School Board Regular Session
Thursday, October 8, 2026 6:30 PM

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

Minutes

1. **Call to Order and Roll Check**
Chair Hatch called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. and announced that the meeting was being recorded and would become part of the public record. Roll call confirmed all members were present: Directors Ruby, Rooklyn, Ferguson, Chair Hatch, and Vice Chair Dyson.

2. **Land Acknowledgment**
Student Board Representative Tobias Pew read the Land Acknowledgment aloud.

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

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 approve the consent agenda as presented.
  Aye: Hatch, Rooklyn, Ruby, Hatch, Dyson
  Nay: none
  Result: The motion carried by unanimous vote of all five members.

4.A. Approval of Minutes
4.B. Enrollment Report for October
4.C. Personnel Report for October
4.D. AEA Dual-Credit Stipend MOA
4.E. 2025-26 Restraint & Seclusion Report
4.F. 2026-27 Pinehurst Tuition & Transportation Contract

5. **ASF Report**
Ashland Schools Foundation co-executive directors Cheyenne Nichols and Erica Thompson introduced themselves and outlined their leadership transition. Cheyenne will assume responsibility for Foundation operations by January 1, 2027, while Erica focuses on opening a secondhand arts, school, and office supply store with a community arts classroom.

The Foundation, which has supported Ashland schools since 1989, reported a record-breaking first grant round, funding 49 requests totaling $60,113 for classroom materials, equipment, and student learning. The next ASF grant application deadline is November 9, 2026. Upcoming fundraising activities include the Monster Dash on October 24, 2026, and the annual fund drive in April 2027. The planned store and classroom are expected to open in 2027, offering classes for children and adults, with hopes of eventually expanding to satellite art instruction.

6. **Capital Projects Report**
Executive Director of Operations Steve Mitzel presented the Maintenance and Facilities report, highlighting the completion of 413 summer work orders and districtwide cleaning, painting, grounds

DRAFT

upkeep, repairs, curriculum deliveries, and classroom moves to prepare for the 2026–27 school year. Site improvements included:

- Ashland High School: Gym backboard replacements and floor recoating; bronze bear statue installation; courtyard, landscaping, and awning improvements; two boiler replacements; LED lighting upgrades; paving at Titus Alley and the gym drop-off loop; and expanded security measures.
- Ashland Middle School: Bus loop repaving, sidewalk replacements, an upgraded and unified campus fire alarm system, and additional access controls. Exterior camera installation was completed or underway.
- Bellview Elementary: Parking lot seal coating, sidewalk replacements, security fencing to enclose the interior campus, and seven additional access-controlled doors.
- Helman Elementary: Bus loop seal coating and painting.
- Walker Elementary: Bus loop repaving and painting.
- Willow Wind: Painting and installation of a front-door access control lock with an office-operated unlock feature.
- District Office: A new ADA-compliant entry ramp and sidewalk improvements.
- IT Office: Installation of access control.
- Lincoln campus and Transportation: Additional security camera projects were completed or underway.

Upcoming projects include Walker gym door replacements, a Willow Wind accessibility ramp, phased security fencing at AHS, and continued districtwide LED lighting and access control upgrades.

7. **Finance Report**

7.A. Finance Report for the period ending September 30, 2026

The Director of Business Services could not attend the meeting and provided written notes on the financial report for the Board's independent review.

The notes reported that ODE notified the district of an additional $50,000 for the Farm to School program to support locally sourced food purchases through Fund 299, Food Service. Payroll costs exceeded budget projections due to benefits negotiated after budget adoption, while lower-than-anticipated OEBB premiums are expected to generate savings in associated payroll costs. An insurance cushion remains in place pending final expenses from the self-funded health plan. The projected General Fund ending fund balance is $3.276 million, or 8.24%, compared with the budgeted $2.24 million.

8. **Recurring Reports**

8.A. OSEA Report- None

8.B. AEA Report

AEA Representative Alan Parowski highlighted activities across the schools, including welcome-back events, bike safety activities, outdoor education, the Helman Hoedown, a back-to-school BBQ, and a walk-a-thon. Ashland Connect continues to welcome new students and explore flexible learning options with interested families. He also noted Athletic Director Charlie Hall's active start in his new role and identified class sizes and support staffing as ongoing challenges.

8.C. Student-Board Representative Report

Student Board Representatives Tobias Pew and Thea Vogel shared updates on student activities. Tobias reported that clubs and activities are off to a strong start, highlighting soccer, football, and water polo. Thea noted the speech and debate team's success, upcoming November performances of *Alice by Heart*, and Homecoming festivities, including a parade, on October 24. She also shared that the leadership class is working to reduce litter in the student parking lot.

9. **Board Reports**
Board members reported on participation in work sessions, board goal discussions, Transformation Steering Committee meetings, and OSBA events, including learning about Oregon's school funding formula. Members also highlighted conversations with board colleagues and Representative Pam Marsh about district needs and the upcoming legislative session. The Ashland Schools Foundation liaison role will transition to Deltra and Becka.

Members shared involvement in school and community activities, including the bike bus, soccer, and cross country. Director Rooklyn announced her resignation from the Board, effective October 16, to take on a larger role with the City of Ashland. Members recognized her contributions, particularly her work with YAAL. The process for filling the vacancy will be discussed at an upcoming work session.

Regarding school transformation, members reported meeting with families and emphasized that no decisions have been made. They noted that the Board has not been directly involved in developing the scenarios to date and that the scenarios are undergoing further review and discussion. Upcoming town halls will provide opportunities for public input and constructive engagement. No vote on a scenario will occur before January.

10. **Superintendent Report**
Superintendent Hattrick recognized Lilly Dominguez as Ashland High School's Rotary Student of the Month, highlighting her kindness, integrity, work ethic, and leadership. Lilly serves as a captain of the AHS wrestling team, leads the CTE Manufacturing Club as president, and coaches gymnastics at the YMCA. She hopes to attend Pacific University to study kinesiology and continue competing in women's wrestling.

10.A. Out of State Travel

- Girls Basketball will be in Yreka for a tournament December 3-5
- Wrestling will be in Yreka January 23

10.B. ASD Transformation Update

Superintendent Hattrick reported substantial progress in transformation work with the Transformation Steering Committee and District Leadership Team. Shared values and decision-making principles are guiding the exploration of educational possibilities, while the Leadership Team evaluates scenarios through instructional, operational, and financial lenses. The work focuses on organizing resources differently to strengthen educational opportunities and ensure long-term financial sustainability.

The preliminary timeline includes continued scenario refinement in October, staff and community engagement in October or November, and additional analysis before recommendations are presented to the Board, with a target of January and possible consideration in February. No final scenario has been selected, and community feedback will inform the recommendations. Any structural changes would take effect no earlier than the 2027–28 school year. The Superintendent asked for patience as this work progresses.

11. **Hear Public Comments - None**
12. **Unfinished Business - None**
13. **New Business**

13.A. Report: 2025-26 Division 22 Assurances on Compliance with Public School Standards
Superintendent Hattrick presented the District's Division 22 compliance report for the 2025–26 reporting year, noting that the standards establish a baseline level of educational services statewide. Of the 60 rules across six categories, 58 apply to this reporting year, with two assessment requirements waived. The Superintendent was pleased to announce that the District has met all applicable requirements for 2025–26.

DRAFT

He reviewed the annual reporting process, which addresses the previous school year and includes a thorough internal review of each standard, identification of supporting evidence, and review of the evidence and findings by the Superintendent and Assistant Superintendent.

Districts must report to their communities and post the report on their websites by November 1 and submit assurances to ODE by November 15. He also reviewed the process for addressing noncompliance, additional instructional time reporting requirements, and upcoming changes to the standards for 2026–27.

14. **Executive Session**
At 7:43 p.m., Chair Hatch announced that the Board would pause the regular session meeting to convene in executive session under ORS 192.660(2)(e) to deliberate with persons designated by the governing body to negotiate real property transactions. Chair Hatch stated that no decisions would be made in executive session and that regular session would resume afterward. The Board left the dais to convene in the conference room.

15. **Return to Open Session**
Chair Hatch resumed open session at 8:13 p.m.

16. **ACTION: Amendment to the Exclusive Negotiating Agreement with Edlen & Co. Development LLC**

- **Motion:** Director Dyson moved, and Director Ferguson seconded, to extend the Exclusive Negotiating Agreement with Edlen & Co. Development LLC by 12 months.
  Aye: Hatch, Rooklyn, Ruby, Hatch, Dyson
  Nay: none
  Result: The motion carried by unanimous vote of all five members.

17. **Announcements and Appointments**

17.A. The board will hold a work session on Thursday, October 22, 2026, at 6:30 p.m. in the District Office, 885 Siskiyou Blvd., Ashland.

17.B. The next Regular Session meeting will be held on Thursday, November 19, 2026, in the City Council Chamber, 1175 E. Main St., Ashland.

18. **Adjourn**
With no further discussion, Chair Hatch adjourned the meeting at 8:15 p.m.

Submitted by: Date for Board Approval: November 19, 2026
Holly Rosser, Board Secretary

DRAFT