

## 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 Leiserson, read the Land Acknowledgement aloud.

### 3. Adoption of Agenda

❖ **Motion:** Director Ruby moved, and Director Rooklyn 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. Consent Agenda *(All items may be adopted by a single motion unless pulled for special consideration.)*

❖ **Motion:** Director Ferguson moved, and Vice Chair Hatch 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.

#### 4.A. Approval of Minutes

#### 4.B. Personnel Report for February

#### 4.C. Enrollment Report for February

#### 4.D. ASD Flexible Spending Plan

#### 4.E. Policy Updates

##### 4.E.1) **First Read Policy Review**

4.E.1)a. Policy FFA Memorials

4.E.1)b. Policy KH Public Gifts to the School

4.E.1)c. Policy JECB Admission of Nonresident Students

4.E.1)d. Policy JECF Interdistrict Transfer of Resident Students

4.E.1)e. Policy GBN/JBA Sexual Harassment

##### 4.E.2) **Administrative Regulations (AR) Review- No Board Action**

4.E.2)a. JECB-AR(1) Admission of Nonresident Students

4.E.2)b. JECB-AR(2), (4), (5), (6)

4.E.2)c. JECF-AR Interdistrict Transfer of Resident Students

4.E.2)d. GBN/JBA-AR Sexual Harassment Complaint Procedures

##### 4.E.3) **Second Read Policy Adoption**

4.E.3)a. Policy JHCA Immunization, School Sports Participation, Concussions and Other Brain Injuries

### 5. School Presentation: AMS

Principal Steve Retzlaff presented an overview of Ashland Middle School's School Improvement Plan, sharing key demographics (about 20% of students on an IEP or 504 Plan, 2% EL, and 8% TAG) and noting enrollment is down 56 students from last year, with projections showing stabilization at just over 400 students within two years. He reviewed this year's restructuring, including the removal of one 6th-grade homeroom, the reduction of one 7/8 grade team, the reduction of Encore offerings, and the reductions in EA and teaching staff, alongside increased reading and math intervention supports.

Principal Retzlaff shared Smarter Balanced ELA and math trends showing gradual recovery since the pandemic. ELA performance is improving and outpacing state growth, which he attributed in part to

greater teacher stability, while math outcomes may be impacted by turnover and new curriculum implementation, with adjustments planned next year. Attendance remains in line with statewide trends, and AMS continues targeted efforts to improve regular attendance from 68% to 72%.

He outlined plan goals to increase students performing at grade level in ELA and math, maintain 9th-grade on-track status at 95% or higher, and increase engagement among students, families, and staff through specialist support, professional development, data teams, attendance strategies, and student engagement activities. Celebrations included improved attendance, positive behavior trends, approximately 390 students participating in athletics and after-school activities (including TRAILS and Willow Wind), MathCounts advancing to state, and continued leadership opportunities through Student Council and support through the Mountain program.

## **6. Finance Report**

### **6.A. Finance Report for the period ending January 31, 2026**

Director of Business Services Sherry Ely reported that January property tax collections were significantly lower than projected, but that no adjustments to revenue projections are recommended at this time. She noted a potential positive adjustment of approximately \$250,000–\$300,000 that may occur in May as part of the 2024–25 reconciliation, but it has not been included in current projections. Director Ely also shared that the February state revenue forecast reflected a more favorable outlook, with the State General Fund shortfall reduced from \$750 million to below \$500 million, with the possibility of further improvement. Director Ely continues to carefully monitor potential over expenditures in the IDEA and Insurance Funds. As of the end of January, projections indicate an ending fund balance of approximately \$3.5 million, or 8%.

Director Ely stated the appropriation report is trending well overall and noted she is watching the Instruction (1000) line closely while remaining conservative in estimates. She advised that encumbrances in the IDEA Fund currently appear significantly negative but are expected to resolve as transactions are reconciled. She also reviewed the Outdoor School budget and noted that grant resources, ASF support, and potential donations may help address an estimated \$14,000 overage.

In response to questions, Director Ely clarified that insurance claims are coming in higher than estimated due to rising hospital and provider costs. She noted that the district is self-insured and does not receive the same pricing discounts as large insurance carriers. The fund's ending balance is currently trending close to \$400,000; however, a healthy ending balance should be at least \$1.5 million. She stated the district is working with its agents and reviewing options related to the long-term “tipping point” between remaining self-insured and joining a larger pool for greater bargaining power. She also clarified that the SLP cost discrepancy reflects the district purchasing services directly rather than through the ESD.

## **7. 2026-27 SOESD Local Services Plan**

SOESD Superintendent Mark Angle-Hobson presented an overview of the 2026–27 Local Services Plan (LSP) and the Student Success Act Comprehensive Support Plan. He reported no significant changes to the Services Plan and reviewed the annual development cycle, including cabinet-to-cabinet planning each fall, collaboration among the regional Superintendents, review and approval by local boards each winter, and finalization of services across service areas each spring. Superintendent Angle-Hobson noted that the primary change this year is increased transparency and improving the format in which the plan is shared. Superintendent Angle-Hobson reviewed SOESD's guiding framework and service model, emphasizing a people-first, human-centered approach focused on supporting schools, empowering people, and strengthening communities. He summarized the plan's “functional format,” clarifying who SOESD is, what guides its work, and the services it offers. SOESD services were outlined in four primary areas: Administration, School Improvement, Student Services, and Technology.

In response to questions, Superintendent Angle-Hobson clarified homeschool registration requirements under Oregon law, noting that families register with the ESD once, after which SOESD provides districts with an annual list of registered homeschool students; online charter school students are not included in that requirement. He also shared that the “Grow Your Own” program, which provides funding support for EAs and others pursuing teaching licensure, may be eliminated due to budget reductions. Superintendent Hattrick noted that he will provide a future report on which SOESD services are utilized by the Ashland School District.

❖ **Motion:** Director Rooklyn moved, and Director Ruby seconded approval of the 2026-27 SOESD Local Services Plan as presented.

**Aye:** Dyson, Ferguson, Hatch, Rooklyn, Ruby

**Nay:** none

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

## 8. Recurring Reports

### 8.A. OSEA Report- None

### 8.B. AEA Report

AEA Representative Alan Parowski shared district updates and reiterated concerns about the school calendar and conference schedule, noting heavy February workloads due to testing and conference preparation. He also raised challenges with report cards in blended classrooms and interest in streamlining elementary grading and conferences. He highlighted Ashland Connect’s enrollment gains and recent school activities, including MLK-related events, a talent show, and a learning event with retired teachers.

### 8.C. Student-Board Representative Report

Student Board Representatives Alice Carnahan and Milo Leiserson shared student highlights, including leadership activities during lunch and finals, support for cell phone policy implementation, and school spirit efforts at athletic events. They noted accomplishments by the Thespian team, ski team, and swim team, with DECA state competition upcoming, and recognized Jen Marsden for supporting scholarship applications.

## 9. Board Report

Board members shared updates on recent district and community engagement. Members reported attending a work session focused on advanced math pathways and noted appreciation for the opportunity to take a deeper dive into the topic. Updates included ongoing legislative outreach during the short session, an upcoming legislative advocacy day in Salem, and participation in regional networking and community events. Members also reported attending school and community activities, including athletic events, PTO meetings, and a family engagement workshop hosted by the city. Additional updates included participation in discussions on attainable housing, policy workgroup activities, and attendance at a community event focused on the healthcare workforce. Members expressed appreciation for the messages of thanks received during School Board Appreciation Month.

## 10. Superintendent Report

Superintendent Hattrick recognized Ashland High School senior Heavyn Scherger as Ashland Rotary Student of the Month. He highlighted her 4.10 weighted GPA, leadership as captain of the AHS Robotics Team, and service to the community through weekly volunteering at the Ashland Public Library and employment at the Varsity Theatre. He also emphasized her reputation as a supportive, steady presence for peers and staff, and noted her plans to study marine and environmental sciences and potentially serve in the Peace Corps.

Superintendent Hatrick announced several personnel and district updates, including congratulating Dr. April Harrison on being named next year's Rogue River Superintendent, confirming that Sherry Ely will continue as interim business manager for an additional year, and recognizing Dr. Francisco Atanes as Ashland High School principal. He reported that geotechnical testing at Lincoln Field was completed as part of an exclusive negotiating agreement to assess the feasibility of a potential housing development. He also noted upcoming out-of-state travel for the AHS National Art Society to San Francisco, a full overhaul of the District Equity Committee's bias incident reporting process, and Legislative Advocacy Day in Salem next week. He shared that the district is still gathering input to inform the 2026–27 calendar, with the goal of bringing it to the Board for review and approval in March, and noted his recent participation in regional panels discussions.

10.A. ACTION ITEM: Resolution Recognizing March 2-6, 2026, as Classified Employee Appreciation Week

Superintendent Hatrick proclaimed March 2-6, 2026, as Classified Employee Appreciation Week. He encouraged the community to support our hard-working classified staff.

❖ **Motion:** Vice Chair Hatch moved, and Director Ruby seconded, adopting the Classified Employee Appreciation Week Proclamation as stated.

**Aye:** Dyson, Ferguson, Hatch, Rooklyn, Ruby

**Nay:** none

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

10.B. Transformation Update

Superintendent Hatrick provided an update on administrative data collection and research informing the consolidation engagement work, now reframed as “Ashland School District Transformation.” He outlined a preliminary timeline: district leadership is reviewing key data and best practices in January–February; staff engagement is planned for March; family engagement and feedback will occur April–June, followed by community engagement sessions at each school site. He noted that materials and updates will be posted online.

After reporting on the items above, Superintendent Hatrick paused to share the following statement:

Board members, staff, and community,

As we approach Valentine's Day, I've been reflecting on something simple but powerful — love.

Not the greeting-card kind.

Not the romantic kind.

But the kind of love that shows up quietly every day in our schools.

The love of a teacher who stays late to help a student understand a concept.

The love of a bus driver who greets each child by name.

The love of a counselor who listens without judgment.

The love of parents and a community that cares deeply about what happens in its classrooms.

Public education has always reflected the broader world around us. We live in a time when conversations can feel intense, when perspectives can differ, and when people care deeply about what is being taught and how it is taught.

And I want to say something clearly tonight:

I believe our educators come to work each day with positive intent.

They come to educate — not to divide.  
They come to support — not to persuade.  
They come to serve children — not ideologies.

We may not always agree on every decision, every book, every lesson, or every perspective. That is part of living in a diverse and thoughtful community. But I truly believe that when we begin with the assumption of positive intent, we create space for productive dialogue rather than polarization.

Grace matters.

Grace for our teachers who are navigating complex classrooms.  
Grace for our administrators who balance policy, practice, and people.  
Grace for our board members who carry governance responsibilities with care.  
And grace for our families who entrust us with what matters most to them.

In our schools, we are teaching more than math, reading, and science. We are modeling how to live in community — how to disagree respectfully, how to listen carefully, and how to remain anchored in dignity.

That work requires patience. It requires humility. And yes — it requires love.

Love for students.  
Love for learning.  
Love for the idea that education remains one of the few places where young people from different backgrounds sit side by side and grow together.

As superintendent, I am proud of the professionals in this district. They show up each day focused on students. They work hard to ensure classrooms remain places of curiosity, safety, and belonging for all learners.

This Valentine's season, my hope is simple:

That we extend one another the benefit of the doubt.  
That we choose conversation over assumption.  
That we remember we are on the same team — even when perspectives differ.

At the center of this work is something steady and enduring: care for children.

And that, above all, is what unites us.

Thank you.

**11. 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.*)

Two AHS sophomore softball players spoke about safety and facility concerns at the North Mountain Park softball fields, citing lack of lights, loitering and drug paraphernalia, limited access to usable fields, and scheduling conflicts that restrict practice time and may deter participation. They also noted inadequate field amenities and support spaces compared to baseball, including makeshift outfield boundaries, limited privacy, and loss of their team room for concessions and team use.

**12. Unfinished Business - None**

**13. New Business**

**13.A. ACTION ITEM: 2026-27 Budget Committee Member Appointment**

The District received two applications for the Budget Committee. Because no DEC members were available to fill one of the two open seats, the Board agreed to appoint both applicants to the open positions.

- ❖ **Motion:** Director Ruby moved, and Director Ferguson seconded to appoint Dave Dotterer and Serena Robinson to the open seats on the district budget committee.

**Aye:** Dyson, Ferguson, Hatch, Rooklyn, Ruby

**Nay:** none

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

13.B. ACTION ITEM: Youth Activities and Academics Levy (YAAL) Request for Ballot Title

In preparation for renewing the Youth Activities and Academics Levy (YAAL), the board directed staff to prepare and submit Form SEL 805 to the Jackson County Elections Office.

- ❖ **Motion:** Director Rooklyn moved, and Vice Chair Hatch seconded to authorize Superintendent Hattrick to prepare and submit a Request for Ballot Title for the Youth Activities and Academic Levy for the May 19th, 2026 elections.

**Aye:** Dyson, Ferguson, Hatch, Rooklyn, Ruby

**Nay:** none

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

13.C. ACTION ITEM: Work Session Meeting Location

The board proposed holding our work session in person with Zoom as an option.

- ❖ **Motion:** Director Rooklyn moved, and Director Ferguson seconded that the board hold future work sessions in person at the District Office Conference room, with a Zoom option provided.

**Aye:** Dyson, Ferguson, Hatch, Rooklyn, Ruby

**Nay:** none

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

14. **Announcements and Appointments**

14.A. The board will hold a work session on Thursday, February 26, 2026, at 6:30 p.m. in the District Office, 885 Siskiyou Blvd., Ashland.

14.B. The next Regular Session meeting will be held on Thursday, March 12, 2026, at 6:30 p.m. in the City Council Chamber, 1175 E. Main St., Ashland.

15. **Executive Session**

Chair Dyson called for a motion to enter Executive Session under ORS 192.660(2)(i) to review and evaluate the performance of the chief executive officer or any other public officer, employee or staff member, unless the person whose performance is being reviewed and evaluated requests an open hearing.

- ❖ **Motion:** Director Rooklyn moved, and Director Hatch seconded that we enter Executive Session under ORS 192.660(2)(i), to review and evaluate the performance of the chief executive officer.

**Aye:** Dyson, Ferguson, Hatch, Rooklyn, Ruby

**Nay:** none

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

Executive Session is closed to the public; no decisions will be made in executive session; any action will be taken in open session. The regular meeting recesses for executive session at 8:20 p.m.

16. **Return to Open Session**

Chair Dyson reconvened the meeting in open session at 8:50 p.m.

**17. Adjourn**

There being no further discussion, Chair Dyson adjourned the meeting at 8:51 p.m.

---

Submitted by:  
Holly Rosser, Board Secretary

Date for Board Approval: March 12, 2026

DRAFT