciation for the successful production of *The Wizard of Oz*. The Superintendent closed by wishing staff and families a restful holiday and winter break.

14. Unfinished Business

14.A. ACTION: Student Investment Account (SIA) Grant Agreement

TRAILS Principal, Ericka Beck-Brattin reviewed the 2025-27 SIA Grant Agreement and requested board approval.

❖ **Motion:** Director Rooklyn moved, and Director Ruby seconded to the approval of the SIA Grant Agreement as presented.

Aye: Ruby, Ferguson, Dyson, Hatch, Rooklyn

Nay: none

Result: The motion carried by unanimous vote of the five members.

14.B. Consolidation Engagement Timeline Presentation

Superintendent Hattrick presented a recommended timeline for continued community engagement and study related to the district's long-term facilities planning and fiscal sustainability as the district considers consolidation or reconfiguration. The presentation outlined why the district must engage in this work, citing declining enrollment, rising operational costs, and a growing mismatch between existing facilities and current student distribution. District leaders emphasized that the goal is to ensure long-term stability while protecting educational programs and supporting students, staff, and families.

More than 500 family and community members and 170 district staff participated in surveys, providing over 360 narrative comments. The feedback highlighted shared priorities, including stability for students and staff, protection of programs, transparency in decision-making, attention to emotional impacts, and a preference for a balanced pace rather than rushed action or prolonged uncertainty. Based on this feedback, Dr. Hattrick recommended a moderate "Jog" approach for continued engagement and study. Under this approach:

- Data review and scenario development would begin in January 2026
- Community and staff engagement would continue throughout the process
- Scenarios would be presented to the Board for discussion before any decisions are made
- No implementation would occur before the 2027–28 school year

Superintendent Hattrick emphasized that no decisions have been made regarding school closures or reconfigurations and that the recommended timeline and process do not require Board action at this time. The focus remains on exploring options collaboratively and transparently.

The board expressed support for the "Jog" approach.

15. New Business

15.A. ACTION: OSBA Election

Chair Dyson announced that the board will vote on the Southern Region OSBA Board of Directors Position 05.

❖ **Motion:** Vice Chair Hatch moved, and Director Ferguson seconded that the Ashland School Board support Jay Chick for the Southern Region OSBA Board of Directors position 05.

Aye: Ferguson, Dyson, Hatch, Rooklyn, Ruby

Nay: none

Result: The motion carried by unanimous vote of the five members.

16. Announcements and Appointments

16.A. Budget Committee Vacancies

Chair Dyson announced that the Ashland School District has two vacancies on the Budget Committee, of which one will be filled by a member of the District Equity Committee. The other open position will be posted on our website, and applications will be accepted through January 9, 2026.

To be eligible for appointment, applicants must: • be a registered voter within the Ashland School District, • have resided in the district for at least one year, and • not be an officer or employee of the district. For questions or further information, please contact the board secretary, Holly Rosser

16.B. The next Regular Session meeting will be held on Thursday, January 8, 2026, beginning at 6:30 p.m. in the City Council Chamber, 1175 E. Main St., Ashland.

Chair Dyson added that the Board approved using COSA to assist with the Superintendent evaluation process and that the Board Chair and Vice Chair will be the point of contact throughout the process.

17. **Adjourn**

There being no further discussion, Chair Dyson adjourned the meeting at 8:48 PM.

Submitted by:
Holly Rosser, Board Secretary

Date for Board Approval: January 8, 2026