

## **Minutes**

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

Director Dyson welcomed everyone to the first official session of the new year and called the meeting to order. Roll check confirmed that all members were present: Dyson, Ruby, Rooklyn, Ferguson, and Hatch.

### **2. Land Acknowledgment**

Director Hatch read the Land Acknowledgment.

### **3. Organization of the Board for 2025-2026 School Year**

Director Dyson introduced the annual items of business.

#### **3.A. Oath of Office**

Recently elected board members Deltra Ferguson, Jordan Rooklyn, and Rebecca Dyson read aloud the Board Members' Oath of Office.

#### **3.B. ACTION ITEM: Election of Board Chair (Policy BCB)**

- ❖ **Motion:** Director Hatch moved, and Director Ferguson seconded to nominate Rebecca Dyson as Board Chair for the 2005-2026 school year. The motion carried by unanimous vote of the five members present.

#### **3.C. ACTION ITEM: Election of Board Vice Chair (Policy BCB)**

- ❖ **Motion:** Chair Dyson moved, and Director Ruby seconded to nominate Russell Hatch as Board Vice Chair for the 2005-2026 school year. The motion carried by unanimous vote of the five members present.

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

Chair Dyson requested that we amend Agenda Item 8, Recurring Reports, by removing OSEA and AEA Reports and adding the AHS Student Representative Report.

- ❖ **Motion:** Director Ruby moved, and Vice Chair Hatch seconded adoption of the agenda as amended. The motion carried by unanimous vote of the five members present.

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

Director Rooklyn requested to pull Item 5.F, Revised Policy for BD/BDA Board Meetings, and suggested that the board limit their meetings to 2.5 hours instead of 3 hours to respect staff, student, and family time.

- ❖ **Motion:** Director Rooklyn moved, and Vice Chair Hatch seconded, to adopt the revised Policy BD/BDA Board Meetings to reflect the new board meeting times of 6:30-9:00, with the possibility of two 30-minute extensions, upon board approval. The motion carried by unanimous vote of the five members present.

- ❖ **Motion:** Director Rooklyn moved, and Vice Chair Hatch seconded approval of the consent agenda with the exception of item 5.F. The motion carried by unanimous vote of the five members present.

5.A. Approval of Minutes

5.B. Personnel Report for July 2025

5.C. Willow Wind- Alternative Education Program Assurances

5.D. Superintendent Professional Development Plan

5.E. Resolution No. 2025-26 B-1 - Annual Designations for 2025-26

5.F. Revised Policy BD/BDA Board Meetings

## 6. Food Waste Audit Presentation

Recent 8th-grade TRAILS graduate, Alma Galicia, shared her capstone project on food waste at TRAILS Outdoor School. Alma conducted a food waste audit and used the collected data to provide solutions for reducing waste.

Alma made the following recommendations to help reduce food waste at TRAILS:

- Share basket for unopened food
- Only take what you can eat
  - Clear signage
  - Kitchen staff cut oranges into quarters
- Lengthening lunch period and moving recess before lunch
- Food scrap pick-up program
  - Secure bins picked up 2x per week
  - Reduce food going into the landfill
  - Education on how to separate food
  - Less money spent on trash
  - Lowers methane emissions
- TRAILS to be a pilot program for one year

The board was impressed with Alma's presentation and would be interested in a follow-up report to learn about the results of the pilot program.

## 7. Facilities Report

Executive Director of Operations, Steve Mitzel, provided an update on the final stages of the high school bond projects. The projects are approaching completion. Furniture will be returned to the library around July 21, and crews will continue working down to the first floor. Pavers are being installed in the quad. Some delays occurred due to the need to repair part of the main water line and the presence of outside groups on campus. Currently, there are between 40 and 50 workers on site daily. Reach out to Steve if you would like a hard-hat tour of the construction zone. A more detailed bond report will be presented in August, which is approximately two weeks before the project is finished.

## 8. Recurring Reports

### 8.A. Student Board Representative Report

Alice Carnahan and Milo Leiserson, the 2025-26 student board representatives, attended the July meeting and gave the following updates:

- Fresh Start counselors retreat will happen on August 9<sup>th</sup>
- Three groups of 9<sup>th</sup> grade Fresh Start sessions will take place the week of August 11<sup>th</sup>
- Basketball, soccer, football, and XC summer practices are going in full swing on campus as they prepare for fall/ winter seasons
- Students are excited to see their campus after the construction project is complete
- Pacific Rim Bowl, a football match that takes place every two years between Ashland and the Japan Allstars, is happening in Ashland at the AHS turf field on July 25<sup>th</sup>
- Nice to see AHS Band, Rowing, and Football in the 4<sup>th</sup> of July parade this year

## 9. Board Reports

Director Ruby has been paying attention to legislation regarding school funding and climate curriculum.

Director Ferguson expressed gratitude to the staff and former board members who have been very supportive and helpful. She will continue her self-study board work and enjoyed marching in the 4<sup>th</sup> of July parade.

Director Rooklyn expressed appreciation for the onboarding she has received from the staff and previous board members. She is looking forward to all that is ahead.

Vice Chair Hatch was invited to speak at the Democratic Party of Oregon's education caucus meeting. They were interested in getting a direct view of what the experience was like from the perspective of a school board member. Mr. Hatch said it was a positive meeting with a focus on collaborative efforts moving forward. They hope to see more shared CTE programs between districts and increased opportunities for collaboration between high schools and colleges.

Chair Dyson was pleased to see the new board members join the 4th of July parade by marching alongside our city council members and state representatives.

**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.*)

Ann Gaffney expressed her concerns about our school board election process. The current system of running for a specific seat creates challenges with politicking. She suggests the board consider switching to an open seat method, where those with the highest total votes fill the available seats. The school district has the authority to define its election process.

#### **11. OSBA Representative for Southern Oregon**

Southern Oregon OSBA Representative Dawn Watson introduced herself to the board and shared her role as the state's representative for Southern Oregon. Dawn represents Jackson and Josephine Counties. Her duties include serving as the OSBA liaison for our region, notifying board members about legislative action opportunities and other important information. She also leads the regional round table forum at the OSBA conferences and assists with the fall regional meetings each October. She may host a legislative reception in January. Dawn is a resource for any board member who has questions. She encouraged board members to attend the Summer Board Conference. At the conference, she encouraged members to attend the OSBA Legislative Policy Committee Meeting, the Oregon Rural School Board Members Caucus Meeting, the Oregon School Board Members of Color Caucus Meeting, and the LGBTQIA2S+ Advisory Committee Meeting. The website [OSBA.org/new-board-members](https://www.osba.org/new-board-members) offers a wealth of resources for both new and experienced board members.

#### **12. Superintendent Report**

Superintendent Joseph Hattrick announced that Dr. Francisco L. Atanes has been appointed as interim principal at AHS, and Susan Hollandsworth will serve as the interim principal at Helman for the 2025-26 school year. The district will launch a comprehensive principal search for both schools during the second semester of the school year.

Dr. Hattrick reported that on June 30, the Federal Government notified the states it would withhold billions of dollars in federal education funding for teacher training, after-school programs, and services for English learners and migrants. The affected funds include Title II-A, Title IV-A, Title I-C, Title III-A, and Title IV-B. This could potentially mean that ASD might not receive \$150,000 in funding, which could lead to more cuts to teachers and programs. Dr. Hattrick emphasized this call to action—contact your members of Congress and urge them to request the immediate release of these funds.

Governor Tina Kotek issued Executive Order 25-09, which requires all K-12 public schools in Oregon to ban the use of personal electronic devices during the school day. All districts must adopt policies in line with this order by October 31, 2025, and fully implement them by January 1, 2026. ASD already has Policy JFCEB in place, which will need to be reviewed and updated to align with the new standards, for which we are waiting for guidance from ODE and OSBA.

The Summer Meal Program runs from June 9 to August 15. Free breakfasts and lunches are served daily at Bellview and AMS.

Summer priorities at the District Office include:

- Improving processes and guidance for field trips, clubs versus sports, transportation guidance, professional development, handbooks, clarity on roles and responsibilities
- Identifying policies for review
- Continuing the stabilization process to reduce confusion and build trust

Dr. Hattrick announced the following upcoming events:

- Tuesday, July 22 at noon, Peace Ceremony at Lithia Park Bandshell
- Tuesday, July 22 at 5:00 pm, Kitchell Games at Walter A. Phillips Field (aka AHS Turf Field)
- Friday, July 25 at 6:30 pm, Pregame Ceremony at Walter A. Phillips Field
- Friday, July 25 at 7:00 pm, Pacific Rim Bowl at Walter A. Phillips Field, \$10 for general admission, \$5 for students with ID

### **13. Finance Report**

#### **13.A. Finance Report for the period ending June 30, 2025**

Director of Business Services Sherry Ely reported an ending fund balance of \$1.7 million for the 2024-25 school year. This is mainly due to the \$2.7 million the district saved in expenses through a spending freeze, furlough days, and realistic projections. Revenue sources remain stable, so no revenue increases are expected for FY25. Overall, this is positive news as ASD moves toward a balanced budget.

Director Ely also noted that when she joined the district in February 2025, the District was facing a possible \$10 million cash flow shortfall. It is a strong testament to the dedication and hard work of the District staff that the District might only need to use \$5.12 million of the authorized \$10 million loan.

### **14. Unfinished Business**

None

### **15. New Business**

None

### **16. Announcements and Appointments**

Chair Dyson announced the upcoming board events and meetings.

### **17. Adjourn**

There being no further discussion, Chair Dyson adjourned the meeting at 7:56 PM.

---

Submitted by:  
Holly Rosser, Board Secretary

Date for Board Approval: August 14, 2025