

Alsea School District

May 2025 Board Meeting Board Report

Krista Nieraeth, Superintendent and Special Education Director

1. Facilities

Work on the football field will begin this week. The first step is removing the existing grass. Starting the week after Memorial Day, heavy equipment will be on-site to begin scraping the surface, adding topsoil, leveling and crowning the field, and then hydroseeding. This process should take about 1–2 weeks. After that, we'll be watering and mowing the field regularly throughout the summer to help the new grass take hold.

To make irrigation more efficient, we've purchased a water wheel that will now serve as our main way to water the field. This new equipment will save time and labor, as it can water the entire field from one position without needing to move multiple irrigation pipes each day. While we looked into an in-ground irrigation system, the cost—about \$35,000—was outside our budget. Mr. Elbers researched other options and found this water wheel to be a practical and cost-effective solution that will free up our staff to focus on other projects.

In addition to the field work, our maintenance team will be busy with several projects this summer, including:

- Replacing windows in the library offices
- Reroofing the high school modular
- Repairing and painting the grandstands
- Deep cleaning classrooms, offices, and hallways
- General grounds maintenance

All of this will be done while coordinating with the ongoing seismic construction happening on campus.

2. Summer Learning Grant

Alsea School District was selected as a recipient of a \$36,000 Summer Learning Grant for Summer 2025. The primary goal of this grant was to support academic and enrichment programs with a strong focus on literacy.

After reviewing the grant requirements and attending informational webinars, I made the decision to respectfully decline the funds for this year. The grant came with several non-negotiable conditions, including the need to provide 80 hours of in-person instruction led by certified teachers, a strong emphasis on literacy, and the ability to serve breakfast, lunch, and snacks if needed.

Given the significant construction happening on our campus this summer, particularly the cafeteria being out of service—it is not feasible to host a compliant summer learning program onsite. I also reached out to neighboring districts to explore partnership opportunities where we could bus students and contribute to their programs. Unfortunately, Corvallis and Philomath school districts were not recipients of the grant, meaning their programs didn't have to meet the time requirements (only 45 hours), and therefore didn't

meet the requirements tied to our funding. Lincoln County was uncertain about the location of its summer programming, so a partnership couldn't be confirmed in time.

Another limiting factor was the extremely short timeline—we would have had only about a week and a half to submit a detailed plan that met all grant requirements.

The good news is that the Legislature has earmarked Summer Learning funds for next year, and we are optimistic that Alsea will again be selected as a recipient. We expect to receive confirmation in October, which will give us significantly more time to plan, coordinate logistics, and hire the necessary staff to run a successful and impactful program in 2026.

3. Comprehensive Literacy Development Grant

Last week, Alsea School District was invited to apply for Oregon's Comprehensive Literacy Development (CLSD) Grant. This is a competitive, federally funded grant that offers financial support over four years to help districts improve literacy outcomes for students from birth through 12th grade.

The CLSD Grant aims to strengthen educator capacity and expand the use of high-quality, evidence-based literacy practices, particularly in high-need schools. Alsea School District is eligible to receive up to \$750,000 over the grant period.

Mrs. Shunk and I recently attended a webinar that provided a detailed overview of the grant and its application requirements. Together, we will be developing a comprehensive plan based on district data and research-based strategies in hopes of securing this funding to enhance our literacy programming.

The application is due on June 30, 2025, and we are committed to submitting a strong proposal that aligns with the needs of our students and staff.

For more information about the CLSD Grant, please visit: [Oregon Department of Education – CLSD Information](#)

4. RUS DLT Grant Update

We are pleased to share that funds from the RUS Distance Learning and Telemedicine (DLT) Grant have officially been released. Through this grant, Alsea School District will receive significant technology upgrades, including:

- New TV monitors for all classrooms
- A new video system for the library
- Brand-new laptops for all teachers
- A telehealth cart to support student wellness.

The total grant award is \$155,000 for equipment and installation, with the district providing approximately a \$20,000 match, which is covered within our current technology budget.

A representative from the grant team will be on-site later this week to conduct a walkthrough of our facilities and evaluate classroom setups in preparation for installation. Our goal is to have all equipment installed and operational for the start of school.

5. ADMr/ADMw Update and Potential Funding Impact

Approximately every 4–6 weeks, the ODE releases an updated ADMr breakdown for districts. These reports reflect the ADMr figures that ODE uses to calculate each district's weighted Average Daily Membership (ADMw), which directly affects state funding.

In the most recent update, we identified a significant change in one category that could potentially reduce our state funding. Specifically, the number in the “Students on IEP Above 11% of ADMr” category dropped from 25.40 (as of 3/3/25) to 3.80 (as of 4/29/25). This change could result in an estimated funding reduction of approximately \$220,000.

Don and I have scheduled a meeting with ODE to review this calculation, determine whether a reporting or formula error may have occurred, and fully understand the implications for our district's budget.

We will provide an update once we've had that conversation and have more clarity on the next steps.

STATE SCHOOL FUND GRANT
2025-2026

As of 3/3/2026

Benton County, Alsea SD 7J

District ID: 1899

2025-2026 Extended ADMw

Alsea SD 7J: District total extended ADMw for funding calculations

	2025-2026		2024-2025	
ADMr:	222.00 X 1.00	222.00	0.00 X 1.00	0.00
Students in EL programs:	6.00 X 0.50	3.00	0.00 X 0.50	0.00
Students in Pregnant and Parenting Programs:	0.00 X 1.00	0.00	0.00 X 1.00	0.00
46 IEP Students capped at 11% of District ADMr:	24.42 X 1.00	24.42	24.43 X 1.00	24.43
Students on IEP Above 11% of ADMr:	25.40 X 1.00	25.40	25.40 X 1.00	25.40
Students in Poverty:	26.00 X 0.25	6.50	5.98 X 0.25	1.50
Students in Foster Care and Neglected/Delinquent:	0.00 X 0.25	0.00	0.00 X 0.25	0.00
Remote Elementary School Correction:	0.00 X 1.00	0.00	0.00 X 1.00	0.00
Small High School Correction:	0.00 X 1.00	0.00	0.00 X 1.00	0.00
Post Graduate Scholars:	0.00 X-0.25	0.00	0.00 X-0.25	0.00
	2025-2026 ADMw	281.32	2024-2025 ADMw	51.33
	Alsea SD 7J Extended ADMw		370.60	

Alsea Charter School: Charter ADMw for information only

	2025-2026		2024-2025	
ADMr:	0.00 X 1.00	0.00	222.13 X 1.00	222.13
Students in EL programs:	0.00 X 0.50	0.00	3.37 X 0.50	1.69
Students in Pregnant and Parenting Programs:	0.00 X 1.00	0.00	0.00 X 1.00	0.00
0 IEP Students capped at 11% of District ADMr:	0.00 X 1.00	0.00	0.00 X 1.00	0.00
Students on IEP Above 11% of ADMr:	0.00 X 1.00	0.00	0.00 X 1.00	0.00
Students in Poverty:	0.00 X 0.25	0.00	23.02 X 0.25	5.76
Students in Foster Care and Neglected/Delinquent:	0.00 X 0.25	0.00	0.00 X 0.25	0.00
Remote Elementary School Correction:	38.82 X 1.00	38.82	38.82 X 1.00	38.82
Small High School Correction:	50.46 X 1.00	50.46	50.46 X 1.00	50.46
Post Graduate Scholars:	0.00 X-0.25	0.00	0.00 X-0.25	0.00
	2025-2026 ADMw	89.28	2024-2025 ADMw	318.85

Alsea SD 7J Extended ADMw

370.60

STATE SCHOOL FUND GRANT
2024-2025

As of 4/29/2025

Benton County, Alsea SD 7J

District ID: 1899

2024-2025 Extended ADMw

Alsea SD 7J: District total extended ADMw for funding calculations

	2024-2025		2023-2024	
ADMr:	0.00 X 1.00	0.00	0.00 X 1.00	0.00
Students in EL programs:	0.00 X 0.50	0.00	0.00 X 0.50	0.00
Students in Pregnant and Parenting Programs:	0.00 X 1.00	0.00	0.00 X 1.00	0.00
43 IEP Students capped at 11% of District ADMr:	24.43 X 1.00	24.43	29.20 X 1.00	29.20
Students on IEP Above 11% of ADMr:	3.80 X 1.00	3.80	3.80 X 1.00	3.80
Students in Poverty:	0.00 X 0.25	0.00	1.09 X 0.25	0.27
Students in Foster Care and Neglected/Delinquent:	0.00 X 0.25	0.00	1.00 X 0.25	0.25
Remote Elementary School Correction:	0.00 X 1.00	0.00	0.00 X 1.00	0.00
Small High School Correction:	0.00 X 1.00	0.00	0.00 X 1.00	0.00
Post Graduate Scholars:	0.00 X-0.25	0.00	0.00 X-0.15	0.00
	2024-2025 ADMw	28.23	2023-2024 ADMw	33.53
	Alsea SD 7J Extended ADMw		398.68	

Alsea Charter School: Charter ADMw for information only

	2024-2025		2023-2024	
ADMr:	222.13 X 1.00	222.13	265.48 X 1.00	265.48
Students in EL programs:	3.37 X 0.50	1.69	6.84 X 0.50	3.42
Students in Pregnant and Parenting Programs:	0.00 X 1.00	0.00	0.00 X 1.00	0.00
0 IEP Students capped at 11% of District ADMr:	0.00 X 1.00	0.00	0.00 X 1.00	0.00
Students on IEP Above 11% of ADMr:	0.00 X 1.00	0.00	0.00 X 1.00	0.00
Students in Poverty:	26.00 X 0.25	6.50	27.91 X 0.25	6.98
Students in Foster Care and Neglected/Delinquent:	0.00 X 0.25	0.00	0.00 X 0.25	0.00
Remote Elementary School Correction:	38.82 X 1.00	38.82	38.82 X 1.00	38.82
Small High School Correction:	50.46 X 1.00	50.46	50.46 X 1.00	50.46
Post Graduate Scholars:	0.00 X-0.25	0.00	0.00 X-0.15	0.00
	2024-2025 ADMw	319.60	2023-2024 ADMw	365.16
	Alsea SD 7J Extended ADMw		398.68	

6. Risk Management Inspection and Follow-Up

In April, our insurance agent, Nathan Cortez, conducted a risk management walkthrough of the Alsea School District facilities. The purpose of this visit was to identify potential safety concerns and provide recommendations for corrective action. Overall, the district performed reasonably well; however, several areas were identified for improvement.

Key findings included:

- Daisy chaining of electronic devices
- Improper storage of food items
- Organizational concerns in the shop and art classrooms, and maintenance areas

- Uncovered windows in certain areas
- Doors obstructed by debris or materials.

Following the inspection, Mr. Elbers, Ms. Nickle, Mr. Roberts, and I met to review the report and develop a plan to address the findings. Two of the more critical concerns were addressed immediately with the necessary staff. The remaining items will be addressed during the spring and summer months.

These inspections are valuable opportunities for us to evaluate and improve the safety and functionality of our facilities. I appreciate the collaboration and responsiveness of our staff as we work together to maintain a safe and efficient learning environment.

7. Update to IIGBA Discussion

Mr. Roberts, Soren and I have met in regard to looking at our Policy IIGBA and a policy called “Responsible Use of Technology” that Tigard – Tualatin School District showed as one that they use for their district. Mr. Roberts reviewed what the district already has in place, and we are still looking at wording, etc., before sending it to OSBA for a review. We will have something to show the board at the June meeting.

8. Update on District Purchasing Policy – DJ

There is a paragraph in policy DJ that states:

“The superintendent or designee is authorized to enter into and approve payment on contracts obligating district funds not to exceed \$75,000 for products, materials, supplies, capital outlay and services that are within current budget appropriations. The Board shall approve all contracts that are collective bargaining agreements or service contracts that include the provision of labor performed by district employees, such as custodial, food service and transportation services.”

The amount that the superintendent is, by district policy, authorized to enter into and approve payment on contracts is one of the lowest in our region. For example, Monroe School District authorizes their superintendent to enter into and approve payments up to \$150K, which is what the standard amount OSBA recommends for this policy. Lebanon Community School District does not give an actual dollar amount; instead, their policy states that the superintendent is authorized to enter into and approve payment within current budget appropriations.

There was a question posed about the 2nd sentence of this paragraph. I sent the question about what constitutes a “service contract” to OSBA legal. Here’s the response I received back...

“The language in your board policy comes right out of ORS 332.075. That statute doesn’t define what a “service contract” is, but broader public contracting law defines “services” to mean “services other than personal services designated under ORS 279A.055.” ORS 279A.010(1)(kk).

It seems to me that in the context here—“service contracts that include the provision of labor performed by district employees”—that an example would be a contract with, say, Sodexo, where the district employees provide the labor but Sodexo provides the food. Or, yes, a transportation company that provides the busses, but the bus drivers are district employees.”