

MINUTES

1. Call to Order and Roll Check

Chair Rebecca Dyson called the meeting to order and a roll check confirmed that all members were present.

2. Land Acknowledgment

Student Representative Owen Taylor read the Land Acknowledgment.

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

Vice Chair Jill Franko requested an amendment to the agenda, moving the Sunstone item earlier following the Consent Agenda. Vice Chair Franko moved the agenda change and Director Ruby seconded this motion, which carried by unanimous vote of the members present.

4. Consent Agenda *(All items may be adopted by a single motion unless pulled for special consideration.)*

Director Skuratowicz asked questions about the Personnel Report:

- What is the peer-to-peer mentor program? Assistant Superintendent Michelle Cuddeback explained that these are stipends given to an experienced teacher who agrees to mentor a new teacher.
- Why do we have some high school counselors listed as temporary? Ms. Cuddeback said these are counselors who are awaiting full licensure until they fulfill all of their requirements. The positions are permanent, but the occupants are temporary until they are certified.

Director Ruby asked about what appears to be an unusually long list of personnel actions? Ms. Cuddeback said that some of these were missed from earlier spring reports, some were positions that moved from permanent to temporary, and quite a few are corrections. Director Franko suggested they might consider a way to let the Board know a bit more detail on the monthly report to help directors understand the differences. Ms. Cuddeback agreed and Dr. Hatrick suggested adding a column that just said “corrections” that could be checked.

Director Skuratowicz moved and Director Hatch the approval of the consent agenda as presented. The motion carried by unanimous vote of the members present.

4.A. Minutes of Previous Meetings for August 8 and October 10, 2024, regular sessions and September 9 and October 3, 2024, special sessions.

4.B. Personnel Report for November 2024

4.C. Enrollment Report for November 5, 2024

4.D. ASD-AEA Memorandum of Agreement: AHS Head Coach Boys Volleyball

4.E. Pinehurst Tuition and Transportation Agreement-Annual renewal for 2024-2025

[Moved from **New Business**:

Update on Sunstone Housing Collaborative Project

Sunstone Executive Director Krista Palmer reported on the Collaborative's work towards developing an affordable housing project on District-owned property. They issued a Request for Proposals (RFP) for a development team and have nearly completed a draft master plan working with a local architect. They released the RFP on November 6 with assistance from the Housing Development Center in Portland. A pre-proposal meeting was held on Tuesday, November 12, with 38 people participating. There was a high level of interest and many questions. Responses to the RFP are due on December 2. There will be a scoring and interview process, followed by a tentative selection of developer partners. The Sunstone recommendations will come to the Board at its December 19 special session.

Krista and Sunstone board members did community engagement by doing door-to-door visits to neighbors, during which 95 homes were visited. They hosted information tables at public events like the Growers Market. They did a press release and a survey of school district staff. About half of staff respondents said they are interested in access to attainable housing in Ashland.

Sunstone has also developed potential partnerships. The Oregon Child Development Coalition operates out of the former Briscoe school building. They have additional child care capacity and could enroll more children. Child care services are planned in the new development. The HDC, Ashland Supportive Housing, and the district's Inspire Program are all interested in potential partnerships. One Sunstone goal is to bring together community helpers in a location that could serve many in order to honor the land, the school district, and the Ashland community supports.

Director Skuratowicz said that teachers have asked that housing goes to district employees or families moving in who would have children that could be potential students. Ms. Palmer said that Sunstone is doing its best to target these families while complying with Oregon fair housing laws. District families will be a priority and family income will be a determinant in selecting buyers and occupants. Property managers will establish priorities but the details are still being worked out. Keeping prices affordable for the long term is the goal.

People interested in their progress can sign up for the Sunstone newsletter or email Info@SunstoneHC.org.

5. School Report - Willow Wind Community Learning Center

Willow Wind Principal Debbie Pew and teacher Charles Henry presented works written by students in Mr. Henry's 4th and 5th grade poetry unit. Mr. Henry explained that students learned about poetry and then each one was given a prompt and asked to write a poem beginning with that phrase. This group of students read poems that all began with "I am..." The creativity and diversity of student experiences came through in some impressive work. The Board members thanked the students, Mr. Henry, and Principal Pew.

6. Recurring Reports

6.A. AHS Student Report

AHS Co-president Ella Robinson was attending her soccer banquet and student representatives Owen Taylor Azaleah Davis-Powell reported. Mr. Taylor said that homecoming activities included a fabulous dance and an all-school assembly. A record number of students have participated in one or more activities, including the game. This is reversing a trend of several years with low participation. The student leaders want to promote student engagement.

Ms. Davis-Powell is coordinating the upcoming blood drive with Red Cross for community members and students that AHS leads semi-annually. Students need to be 17 years of age and older. The annual scavenger hunt – in which students search for answers to academic questions – is just finishing. AHS DECCA teams did well in a recent competition held in Klamath Falls, with several teams placing. Winter sports are starting with teams in early training. They are entering a quieter period during which students prepare for first semester final exams and student leadership is holding smaller events to keep students connected.

6.B. AEA Report

AEA representative Alan Parowski read site reports from Ashland Connect, AMS, Bellview, Helman, Walker, and Willow Wind. Holiday related festivities like the Halloween carnival at Bellview and Walker's Fall Festival were big successes. The AMS cross country girls team won a state championship. The Willow Wind Pumpkin Festival was attended by many families. Helman is focusing on gratitude and giving. Ashland Connect is happy to be back at the TRAILS site and students are interacting well.

6.C. OSEA Report

OSEA member James Johnson reported that classified staff worked with AMS students to help create sets and props for a play. A new volunteer coach has taken Karl Pryor's place as the scavenger coach. Jen Marsden at AHS is the Aspire Coordinator and helps students complete the FAFSA application for financial aid. She had great success this year, as AHS was one of the top schools for completion of the application.

7. Board Reports

Director Skuratowicz reported that she attended the annual OSBA road show held in Ashland. They met the new OSBA executive director, heard about bylaws amendments being proposed, and had discussions about contacting state legislators regarding school funding needs. Ms. Skuratowicz is working with Jackson County Systems of Care on a project to address chronic absenteeism in schools. She is conducting interviews with families and administrators around the county to identify the reasons for absent students and work on solutions. Chronic absenteeism is defined as missing 10% or more of school attendance.

Director Ruby attended the annual OSBA conference in Portland and said there were some great sessions. School board members talked about the need to advocate legislatively for better school funding. Vice Chair Franko is enjoying the high school basketball season. She convened the final meeting of the Innovation Committee on Enrollment, where members did a wrap-up of their findings and recommendations. She thanked the volunteers who served over the year.

She commented on a California school board association that supports school districts with surplus property and by building affordable housing. She said that schools across Oregon need help increasing enrollment to secure more revenue. Director Hatch also spoke to the urgency of communicating with state legislators for school funding. Our legislators are not always as aware as they could be about the financial challenges that schools face and the mandates that draw down money we were using for instruction and student supports. The more people we have carrying these messages the better. He also attended the Willow Wind Pumpkin Festival and had a great time.

Chair Dyson echoed the support for school funding. She both ran and volunteered for the recent Ashland Community Foundation Monster Dash. This year they had 1,300 runners, a record level of participation. ACF netted about \$40,000. The blood drive at the high school is open and students held the first band concert of the year. AHS is performing *The Crucible* as its fall theater production and she plans to take in a performance.

8. Report from Student Board Representatives

AHS student representatives Taylor and Davis-Powell got a tour of the bond construction work that has been done at the high school. Mr. Taylor commented that it was enlightening to see how much work has been done on the Humanities building especially. They gave thanks to the bond team and said students will get great benefit from the changes. Ms. Davis-Powell said very few students have actually seen the interior changes yet, and she appreciated the new classrooms and enhanced security.

9. 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.*)

AEA President and Helman teacher Tia McLean shared comments of gratitude for school officials and community.

Marie Caballero Uhtoff, the girls' soccer coach, spoke about the need for a practice field at Mountain and East Main.

Nathan Van de Graaff, a Bellview parent and board member of the Ashland Soccer Club, spoke about the need for a practice field at Mountain and East Main.

Abdiaziz Guled, AMS Youth Advocate and soccer coach, spoke about the need for a practice field at Mountain and East Main.

Kaiko'o Victor, a JV AHS soccer coach, spoke about the need for a practice field at Mountain and East Main.

10. District Staff Updates

10.A. Superintendent Report

Superintendent Hattrick reported that our school board meetings coincide with the monthly Ashland Rotary Club's celebration of the AHS Student of The Month and that day's lunch meeting honored 12th grade student Dutch Linerud who carries a 4.0 GPA, plays football and

golf, and is a member of student leadership. He is an outstanding student athlete with a great work ethic and a positive attitude.

Dr. Hattrick also said he has been doing a deep dive into the school district's budget. Next Thursday the board will hold a special session on the budget to share some of his findings. He has taken a 5-year look back and is in the process of review, looking at systems, the history of our current situation, the current state of the budget, and short and long-term plans. He stated his commitment to finding ways to avoid a repeat of this history. Fiscal stability for the school district is the goal. That meeting will begin at 7:00 pm in the City Council Chamber, 1175 E. Main Street.

Dr. Hattrick acknowledged the successful Monster Dash, which was his first, and thanked the Ashland Schools Foundation and the community for their steadfast support. He reported that the district continues its bargaining with AEA and is hoping to finish by winter break. The group is engaging with a collaborative spirit. He plans to attend a performance of *The Crucible* at the high school.

10.B. Enrollment Report 2024-2025 School Year

Director of Student Services April Harrison presented the district enrollment and exit counts as of October 2024. Her data covered both full-time and part-time enrollment trends across the past three school years by site. The 2024-2025 enrollment snapshot shows enrollment by school and grade. The also displayed a snapshot by graduation cohorts. Data from grades 6-12 still include students who entered the district during the open enrollment period and grades 1-5 are after the end of open enrollment.

Director Skuratowicz observed that enrollment fall-off starts when students reach the end of the elementary grades. Ms. Harrison suggested that older students have more options and families may choose that time to move for various reasons.

Data showing enrolment by race and ethnicity do have students who are double counted. Data by special programs shows that our IDEA specific student count is somewhat low compared to other districts in the region. 504 plans are for students who need accommodations and supports in classrooms. IDEA students need specially designed instructional approaches.

The report on student exits combines students who move and those who departed to other schools. Ms. Harrison will work on getting this data cleaned so those categories are reported separately. We are getting better data now about where Ashland students are going to attend other public schools. She is continuing to evaluate the reasons that families choose to send their students to other schools and whether Ashland could take steps to retain them?

Ms. Harrison next reviewed class sizes in the elementary schools. Director Skuratowicz asked if they could see a comparison with other schools in our surrounding area in Jackson County and Director Hatch requested some historical data comparisons. Director also asked about data pre-COVID compared with post-COVID.

Similar data charts were presented for AMS class sizes, trimester section sizes, semester section sizes, and trimester teacher student loads. The high school data showed Semester 1 class sizes by subject over three years and the Semester 1 section sizes. She also presented Semester 1 teacher student loads over three years.

The transfer analysis reports showed attendance in the district by non-resident students as we slowly phase out students who entered in the open enrollment period. School districts are tending to be generous in authorizing inter-district transfers for employees to enroll their kids in the districts where they work. There is more variation with general inter-district transfers.

Projected enrollment losses coming up show continuing erosion as the last of the open enrollment students move up and out of the Ashland school system.

11. Unfinished Business

11.A. Capital Bond

11.A.1) Monthly Bond Report - October 2024

Executive Director of Operations Steve Mitzel said that as the bond work approaches the finish line there is less to report each month. HMK Program Director Mike Freeman reported that some of the classrooms and other spaces in both Humanities and Science buildings are being turned back over to the high school. The Science building is also receiving security upgrades, IT infrastructure improvements, and HVAC systems. Third floor finishes are happening in Humanities. The elevator tower and new accessible rest rooms are the big projects being completed there. The guard rails are in place. There are fire alarm upgrades in other buildings.

The English building rest room upgrades are completed but Mr. Mitzel reported that they cannot be used until the fire alarms for the building are activated. The elevator is coming soon, once they finish the third-floor work and complete an inspection. He acknowledged that temperatures are still fluctuating in some spaces because they have not yet been able to install thermostat controls. As those are installed and programmed the temperatures will become more stable. There may be a period of time during which the HVAC options are balanced to accommodate different conditions, including weather conditions, occupancy, etc. We are building the system as we are occupying the buildings.

11.A.2) ACTION ITEM: HMK presented an amendment to the arkitek contract for the AHS seismic design

Mr. Freeman presented the HMK recommendation to award Design Services Contract Amendment 6 to arkitek:design&architecture for the Science and Humanities Modernization Project at Ashland High School, in the amount of \$290,000.00 for Science Building Seismic Design Services. Vice Chair Franko moved to approve this recommendation and Director Skuratowicz seconded. The motion carried by unanimous vote of the members present.

11.A.3) ACTION ITEM: HMK recommends a contract to Outlier Construction to serve as the CM|GC for Seismic Strengthening to the AHS Science building.

The planned seismic work on the Science building will be on the exterior primarily, with a couple of exceptions on some corners. This will not impact the new roof or finished interior spaces. The goal is to do the work during summer break. The team plans to start early so work can begin immediately when students are gone. Director Ruby asked if this improvement would impact insurance costs and Mr. Freeman said that this is unknown at the present time.

HMK recommends that the Board award the CM|GC Contract for the Science Building Seismic Rehabilitation Project at Ashland High School to Outlier Construction and that the Board authorize a Pre-Construction Services contract in the amount Not to Exceed \$75,000.00. Director Skuratowicz moved to approve this recommendation and Director Hatch seconded. The motion carried by unanimous vote of the members present.

12. New Business

12.A. Update on Sunstone Housing Collaborative Project 10 minutes
THIS ITEM MOVED EARLIER IN THE AGENDA. Please see above.

12.B. ACTION ITEM: Integrated Guidance/ Student Investment Account (SIA) Summative and 4th Quarter 2024 Reports.

TRAILS Principal Ericka Beck-Brattin presented an update on the Integrated Guidance/Student Investment Account grant programs. The areas of focus are:

- Mental health services
- Behavioral support
- Academic Improvement
- Support for English learners

Major activities were identified for each of these areas and funding allocated for them.

Challenges in meeting all of the goals included:

- Staffing shortages
- Funding
- New legislative mandates with associated new costs
- Expenses related to new Paid Leave Oregon

Director Skuratowicz asked about the new requirements under SB819 which require school districts to limit the use of abbreviated days for SPED students. This has required adding staff to safely support students who spend a full day in the schools so compliance costs have been significant. The state did not provide resources to districts for compliance with the new rules.

Overall, Principal Beck-Brattin said that the integrated plan is a great tool in helping districts identify and articulate goals with associated strategies. A future goal is to increase engagement across all constituencies in both setting goals and monitoring compliance.

Director Ruby thanked Principal Beck-Brattin for the reporting. Some districts are minimally compliant and he was glad to hear that we are focused on prevention action and a holistic approach. Students going through prevention trainings is very helpful.

Superintendent Hattrick said that the reports do require Board approval and recommended a motion to approve both the Student Investment Account and Integrated Guidance Quarter 4 and Summative Reports. Director Skuratowicz moved this approval and Director Hatch seconded. The motion carried by unanimous vote of the members present.

12.C. ACTION ITEM: Assessment Program and Instructional Materials

Assistant Superintendent Cuddeback requested that the Board authorize the beginning of a process for reviewing our student assessment tool iREADY and the supplemental instructional materials embedded within it. A group has been assembled to review other current options with the intention of describing a process and criteria for evaluating them. We currently pay \$78,000 for software to assess skills in Reading and Math only for K-8. The district believes we can obtain other products that could do more at a lower cost.

Director Ruby said that he appreciates the idea of getting better tools at lower cost. Director Hatch said that he has not been satisfied with the iReady data. He would like to see products that give the Board a “live snapshot” of the performance of our students, potentially integrated with Khan Academy type AI approaches to see in real time how our students are responding. Is there potential for integration of these tools into our online offerings?

Vice Chair Franko supports any options for consolidating or integrating with other software. Ms. Cuddeback noted that this approach would also meet our dyslexia requirement. Chair Dyson said that she would like an approach that was not as event dependent (a single point-in-time test), but more of a real time learning assessment?

Ms. Cuddeback proposed doing some pilot testing of approaches this year. These will have a temporary impact on our assessment scores. Students doing a pilot of a new system would not be required to do iREADY at the same time. Director Skuratowicz asked if iREADY would essentially serve as our control? Testing a new approach for a short time frame may also restrict SBAC improvement in that period. The eleventh-grade summative data is SBAC. We want students committing to that so that the data acquired will be robust. The efficacy of the assessments we use are important and the products should be trusted by teachers. AHS is also looking at some interim assessment tools.

Superintendent Hattrick recommended that the board approve a motion to authorize the process to begin researching and implementing new tools for student assessment. Director Hatch moved and Director Skuratowicz seconded the authorization of this motion. The motion carried by unanimous vote of the members present.

12.D. ACTION ITEMS: OSBA annual board election and Bylaws amendments

The Board acted on one candidate and three recommendations submitted by the Oregon School Boards Association (OSBA)).

Ms. Dawn Watson of the Phoenix-Talent School Board was the sole candidate running to represent the Southern Region on the OSBA Board. Vice Chair Jill Franko moved the nomination to elect Ms. Watson and Director Eva Skuratowicz seconded the nomination. The motion carried by unanimous vote of the members present.

Resolution 1 submitted by OSBA outlined a new dues structure and a schedule by which dues would be annually and predictably increased for all member school boards. Director Daniel Ruby moved and Director Skuratowicz seconded the approval of the new dues structure as proposed. The motion carried by unanimous vote of the members present.

Resolution 2 would act on the recommendation from the Oregon LGBTQIA2S+ School Board Members Advisory Committee to create the Oregon School Board Members PRIDE Caucus (OSBM PRIDE) and designate a seat on the OSBA Board of Directors and Legislative Policy Committee for that Caucus. Its goal is to promote quality education for all students with an emphasis on the unique needs of LGBTQIA2S+ students, staff and board members.

Director Skuratowicz moved and Director Russell Hatch seconded the approval of Resolution 2 as proposed. The motion carried by unanimous vote of the members present.

Resolution 3 proposed amendments to the OSBA Bylaws submitted by the OSBA Board of Directors. These changes update language and definitions in a variety of areas. They amend the OSBA Board to include a representative of the OSBM PRIDE caucus on both the Board and the OSBA Legislative Policy Committee, joining similar representatives of the Board Members of Color Caucus and the Rural School Board Members Caucus. The majority of OSBA Board of Directors are members elected from defined geographic regions across the state. The Ashland School District is in the Southern Region.

Director Ruby moved and Vice Chair Franko seconded the approval of the OSBA Bylaws Amendments as submitted. The motion carried by unanimous vote of the members present.

13. Announcements and Appointments

Chair Dyson read the announcements of upcoming meetings.

14. Adjourn

There being no further business, Chair Dyson adjourned the meeting at 9:50 pm.

Submitted by:
Jackie Schad, Board Secretary

Dated for Board Approval: December 19, 2024

Board Chair Rebecca Dyson

Superintendent Joseph Hatrick

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