

## **Minutes**

### **1. Call to Order and Roll Check**

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

### **2. Land Acknowledgment**

Student board rep, Alice Carnahan, read the Land Acknowledgement aloud.

### **3. Adoption of Agenda**

Chair Dyson requested to table agenda item 12.A. Integrated Guidance Q1 Report.

- ❖ **Motion:** Director Ruby moved, and Director Ferguson seconded adoption of the agenda as amended.

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

**Nay:** none

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

### **4. Consent Agenda**

4.A. Approval of Minutes

4.E. Elementary Prep Time MOA

4.B. Personnel Report

4.F. Mentor MOA

4.C. Enrollment Report for October

4.G. Walker Transfer and Reassignment MOA

4.D. AMS Dean Stipend MOA

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

### **5. Bond Report**

5.A. Monthly Bond Update – Work Completed in Sept. 2025

Executive Director of Operations, Steve Mitzel, presented the bond report. The shade sails for the high school quad have arrived. They are coordinating with Outlier to install them on a day when students are not on campus. A more detailed bond report will be provided in December after the work is completed and all bills are paid.

### **6. Lincoln School Update**

Executive Director of Operations, Steve Mitzel, provided the following updates on the status of Lincoln School.

- Engaging with a contractor in Eugene to reinforce the building and make it safe to enter.
- Once it is safe to enter, a local architect/ engineer will dismantle parts of the building to assess the extent of the damage.
- After the investigation, there will be an assessment of how to proceed and discussions about insurance coverage.
- An update will be given at next month's board meeting.

Although the board does not need to approve contracted work under \$10K, they asked Director Mitzel to update Superintendent Hattrick, who can then share progress with the board.

### **7. Finance Report**

7.A. Finance Report for the period ending Sept. 30, 2025

Via Zoom, Director of Business Services Sherry Ely reported that revenues continue to align with our budget, and she is encouraged by our ADM coming in above our estimates. ADM refers to enrollment, which is the

actual number of students enrolled in school, cumulative for the year. Ms. Ely is working with Piper Sandler on options for repaying our \$5.2 million TAN. Options for a five- and seven-year payback are highlighted in the next report. Director Ely noted that Lincoln School's financial situation is still uncertain. Repairs might force the district to borrow more than just the amount needed to pay off the TAN.

Projected payroll expenses have been reduced to reflect lower payroll costs, partly due to decreased healthcare premiums from staff reductions. We may need to adjust the claims side because of reduced premium inflows. At this early stage of the year, our Ending Fund Balance is estimated to be \$3,393,204, or 7.83% of the projected expenditures.

Additional highlights include:

- Cash flow remains tight until property taxes arrive in Nov-Dec.
- Title funds are lower due to federal-level issues.
- Funding for Outdoor School through OSU is decreasing because of federal cuts. We are working with organizations to secure grants that will cover all outdoor school expenses.
- We are monitoring Measure 98 funding to ensure we can cover the planned expenses for this school year.
- Director Ely will present a facilities bond report at the November board meeting.

#### 7.B. Full Faith and Credit Loan Potential Plan

Via Zoom, Director of Business Services Sherry Ely reviewed the timeline for repaying our \$5.2 million short-term Tax Anticipation Note (TAN). The district drew the TAN in June, and the money is due by the end of December. To repay the loan, the district will need to secure a long-term Full Faith and Credit loan. Director Ely shared two options for this: a 5-year and a 7-year repayment plan. Depending on the district's ongoing financial needs, including Lincoln School, the district might need to take out a larger loan than the \$5.2 million to cover the TAN repayment, but not exceeding \$10 million.

Analysis assumptions include:

- SSF 10.27% biennial increase – split 49% / 51%
- \$100K Property tax & YAAL increase per year, with all other revenues staying flat
- Debt service payments in June and December.
- 3% COLA; 3.25% Step; 10% increase in associated payroll costs
- All other costs- 3% annual increase

Director Ely explained the reason behind seeing cash flow and revenue reductions in the estimates for 2026-2027. This is due to how the district has to account for the loan proceeds – both the funds used to cover the cash flow issues – and then the funds being borrowed to pay back the TAN, which then rolls over to a Full Faith and Credit loan. The proposed plan is to take out a 7-year FFC loan with the option to repay it in 5 years or less. Once the resolution to apply for an FFC loan is approved, our agent, Piper Sandler, will assist us in bidding for a long-term loan with the best rate and flexible terms. Since the timeline for assessing Lincoln School and bidding for a loan likely won't align, Ms. Ely explained an option for a capital loan, which is much more flexible than borrowing money to cover expenses.

#### 7.C. ACTION: Resolution 2025-2026 B-2 Full Faith and Credit Loan

After discussion, the board decided they would like more time to review the resolution to apply for the Full Faith and Credit Loan.

❖ **Motion:** Director Rooklyn moved, and Director Ruby seconded to table Resolution 2025-2026 B-2 and bring an updated version to the Oct. 23 work session.

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

**Nay:** none

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

### **8. Recurring Reports**

#### 8.A. OSEA Report

OSEA Representative James Johnson shared that AMS is busy preparing to host Equity and Wellness Day. Recruitment has begun for the Oregon Battle of the Books team. OSEA is advocating to keep the Affordable Care

Act tax credits and urges everyone to call their representatives to express support for the enhanced tax credits for affordable healthcare. The phone number is 855-493-4407.

#### 8.B. AEA Report

AEA Co-president Kelly Martin shared reports from the school sites. Teachers are working hard to navigate increased class sizes, blended classrooms, a new curriculum, managing students with behavioral issues with less EA time, and organizing field trips with additional liability requirements. Ashland Connect is seeing an increase in enrollment.

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

Student Board Reps Alice Carnahan & Milo Leiserson shared recent happenings at the high school and beyond.

- Oct. 24 - Homecoming Football Game
- Oct. 25 – Homecoming Dance
- Oct. 25 – Monster Dash
- AHS boys soccer is ranked #2 in the state
- New dance team at AHS is doing ½ time shows at the games
- Seniors are busy applying for colleges right now
- Leadership started a monthly meeting with all student union leaders to provide a platform for connection and to elevate everyone's voices.
- Student union leaders attended the Professor Powell event

#### 9. **Board Reports**

Director Ruby attended the Professor Powell event, was impressed with the Pedal Power Program, attended the ASF board meeting, took part in the SO Pride Parade, and plans to watch The Kelly Clarkson Show next Thursday.

Director Ferguson is tuned into the AHS girls' soccer team this year, noting that Coach Utaff is doing a great job. She enjoyed the Helman Hoedown, attended the Oregon Govt. Ethics Commission (OGEC) training, participated in the SO Pride Parade, sat in on the panel lecture with Professor Powell, and continues to read books from the high school reading list.

Director Rooklyn reported attending a great open house at AHS and watched the high school jazz band at the OSF Greenshow.

Vice Chair Hatch enjoyed the SO Pride Parade, attended the OGEC training, and went to the welcome back picnic for Willow Wind.

Chair Dyson attended the OGEC training, participated in a community meeting about the future of Science Works, was impressed by the high school jazz band playing at the Greenshow, and took part in the SO Pride Parade. She also went to the first AHAA arts meeting of the year and encouraged everyone to join the Monster Dash event.

#### 10. **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.*)

Chair Dyson read Jennifer Carstensen's public comment submitted via email about the AMS beginning band program, requesting the re-addition of a second beginning band class for the second term.

#### 11. **Superintendent Report**

Superintendent Hattrick was pleased to announce the Rotary Student of the Month, Savannah Elster, a senior volleyball player at AHS. Savannah demonstrates curiosity, hard work, kindness, and leadership. She has a deep love for learning, especially in history and social studies, and has shared her dream of one day becoming a teacher. Her teachers see her not only as an exceptional student but also as someone who uplifts those around her—an individual who takes pride in her school and community. Congratulations, Savannah.

In accordance with HB 2453, the district held its first District Equity Committee (DEC) meeting on September 15, 2025. The DEC's role is to advise the superintendent on the education equity impacts of policy decisions, inform the superintendent about the larger district-wide climate and the experiences of underserved student groups, and provide guidance to the board and superintendent on how to best support these areas. Superintendent Hattrick will continue to keep the board and community informed as this group evolves.

Superintendent Hattrick, along with several other school leaders, attended the Oregon Equity Summit and delivered a presentation on how to establish and maintain affinity groups. He expressed his gratitude for the district's participation in the SO Pride Parade. Dr. Hattrick attended Professor John Powell's event and shared a quote that

resonated. He announced that October is Principal Appreciation Month and encouraged the board and audience to celebrate their child's principal! He also announced that ASF is organizing a viewing party to watch The Kelly Clarkson Show at Science Works on Thursday, Oct. 16. This event is in celebration of all ASD staff who made sacrifices as the district navigated a financial crisis.

As times remain as uncertain as ever, the Superintendent reaffirmed his commitment to equity, inclusion, and belonging for all by reading the following statement:

*"Tonight, I want to take a moment to reaffirm something that is at the heart of everything we do in the **Ashland School District**—our unwavering commitment to **every** student, **every** staff member, and **every** family in our community. We welcome All...as you are!*

*We are committed to ensuring **every person who walks through our doors deserves to feel safe, valued, and seen for who they truly are.** While the world outside our doors may feel scary and confusing at times, while at the Ashland school district, we want you to know that you are valued and you are loved. Of course, we have policies that guide our work around how to treat people; but more importantly, it is our shared responsibility to bring these commitments to life in our classrooms, hallways, and workplaces every single day.*

*We know that equity is not about policies—it's about **people.** It's about ensuring that each student, no matter their background, race, gender identity, ability, or*

*circumstance, has the support and opportunities they need to thrive. It's about uplifting **our staff** so they can do their best work in an environment where they feel respected and valued. It's about partnering with **our families** to create a community where every child feels a sense of belonging.*

*As we move forward, we do so with intention, using compassion and love to remove barriers, challenge inequities, and create spaces where all voices are heard. This is not just a goal—it is a promise. A promise that in the Ashland School District, **every student belongs, every staff member matters, and together, we will continue to build a future where everyone has the opportunity to succeed.***

*Thank you for being part of this work, this district, and thank you for standing with us in our commitment to **equity, inclusion, and belonging** for all. I am personally thankful and proud to live, and lead in the Ashland School District Community!"*

## 12. Unfinished Business

### 12.A. Integrated Guidance 2025-26 Quarter 1 Report – TABLED

### 12.B. Youth Truth Presentation

Assistant Superintendent Michelle Cuddeback shared a high-level report of Youth Truth data from the 2024-25 Youth Truth survey. She explained that the district must be cautious about sharing detailed data publicly to protect anonymity. School leaders review the data disaggregated to identify trends, recognize strengths, find opportunities for improvement, inform the integrated guidance plan, and guide resource allocation.

The survey was given to students, staff and families from grades 3-12. There were 2963 respondents. The district has lots of historical data, pre-pandemic through post.

The survey gathers responses from the categories below, with results shown as positive response percentages and ASD's national ranking.

- |                  |                       |
|------------------|-----------------------|
| 1. Engagement    | 4. Academic Challenge |
| 2. Relationships | 5. Belonging          |
| 3. Culture       |                       |

Director Rooklyn requested a report covering data from 2018 to 2026, if possible, for next year. Principals typically share their survey data with site councils, which are usually involved in the school improvement plan process.

## 13. New Business

### 13.A. OSAS Data Report

Superintendent Hattrick announced that ASD performed exceptionally well on the 2024-25 OSAS Assessments. Both ELA and Math saw notable gains, while Science remained steady. Superintendent Hattrick feels good about these results. Given the challenges the district faced last year, the positive outcome demonstrates that nothing will get in the way of learning!

### 13.B. Class Size/ Instructional Model Report

Per the AEA collective bargaining agreement, at each year's October school board meeting, the Superintendent and/or principals will report on each school's plan toward achieving class size and student daily contact composition goals that maximize student learning with resources available. (Student contacts = caseloads)

Superintendent Hattrick provided a review of the current model, where the average class size is 25. We are continuously monitoring this model and prioritizing professional development as we work to improve the district's financial situation. We will adjust the right-sizing plan to determine the appropriate staffing levels. We are still navigating our financial dilemma and need to continue staffing according to enrollment levels.

#### 13.C. Cell Phone Policy Update

Superintendent Hattrick provided an update on our timeline for revising the policy on cell phone use during the school day. We are currently following our existing Policy JFCEB, but we are working on updating it to include the requirements outlined in Executive Order 25-09. The revised version will be reviewed by the board at the next work session and presented at the next regular session for public review and possible approval, ensuring we are ready to implement the updates by Jan. 1, 2026. Changes to the policy include a bell-to-bell ban on cell phone use, storage, and a process for exceptions.

#### 13.D. AI Policy Update

Superintendent Hattrick stated that AI is here to stay. Our current policy, adopted on 5/9/24, is adequate but will need updates to include recent language and requirements related to AI education and accessibility. We plan to consult with teachers to gather their input on how they want to incorporate AI in their classrooms, including grading support. We aim to present a draft revision at the November 20 work session for the board's review.

#### 14. Announcements and Appointments

Chair Dyson read the following announcements:

14.A. The board will hold a work session on Thursday, October 23, at 6:30 p.m. on Zoom.

14.B. The next Regular Session meeting will be held on Thursday, November 6, 2025, beginning at 6:30 p.m. in the City Council Chamber, 1175 E. Main St., Ashland.

#### 15. Executive Session

❖ **Motion:** Director Hatch moved, and Director Ferguson seconded that the board move into executive session under ORS 192.660(2)(i), to evaluate the performance of the chief executive officer.

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

**Nay:** none

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

Chair Dyson stated that the board will now enter executive session, under ORS 192.660(2)(i), to review and evaluate the performance of the chief executive officer. Executive Session is not open to the public. No decisions will be made in executive session; any action will be taken in open session. The regular meeting will resume upon completion of our closed session.

The public was dismissed. The board meeting recessed for executive session at 8:33 PM.

#### 16. Return to Open Session

At 9:06 PM, Chair Dyson resumed the regular session meeting.

#### 17. Adjourn

There being no further discussion, Chair Dyson adjourned the meeting at 9:06 PM.

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Submitted by:  
Holly Rosser, Board Secretary

Date for Board Approval: November 13, 2025