

# ASHLAND PUBLIC SCHOOLS

JACKSON COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT #5

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## ASHLAND SCHOOL DISTRICT 5 BUDGET COMMITTEE

**May 21, 2025**  
**7:00 PM**

**Location: District Office Conference Room, 885 Siskiyou Blvd.**

### MINUTES

1. Call to Order / Roll Call

Board Chair Dyson called the meeting to order at 7:03 pm and a roll check confirmed that a quorum was present and that Director Jill Franko had not yet arrived.

Director Franko arrived at 7:11 pm.

The following members were present:

Dave Dotterer

Jeff Pelger

Ann Gaffney

Russell Hatch

Rebecca Dyson

Jill Franko

Dan Ruby

Absent were:

Kristin Milligan

Chris Chambers

Eva Skuratowicz

District Administrators present:

Superintendent Joseph Hattrick

Assistant Superintendent Michelle Cuddeback

Director of Business Services Sherry Ely

Executive Director of Operations Steve Mitzel

Director of Student Services April Harrison

2. Introductions

A round of introductions ensued with all present.

3. Review Budget Committee Role and Process

Director of Business Services Sherry Ely reviewed the Budget Committee's role and process for reviewing the proposed revenues and expenditures and ultimately approving the proposed budget.

4. Adopt Rules of Order

Chair Dyson declared that the Budget Committee operates under a modified version of Robert's Rules of Order.

5. Appoint Committee Presiding Officer

- ❖ Mr. Dotterer nominated Ann Gaffney as the Budget Committee Presiding Officer, and Mr. Pelger seconded. Dr. Gaffney accepted the role. The motion carried by unanimous vote of the committee members.

6. Deliver Budget Message and 2025-2026 Proposed Budget

Superintendent Hatrick read the budget message, summarizing and highlighting key points related to the budget for the 2025-26 school year. The district's commitment to equity is reflected in the Multiple Tiered Systems of Support (MTSS), which focuses on meeting students where they are and providing them with the right support at the right time. The proposed budget ensures continuity of services for our students and community while right-sizing the district and restabilizing the budget for the future.

Director of Business Services Sherry Ely presented the proposed budget, highlighting several key points. The proposed budget for 2025-2026 is \$90,691,220, with a projected beginning fund balance of \$1,235,405. Key points included a 12% increase in health insurance, a 10% reduction in discretionary budgets, property tax revenue reflecting a more realistic collection, deficits in the transportation fund, and the need to allocate \$185,000 for depreciation, along with a \$10 million tax anticipation note (TAN) to address immediate cash flow issues. Ms. Ely noted that the Food Service program has historically not been a self-sustaining fund, requiring the General Fund to transfer up to \$500,000 each year to prevent that fund from ending the year in a deficit. The 2025-2026 budget includes a \$500,000 transfer to the Food Service Fund. The district's operating budget remains flat, with a 3% increase in the ending fund balance. Special revenue funds allocate \$1.3 million for federal programs and \$1.27 million for food service. The district aims to stabilize operations and improve financial stability within three years. Challenges discussed include declining enrollment, rising operational costs, and the need for accurate revenue and expense projections to avoid past financial oversights.

7. Budget Committee Questions and Discussion

The committee discussed multiple topics and made the following requests:

- A breakdown of the number of students compared to the number of instructors over the years and projected.
  - A clearer understanding of the three-year outlook with the proposed budget plan and steps being taken to improve financial accountability.
  - The committee's role is to review the overall picture and avoid getting bogged down in scrutinizing line items.
- ❖ Noticing that it was 9 pm, Director Dyson moved to extend the meeting by 30 minutes. Director Franko seconded. The motion carried by unanimous vote of the committee members.

8. Receive Public Comment

Presiding Officer Gaffney called for public comment.

Audience members expressed their gratitude for Director Ely's work on the district's financial situation.

9. Approval of Proposed Budget or Announce Next Meeting Date

The meeting concluded with plans to address budget questions via email to Superintendent. Hatrick and Director Ely by EOD Monday, May 26.

The next Budget Committee Meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, May 28, 2025, at 7:00 pm in the district office conference room.

10. Adjourn

Presiding Officer Gaffney adjourned the meeting at 9:25 pm.

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Submitted by:  
Holly Rosser, Board Secretary

Dated for Approval: June 12, 2025