

Minutes

1. Call to Order and Roll Check

Chair Hatch 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. A quorum was present with three of five members in attendance: Directors Ruby, Rooklyn, and Chair Hatch. Absent were: Vice Chair Dyson and Director Ferguson.

2. Land Acknowledgment

Student Board Representative Leah Lennett read the Land Acknowledgment aloud.

3. Adoption of Agenda

Director Ruby requested to remove items 12 (Executive Session) and 13 (Return to Open Session) from the agenda.

❖ **Motion:** Director Rooklyn moved, and Director Ruby seconded, to adopt the agenda as amended.

Aye: Hatch, Rooklyn, Ruby

Nay: none

Result: The motion carried by unanimous vote.

4. Consent Agenda

Board members reviewed the consent agenda materials prior to the meeting and were provided the opportunity to remove any item for separate discussion and consideration before approval.

❖ **Motion:** Director Rooklyn moved, and Director Ruby seconded, to accept the consent agenda as included in the meeting materials.

Aye: Hatch, Rooklyn, Ruby

Nay: none

Result: The motion carried by unanimous vote.

4.A. Approval of Minutes

4.B. Enrollment Report for September

4.C. Personnel Report for September

4.D. Board-Superintendent Operating Agreements
2026-27

4.E. Superintendent Evaluation Process

4.F. Policy Review (Second Read/Adoption)

4.F.1) Policy KNA Immigration Enforcement on
District Property

4.F.1)a. Policy KNA-AR(1) Interactions with
Immigration Enforcement

5. Recurring Reports

5.A. OSEA Report – None

5.B. AEA Report

AEA Co-President Kelly Martin reported a positive start to the 2026–27 year, with students and staff establishing routines and building connections. Instruction, assessments, athletics, and other activities are underway. Bellview, Helman, and Walker noted larger class sizes; Helman and Walker are using blended classrooms, and Helman reported pressure on staff resources and space. Schools also shared updates on family events and student activities.

5.C. Student-Board Representative Report

Student Board Representative Tobias Pew introduced himself, noting that he served as the alternate representative for the past two years and is serving as the primary representative this year. He reported that classes are underway at Ashland High School and that a new bronze bear sculpture in the quad has generated excitement among students.

Student Board Representative Leah Lennett introduced herself and reported that the Ashland High School leadership class led campus tours for incoming freshmen this year. She said the tours helped students become familiar with the campus.

6. Board Reports

Board members reflected on the August work session, including revisions to the District's complaint policy. They thanked the Transformation Steering Committee for its ongoing work and shared feedback gathered from parents and community members about the transformation process. Members welcomed the start of the school year and appreciated the back-to-school breakfast and keynote speaker. They also noted opportunities to connect with families through Willow Wind's Barn Coffee Welcome and the upcoming Monster Dash.

7. Superintendent Report

7.A. ASD Transformation Update

The Superintendent read a letter to the community to provide context for the upcoming discussions about the District's future and explain how community members can participate. He described declining enrollment and its effect on school funding, as well as the District's goal of maintaining strong academics and valued programs while becoming financially sustainable. The letter summarized community survey feedback and outlined plans to develop scenarios and gather input at each school. The Superintendent emphasized that no decisions have been made and no school has been selected for closure. A Board decision is tentatively planned for January, and any changes would take effect no earlier than the 2027–28 school year. It was also noted that the letter would be published as an article in the *Sneak Preview* and *Ashland.News*.

8. 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.*)

Britt Humphrey, an ASD school counselor, encouraged the Board to use the District's transformation process to rethink how students learn, emphasizing flexible pathways, community connections, and opportunities for students to create and contribute.

9. Public Hearing - Exemption from Competitive Bidding Requirements

At 7:02 p.m., Chair Hatch convened the Board as the Local Contract Review Board and opened the public hearing to receive comment on the draft findings supporting a proposed exemption from competitive bidding for the Helman Elementary School Seismic Retrofit Project and use of the Construction Manager/General Contractor (CM/GC) contracting method. No public comment was offered. Chair Hatch closed the hearing at 7:02 p.m.

10. New Business

10.A. ACTION: Resolution: Alternative Contracting Method

Executive Director of Operations, Steve Mitzel, explained that the Construction Manager/General Contractor (CM/GC) method would bring a contractor into the Helman seismic retrofit project during design. He said the method allows the District to consider relevant experience in selecting a contractor and to work with the architect and contractor to keep the project within budget. He noted that the District had used this approach for prior bond projects and that supporting documents were available to the Board.

- ❖ **Motion:** Director Ruby moved, and Director Rooklyn seconded to approve Resolution: Alternative Contracting Method adopting the formal findings and approving the exemption from competitive bidding requirements to utilize the CM/GC contracting method for the Helman Elementary School Seismic Retrofit Project.

Aye: Hatch, Rooklyn, Ruby

Nay: none

Result: The motion carried by unanimous vote.

10.B. ACTION: Recommendation to Award Contract - arkitek: design&architecture

Executive Director of Operations, Steve Mitzel, described the selection process for design services for the Helman Elementary School Seismic Retrofit Project. Several firms attended the site walkthrough, and the District evaluated three proposals. Following that review, staff recommended awarding the design services contract to arkitek: design&architecture.

- ❖ **Motion:** Director Ruby moved, and Director Rooklyn seconded to award the contract for design services for the Helman Elementary School Seismic Retrofit Project to arkitek: design&architecture in the amount of \$147,770.

Aye: Hatch, Rooklyn, Ruby

Nay: none

Result: The motion carried by unanimous vote.

In response to a question about the construction schedule, Director Mitzel said preliminary investigation and possible demolition work could begin as early as spring break 2027. The goal is to begin the main construction work after the 2026–27 school year ends and complete it before students return in the fall. Mitzel also noted an anticipated October deadline for spending the project funds.

10.C. ACTION: Initiate Social Sciences Curriculum Adoption Process

Assistant Superintendent Cuddeback asked the Board to initiate the social sciences instructional materials review and adoption process as part of the District's Division 22 corrective action plan. She noted that funds are budgeted for the adoption and that materials need to be reviewed against updated state standards. The desired outcome is standards-aligned, consistent materials for grades K–5 and materials suited to individual courses at the secondary level.

The Superintendent designated Michelle Cuddeback to lead the process, with Ashland High School Assistant Principal Hillary Cusenza as her designee.

Ms. Cuddeback described a process involving teachers and administrators from across the District, Board updates, and an opportunity for public review and comment. In discussion, a Board member also asked that the committee consider teachers' professional development needs when evaluating materials.

- ❖ **Motion:** Director Ruby moved, and Director Rooklyn seconded to initiate the core instructional materials review and adoption process to ensure compliance with the Division 22 Corrective Action Plan and support standards-aligned curricular materials at the K-5 and course-specific levels.

Aye: Hatch, Rooklyn, Ruby

Nay: none

Result: The motion carried by unanimous vote.

11. **Announcements and Appointments**

11.A. The board will hold a work session on Thursday, September 24, 2026, at 6:30 p.m. in the District Office, 885 Siskiyou Blvd., Ashland.

11.B. The next Regular Session meeting will be held on Thursday, October 8, 2026, in the City Council Chamber, 1175 E. Main St., Ashland.

12. **Executive Session-** removed from the agenda

13. **Return to Open Session-** removed from the agenda

14. **Adjourn**

There being no further discussion, Chair Hatch adjourned the meeting at 7:16 p.m.

Submitted by:
Holly Rosser, Board Secretary

Date for Board Approval: October 8, 2026

DRAFT