

Minutes

1. Call to Order and Roll Check

Chair Dyson called the meeting to order. Roll check confirmed that the following members were present: Vice Chair Hatch, Director Rooklyn, Chair Dyson, Director Ferguson, and Director Ruby. Chair Dyson reminded everyone that the meeting was being recorded.

2. Land Acknowledgment

Student representative, Alice Carnahan, read the Land Acknowledgment aloud.

3. Adoption of Agenda *(At this time Board members are provided the opportunity to amend the Regular Session agenda.)*

❖ **Motion:** Director Ruby moved, and Vice Chair Hatch seconded adoption of the agenda as presented.

Aye: Rooklyn, Ruby, Ferguson, Dyson, Hatch

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 Rooklyn moved, and Director Ferguson seconded approval of the consent agenda items as presented.

Aye: Rooklyn, Ruby, Ferguson, Dyson, Hatch

Nay: none

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

4.A. Approval of Minutes

4.B. Personnel Report for August 2025

4.C. Board Meeting Schedule 2025-26

4.D. Superintendent Evaluation Process

4.E. Board-Superintendent Operating Agreements 2025-26

4.F. Policy Review Process

4.G. YMCA MOUs

5. Bond Report

5.A. ASD Bond Report July 2025

Executive Director of Operations, Steve Mitzel and HMK Project Director, Josh Whitaker, provided updates on the high school construction projects, mentioning the completion of the chiller and gear installation in the high school gym. Most of the seismic retrofit construction is now complete. Interior spaces are being turned over to teachers, and the removal of fences around the quad and science building is allowing staff and students to access the campus. Still to come are the installation of shade sails on the quad, the kiosk, and parking lot stripes.

6. ASD Housing Project Update

Matt Edlen from Eden and Company provided an update on the ASD housing project, focusing on the diligence phase and the exclusive negotiation agreement (ENA) with the district. The project aims to

deliver critically needed affordable housing, focusing on serving low- to middle-income families and teachers by offering a diverse mix of housing units and types that accommodate a wide range of residents, from singles to families.

During an early design phase, the development team held a series of public meetings with key community stakeholders (teachers/staff, civic leaders, etc.) and targeted resident groups, guiding the design direction. Alongside this early design process, the project secured nearly \$1 million in non-dilutive grant funding. Mr. Edlen reported that the project has received strong support from the city of Ashland.

The next steps are for Eden and Company to finalize their initial site diligence and report back to the district on their findings. Additional meetings will be scheduled to review the project scope and consider the necessary steps for potential Development and Disposition Agreement negotiations.

7. 2025-26 District Updates

Presenting via Zoom, Assistant Superintendent Michelle Cuddeback updated the board on program changes for the upcoming school year.

Elementary Schools

- Increase in the number of multigrade classrooms, including grade blends K/1, 2/3, and 4/5
- Subject Specialization Model / Homeroom-Based Model

AMS

- Two larger 7/8 teams, staffed with dedicated teachers in ELA, Math, Science, Social Studies, and Spanish
- One smaller team serving a focus group of students, providing integrated instruction along with academic support
- Reduced number of Encore class periods and elective classes

AHS

- Staffing reductions led to fewer class offerings, but the district is exploring new CTE opportunities and expanding offerings based on student interest

Professional development will be a priority, focusing on: Professional Learning Communities (PLCs), Science of Reading, and Equitable Mindsets, Systems, and Practices.

Ms. Cuddeback reminded parents that registration is mandatory, even for returning students. Please register your student if you haven't already done so.

8. Pacific Rim Bowl

Executive Director of Operations, Steve Mitzel, shared details and photos from the Pacific Rim Bowl, highlighting the cultural exchange and positive impact on the community. The event included a welcome barbecue, a peace ceremony, taiko drums, the Kitchell games, and the big Friday night game, with strong community participation. The longstanding tradition requires a tremendous effort to organize, but the connections and lasting memories made by the kids are priceless.

9. Recurring Reports: OSEA and AEA Reports will resume in September

10. Board Reports

Director Ruby enjoyed engaging and learning at the OSBA Summer Board Conference.

Director Ferguson has been studying board governance, reviewing policies, visiting sites with principals, discussing the budget with Director Ely, participating in the board retreat, and attending the OSBA Summer Conference. She is currently reading a book from the high school curriculum and is looking forward to the kick-off breakfast next week.

Director Rooklyn gained valuable insights at the OSBA Summer Conference and is collecting information for the upcoming YAAL initiative.

Vice Chair Hatch enjoyed the board retreat and working on strategies for collaboration as a board. He is excited about the community listening sessions the board plans to host this year. Mr. Hatch attended a meeting with Senator Merkley's staff and was relieved to learn that federal funds had been released.

After spending two full days at the board retreat, Chair Dyson took a well-needed break and thoroughly enjoyed everything Ashland has to offer, including attending performances, running, and spending time on the coast. She is now ready to get back to school.

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.*)
None

12. Student Board Representative Report

Student Board Representatives Alice Carnahan & Milo Leiserson shared the following summer highlights:

- Although the Pacific Rim Bowl resulted in a bad loss for Ashland, the atmosphere was electric, and the stands were more packed than ever
- The Fresh Start counselor retreat took place at Willow Wind, and two of the three Fresh Start sessions are now complete. They observed a lot of positive growth in the freshmen from the time they arrived until they left camp, and it was described as “magical.”
- The first day of school is on August 25th. Freshmen will meet with their Fresh Start counselors when they arrive on campus.
- The leadership team toured the quad and the seismic retrofit. The quad looks much better now with native plants and the grassy area. They are excited about the shade sails and kiosk. The quad was described as welcoming and a place where people feel they belong.

13. Superintendent Report

Superintendent Hattrick announced that the girls' high school soccer team will be traveling out of state today through Saturday.

Dr. Hattrick expressed deep gratitude to all the coaches, players, Phoenix-Talent School District, Steve & Michelle Mitzel, the rest of the PRB board, and everyone who supported the Pacific Rim Bowl events throughout the week. The engagement was impressive.

Superintendent Hattrick also provided the following updates:

- On August 2nd, Dr. Hattrick participated in Grizz Fest, the AHS Alumni event
- He reported on the successful teamwork at the two-day School Board Retreat
- The District Equity (DEC) requirements have been changed; the DEC is now a Superintendent Advisory Committee rather than a Board Committee. Superintendent Hattrick will create a DEC in the coming weeks and provide periodic updates to the board
- A recent meeting with Senator Merkley's Health & Education Advisor, Becca Damante, and Field Representative, Dahna Black, was collaborative and informative
- The two-day Lead Team retreat focused on collaborative learning, goal setting, and Professional Learning Communities (PLCs)
- Staff return on Monday, August 18th, for one week of professional development before school begins on August 25th
- The 2025-26 District Priorities are:
 - Instructional Excellence- Every student deserves strong teaching and learning.
 - Health Community- we are one, and together we build belonging and unity
 - Growth and Sustainability- through our resilience, we can continue to increase options for our students and ensure sustainability for the future.

14. Finance Report

14.A. Finance Report for the period ending July 31, 2025

Interim Director of Business Services Sherry Ely reported on the first month of the new fiscal year. After one month of revenue recorded, most of the revenue projections are in line with the budget. She noted that the SOESD flow-through will be higher than projected because our Student Services Department has found ways to provide previously purchased services in-house. Additionally, the June SSF estimate is approximately \$525,000 higher than the March estimate due, for the most part, to a decrease in student enrollment statewide. She has adjusted the projections to reflect an increase in flow-through dollars and SSF revenues.

The projected expenditures are preliminary; it won't be until after September payroll that Director Ely will be better able to project encumbrances for the year. She does not expect that we will need to draw more than \$5.2 million from the \$10 million loan. As a reminder, the district will draw a long-term full faith and credit loan to repay the short-term tax anticipated note (TAN) by the end of December. At this early stage in the year, Director Ely estimates our ending fund balance to be \$2,768,489, which is 6.31% of the projected expenditures. After the audit (week of Oct. 13) is complete, she will be able to report the 2024-25 ending fund balance.

15. New Business

15.A. ACTION ITEM: 2025-26 District/Board Goals

Superintendent Joseph Hattrick presented the aligned 2025-26 Goals for the District, Board, and Superintendent. All goals aim to support the Integrated Guidance Plan, which was approved in the 2024-25 school year through surveys, listening sessions, and collaborative efforts. All the goals focus on student achievement, safe environments, and financial growth. The goals are intentionally specific, allowing staff to focus without feeling overwhelmed by overly ambitious objectives. Loose and tight expectations refer to how expectations are communicated to the leadership team, who then create the framework for accountability. The board intends to use the presented goals as the District's Strategic Plan for the 2025-26 school year and possibly beyond.

❖ **Motion:** Director Rooklyn moved, and Director Hatch seconded adoption of the 2025-26 District/Board Goals as presented.

Aye: Rooklyn, Ruby, Ferguson, Dyson, Hatch

Nay: none

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

16. Announcements and Appointments

Chair Dyson read the following announcements:

16.A. Board Member Appointments: Vice Chair Hatch will serve as the board's legislative representative, Director Ruby will serve as the board representative to the Ashland Schools Foundation, and Director Rooklyn and Vice Chair Hatch will serve on the Superintendent Advisory Policy Workgroup.

16.B. The Board will meet for a work session on Thursday, August 28 at 6:30 PM via Zoom.

16.C. The board will hold its next Regular Session on Thursday, September 11, at 6:30 PM in the City Council Chamber, 1175 E. Main Street, Ashland, OR.

17. Adjourn

There being no further discussion, Chair Dyson adjourned the meeting at 8:05 PM.