School Board Regular Session
Thursday, July 9, 2026 6:30 PM

Ashland City Council Chamber
1175 East Main Street
Ashland, OR 97520

Minutes

1. **Call to Order and Roll Check**
Chair Dyson called the meeting to order at 6:32 p.m. and announced that the meeting was being recorded and would become part of the public record. Roll call confirmed the presence of Directors Dyson, Ruby, Ferguson, and Hatch. Director Rooklyn joined the meeting at 6:34 p.m.

2. **Land Acknowledgment**
Chair Dyson read the Land Acknowledgment.

3. **Adoption of Agenda**
- **Motion:** Director Ruby moved, and Director Ferguson seconded adoption of the agenda as presented.
  Aye: Dyson, Ferguson, Hatch, Rooklyn, Ruby
  Nay: none
  Result: The motion carried by unanimous vote of the five members.

4. **Organization of the Board for 2026-27 School Year (Policy BC/BCA)**
4.A. <u>ACTION ITEM: Election of Board Chair</u> (Policy BCB)

- **Motion:** Chair Dyson nominated Director Russell Hatch to serve as Board Chair for the 2026–2027 school year. The nomination was seconded by Director Ferguson.
  Aye: Ferguson, Rooklyn, Ruby, Dyson, Hatch
  Nay: none
  Result: The motion carried by unanimous vote of the five members.

4.B. <u>ACTION ITEM: Election of Board Vice Chair</u> (Policy BCB)

- **Motion:** Director Ruby nominated Rebecca Dyson as Board Vice Chair for the 2026-2027 school year. The nomination was seconded by Director Ferguson.
  Aye: Ferguson, Hatch, Rooklyn, Ruby, Dyson
  Nay: none
  Result: The motion carried by unanimous vote of the five members.

  Following his election as Board Chair, Vice Chair Russell Hatch accepted the gavel from Chair Dyson and presided over the remainder of the meeting.

4.C. <u>ACTION: Resolution No. 2026-2027 B-1 - Annual Designations for 2026-27</u>
Per Policy BC/BCA, the board reviewed and approved the district's designations and authorizations for the 2026-27 school year.

- **Motion:** Director Rooklyn moved to approve Resolution No. 2026-2027 B-1 Annual Designations for the 2026-27 School Year as presented. The motion was seconded by Vice Chair Dyson.
  Aye: Ferguson, Hatch, Rooklyn, Ruby, Dyson
  Nay: none
  Result: The motion carried by unanimous vote of the five members.

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

Board Chair Hatch noted that Board members had reviewed the consent agenda materials prior to the meeting and indicated his comfort with approving the consent agenda as presented. He reminded the Board that any item could be removed from the consent agenda for separate consideration at the request of a Board member. Board members expressed appreciation to the administration for responding to their questions over the holiday weekend.

- **Motion:** Director Dyson moved, and Director Ruby seconded approval of the consent agenda.
  Aye: Dyson, Ferguson, Hatch, Rooklyn, Ruby
  Nay: none
  Result: The motion carried by unanimous vote of the five members.

5.A. Approval of Minutes
5.B. Personnel Report for July
5.C. Willow Wind- Alternative Education Program Assurances
5.D. Insurance MOU - OSEA Article 12
5.E. 2026-27 Board Meeting Schedule
5.F. 2026-27 Superintendent Professional Development Plan
5.G. Confidential Employees Contract July 1, 2026-June 30, 2029
5.H. Salary Schedule Overview (information only)
  5.H.1) Supervisor/Director Contract July 1, 2026-June 30, 2029
  5.H.2) Administrator Contract July 1, 2026-June 30, 2029
  5.H.3) 2026-27 Executive Director Salary Schedule
5.I. Policy Review (First Read)
  5.I.1) Policy BBAA - Board Member's Authority & Responsibility
  5.I.2) Policy BD - Board Meetings, Notices and Communications
  5.I.3) Policy BDC - Executive Sessions
  5.I.4) Policy BDDC - Board Meeting Agenda
  5.I.5) Policy BDDG - Recordings & Minutes of Board Meetings
  5.I.6) Policy DBEA - Budget Committee
  5.I.7) Policy KL & KL-AR - Public Complaints
5.J. Policy Review (Second Read/Adoption)
  5.J.1) Policy CBG — Evaluation of the Superintendent
  5.J.2) Policy EBB — Integrated Pest Management
  5.J.3) Policy GBA — Equal Employment Opportunity
  5.J.4) Policy GBN/JBA — Sexual Harassment

6. **City of Ashland Planning Department Report**
Linda Reid, Housing Program Specialist, and Brandon Goldman, Community Development Director for the City of Ashland, presented information on the Nonprofit Corporation Low-Income Housing Tax Exemption program and requested the Board's feedback on the District's interest in participating. The program would provide a property tax exemption for qualifying nonprofit-owned affordable rental housing serving households earning 60% or less of the Area Median Income (AMI). Annual applications would be required for participating properties.

City of Ashland staff explained that participation by both the City and the School District is required to meet the 51% threshold needed to implement the exemption. Currently, 42 housing units would qualify, resulting in an estimated annual reduction of approximately $9,000 in property tax revenue to the District. Board members discussed the potential fiscal impact, the relationship between local property taxes and State School Fund revenue, and the potential benefits of encouraging additional affordable housing. Director Rooklyn stated she would abstain from discussion and any future vote because the proposal originated from her employer.

The Board expressed general support for the concept and requested that City staff return with the proposed ordinance, additional fiscal information, and reviewed revenue estimates after the District's Director of Business Services has evaluated the data. City staff anticipate returning to the Board in October or November following City Council direction.

7. **Finance Report**
7.A. Finance Report for the period ending June 30, 2026
Director of Business Services Sherry Ely presented the June 2026 financial report. Revenue exceeded projections due to higher-than-anticipated Education Service District (ESD) flow-through funding, attributed to lower-than-expected use of contracted services. Expenditures remained within budget with no significant concerns reported.

Director Ely reported a projected ending fund balance of approximately $3.5 million, or 8.13% of expenditures, consistent with the beginning fund balance estimate adopted in the 2026–2027 budget. She noted the District is in a strong cash flow position and does not anticipate any cash flow issues before the November property tax distribution. The interim audit is underway, with the annual audit beginning in September. A final 2025–2026 financial report will be presented following completion of the audit.

Board members expressed appreciation for the District's sound fiscal management and recognized staff for ending the fiscal year slightly above the Board's 8% fund balance target.

8. **Board Reports**
Board members reported participating in the Policy Work Group, the Transformation Steering Committee as observers, and the Ashland Fourth of July Parade. Members shared positive observations about the collaborative nature of the Transformation Steering Committee process and discussed ongoing community efforts related to early childhood education and childcare availability. Appreciation was expressed for opportunities to connect with fellow Board members and engage with the community in support of the District.

9. **Superintendent Report**
Superintendent Hattrick reported on recent activities, including participation in several Coalition of Oregon School Administrators (COSA) workgroups, completion of annual principal and Cabinet evaluations, the Policy Work Group meeting, onboarding of the new Director of Student Services, community engagement events, and attendance at the COSA Summer Conference.

He provided an update on summer facilities projects, highlighting ongoing work across the District, including flooring, paving, boiler replacement, safety and security upgrades, technology improvements, and other maintenance and capital improvement projects.

Superintendent Hattrick also informed the Board that District staff are evaluating the Grizzly Online instructional program after student data indicated low engagement and course completion rates. In accordance with Board Policy IIA, staff are considering piloting an additional online curriculum alongside Edgenuity for the 2026–2027 school year. A presentation outlining the supporting data and proposed pilot will be brought to the Board for consideration at the August meeting.

9.A. <u>ASD Transformation Update</u>
Superintendent Hattrick reported that the Transformation Steering Committee reviewed results from the District's community survey, which received 556 responses representing approximately 20% of District families. Committee members identified key themes and areas for further exploration. Analysis of the feedback indicated broad community support for financially sustainable changes that preserve Ashland's strong educational programs and community values.

The next Transformation Steering Committee meeting is scheduled for Friday, July 17. In response to Board member questions, Superintendent Hattrick noted that the primary method for community members to submit feedback during the transformation process will be through a dedicated ASD Transformation email address, which will be posted on the Transformation webpage on the District's website.

10. **Hear Public Comments** – **None**

11. **Unfinished Business – None**

12. **New Business**
12.A. <u>ACTION: 2026-2029 AEA Collective Bargaining Agreement</u>
Superintendent Hattrick provided an overview of the tentative three-year collective bargaining agreement between the District and the Ashland Education Association (AEA), highlighting key updates related to classroom safety, compensation, health insurance, workload, leave provisions, working conditions, and transfer procedures. The agreement includes a 3% cost-of-living adjustment in each year of the contract. Employees on salary schedule steps 1–18 will also continue to receive annual step increases, making District salaries increasingly competitive with surrounding districts.

Board members thanked both bargaining teams for their collaborative efforts and discussed several provisions of the agreement, including substitute shortages, grade change procedures, and educator caseloads, before proceeding to consider approval of the agreement.

- **Motion:** Vice Chair Dyson moved to approve the 2026-2029 Collective Bargaining Agreement between the Ashland School District and the Ashland Education Association (AEA), as presented. The motion was seconded by Director Ruby.
  Aye: Dyson, Ferguson, Hatch, Rooklyn, Ruby
  Nay: none
  Result: The motion carried by unanimous vote of the five members.

12.B. ACTION: Contract with HMK for the Helman School Seismic Rehabilitation Project

Executive Director of Operations Steve Mitzel reviewed the proposed contract with HMK to provide owner's representative and project management services for the Helman Elementary seismic rehabilitation project. He noted the District recently received a $2.5 million state seismic grant and emphasized HMK's longstanding partnership with the District since 2019, including its role in securing the grant and managing compliance with grant requirements. The contract amount is not to exceed $105,000. Director Mitzel reported that the project will include seismic upgrades and cafeteria renovations, with construction anticipated to occur next summer and the project designed to remain within available grant funding.

❖ **Motion:** Vice Chair Dyson moved, and Director Ferguson seconded to award the contract for Owner's Representative and Project Management Services for the Helman Elementary School Seismic Rehabilitation Project to HMK.
Aye: Dyson, Ferguson, Hatch, Rooklyn, Ruby
Nay: none
Result: The motion carried by unanimous vote of the five members.

12.C. ACTION: Award Contract with Rogue Boiler Works for AHS Boiler Replacement Project
12.D. ACTION: Award Contract with Custom Crafted Floors, Inc. for AHS Carpet Replacement Project
12.E. ACTION: Award Contract with Bell Hardware for Walker Gym Door Replacement Project
12.F. ACTION: Award Contract with Sentinel Technology, LLC for AMS Fire Alarm Upgrade Project

Executive Director of Operations Steve Mitzel presented four contract awards for summer capital improvement projects funded through remaining bond proceeds, including the Ashland High School boiler replacement, Ashland High School carpet replacement, Walker Elementary School gym door replacement, and Ashland Middle School fire alarm upgrade projects. He explained that the projects were identified during the bond program but deferred due to budget constraints and value engineering. With approximately $3.6 million in unallocated bond funds remaining, the District anticipates spending less than $1 million on this summer's projects. Mr. Mitzel reported that an update on remaining bond funds will be provided following completion of the summer construction season.

❖ **Motion:** Director Rooklyn moved, and Director Ferguson seconded, to award the contracts for the Ashland High School Boiler Replacement Project (Agenda Item 12.C), Ashland High School Carpet Replacement Project (Agenda Item 12.D), Walker Elementary School Gym Door Replacement Project (Agenda Item 12.E), and Ashland Middle School Fire Alarm Upgrade Project (Agenda Item 12.F), as presented.
Aye: Dyson, Ferguson, Hatch, Rooklyn, Ruby
Nay: none
Result: The motion carried by unanimous vote of the five members.

13. **Announcements and Appointments**

13.A. Board Member Appointments

13.A.1) Superintendent Advisory Committee (Policy Workgroup): **Dan Ruby and Deltra Ferguson**

13.A.2) Superintendent Advisory Liaison to the TSC: **Deltra Ferguson**

13.A.3) Ashland Schools Foundation Board Liaison: **Dan Ruby**

13.A.4) Board Legislative Liaison: **Russell Hatch**

13.B. The board will not hold a Work Session in July.

13.C. The Board will hold its next Regular Session on Thursday, August 13, 2026, at 6:30 PM in the City Council Chamber, 1175 E. Main Street, Ashland, OR.

14. **Adjourn**

There being no further discussion, Chair Hatch adjourned the meeting at 7:46 p.m.

Submitted by: Date for Board Approval: August 13, 2026
Holly Rosser, Board Secretary