

Minutes

1. Call to Order and Roll Check

Chair Dyson called the meeting to order at 6:32 PM. Roll check confirmed that the following members were present: Chair Dyson, Vice Chair Hatch, and Director Ferguson. A quorum was present.

Director Ruby joined the meeting at 6:36 PM.

Director Rooklyn joined the meeting 7:57 PM.

2. Land Acknowledgment

Student board rep, Milo Lieserson, read the Land Acknowledgement aloud.

3. Adoption of Agenda

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

Aye: Ferguson, Dyson, Hatch

Nay: none

Result: The motion carried by unanimous vote of the quorum.

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

4.A. Approval of Minutes

4.B. Personnel Report

4.C. Enrollment Report for November

4.D. Intern Program Coordinator and AHS Athletic Coordinator MOA

4.E. Community-Based Instruction Tutors MOA

- ❖ **Motion:** Vice Chair Hatch moved, and Director Ferguson seconded approval of the consent agenda items as presented.

Aye: Ferguson, Dyson, Hatch

Nay: none

Result: The motion carried by unanimous vote of the quorum.

5. School Presentation: Willow Wind

- a. Willow Wind science teacher Emily Bland and 6th-grade students Elsie Chen and Tilden Andrews shared a presentation on the Firewise elective, created with support from Southern Oregon Forest Restoration Collaborative (SOFRC) to increase campus fire resilience. Students have been learning fire science, reducing ladder fuels, studying smoke impacts and insects, and conducting photo monitoring, with additional support from Northwest Youth Corps scheduled for December. The elective emphasizes land stewardship, community partnerships, and career awareness.
- b. Willow Wind Principal, Debbie Pew, presented an overview of the school's improvement plan, highlighting recent accomplishments, current focus areas, and strategies for ongoing growth. Now in its 25th year on its campus and 29th year as a K–8 alternative program, Willow Wind serves 240 Ashland students, including part-time learners. The program centers on education for sustainability and student-driven "Challenge Learning" projects.

Ms. Pew reviewed assessment data, including 2025 OSAS results and fall 2025 IXL baseline data, outlining goals for improvement in reading, math, and teacher communication based on YouthTruth feedback. Willow Wind affirmed its commitment to continuous improvement and to fostering a learning environment where students pursue ambitious goals while contributing to a safe, inclusive community.

6. Lincoln School Update

Executive Director of Operations Steve Mitzel provided an update on the condition of Lincoln School and the planned investigative work to address safety concerns. The district has contracted with Safway Services, LLC for \$5,980 to install a shoring tower to allow local contractors to safely inspect the walls and ceiling. Asbestos has been identified in ceiling and floor tiles, and the district will need to hire a certified abatement company for legal removal and deconstruction, with three bids obtained and costs expected to increase. Insurance has been notified throughout the process, but coverage details are not yet known.

7. Finance Report

7.A. Finance Report for the period ending October 31, 2025, including Facilities and Bond Financial Report

Director of Business Services Sherry Ely reported that the latest ODE estimate came in slightly lower than the last estimate, with further adjustments anticipated due to federal-level economic uncertainty. Local revenues show a modest increase, including an unexpected \$3,000 donation from the National Philanthropic Trust and slightly higher collections in Property Tax and YAAL. Expenditures remain steady with slight increases in Salaries, Purchased Services, and Supplies and Materials; higher Water/Sewer charges and Health Services costs are under review. The Debt Service estimate has been updated to a seven-year amortization schedule. The Ending Fund Balance remains stable at \$2.96 million (6.73%), and ongoing audit work for 2023–24 may affect the 2025–26 beginning balance.

In the Facilities and Bond Report, total expenditures to date are \$146,635,680 out of \$149,792,808 in revenue, leaving a balance of \$3,157,129. A more detailed update will be provided in December by Executive Director Mitzel and HMK. The remaining bond funds may be eligible for use toward Lincoln School repairs pending state guidance and approval.

7.B. Full Faith and Credit Loan

Director of Business Services Sherry Ely reported that the District received a single response for the Full Faith and Credit Loan and will move forward with Cashmere Valley Bank. She will notify the bank of the District's intent to accept the proposal and confirm there are no objections to the seven-year term before finalizing the agreement. The loan carries a 6.5% interest rate with no penalty for early repayment.

8. Recurring Reports

8.A. OSEA Report

OSEA Representative James Johnson highlighted a wide range of staff and student accomplishments from all school sites, recognizing the outstanding dedication of Educational Assistants, student advocates, office staff, custodians, IT, and maintenance teams across the district. Administrators emphasized the essential daily support these staff provide—whether assisting students with learning and supervision, building relationships, addressing behavioral needs, or maintaining a safe, clean, and functional campus environment.

Overall, schools highlighted a strong culture of collaboration, appreciation, and service, with classified and support staff playing a vital role in student success and fostering a positive school climate across the district.

8.B. AEA Report

AEA Representative Alan Parowski highlighted strong community engagement through events such as Halloween celebrations, performances, and fall activities that continue to build connection and school spirit. Enrollment growth is ongoing, and individualized student support—particularly through weekly check-ins—remains a priority.

At the same time, larger class sizes and reduced staffing are being felt districtwide. Teams are collaborating to manage workloads and identify solutions, with a shared recognition that restoring EA positions would further strengthen student engagement, academic progress, and SEL outcomes. The AHS principal search is underway, and staff remain focused on supporting students and each other during a busy fall season.

8.C. Student-Board Representative Report

Student Board Representatives Alice Carnahan & Milo Leiserson highlighted the following activities: both soccer teams made playoffs, with the boys reaching quarterfinals and drawing record crowds. Girls' cross country placed third at state, and homecoming events were a big hit—especially the rally, which students called the best in years.

Winter sports are kicking off, DECA heads to its first competition, and the theater program is preparing *The Wizard of Oz* with shows in late November and early December. The Belonging Committee is planning a schoolwide assembly to celebrate affinity groups, and the campus food drive is underway. Students are also loving the new shade sail on the quad, which adds color and energy to the remodel.

9. Board Reports

All board members emphasized their participation in OSBA's annual convention, where several directors led sessions on board-superintendent relations and navigating financial crises. They also shared their involvement in community events like the Monster Dash and highlighted ongoing professional development related to effective board service. Furthermore, directors noted the importance of monitoring enrollment trends—such as declining birth rates, blended classrooms, and larger class sizes—as these factors will continue to shape educational quality and long-term planning.

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.*)

1. Student Roslyn Bertrand spoke in favor of offering two sixth-grade band classes.
2. Parent Diana Bertrand shared the results of a survey that was sent out regarding the AMS band program. Results requested that there be two sixth-grade band classes.
3. Grandparent Jill Rendell spoke in favor of offering two sixth-grade band classes beginning in January 2026.
4. Student Ellie Rendell spoke in favor of offering two sixth-grade band classes.

11. Superintendent Report

Superintendent Hattrick announced Ashland High School's October Rotary Student of the Month, John Bare. John is celebrated for his positivity, strong academics, and leadership as a student-athlete. He plans to study business at the University of Oregon while continuing his passion for volleyball. Additionally, AHS student Elijah Valencia received the Stand for Children Oregon Beat the Odds Scholarship, earning \$5,000 per year for college, along with significant leadership opportunities.

The Superintendent attended the Oregon School Boards Association annual convention, where he, Director Ely, and two board members led workshops on superintendent-board relations and fiscal leadership during challenging times. The district cabinet met with Southern Oregon ESD to align priorities for the year, and the leadership team received risk management and safety training from PACE to promote best practices for staff and student safety. The ASD Principal position has been posted, and all constituent groups will participate in the selection process. We remain alert to the potential impact of a 5% revenue reduction this school year.

12. ASD Enrollment & Class Size Report for 2025-26

Director of Student Services, April Harrison, presented updated enrollment, class size, and transfer data, which included pre-COVID years (2018–19 through 2025–26), and provided three-year trends for exit students. Efforts by the attendance officer are in progress to resolve exit-student unknowns. Current class sizes and teacher loads from October indicate that 2025–26 numbers align with 2018–19 levels. The district has 149 nonresident transfer students and 105 students who now reside in the district but transferred in via interdistrict transfer (move-in). Transfer activity shows a decline in accepted transfers (46 last year down to 21 this year), while released transfers remain steady at 42 each year. This is largely due to other school districts not releasing their resident students. ASD only allows students to transfer if they meet the criteria for a "hardship," as defined in OAR 581-021-0019 Interdistrict Transfer Agreement.

13. Unfinished Business

13.A. ACTION: Policy JFCEB Personal Electronic Devices & JFCEB-AR (second read)

Superintendent Hattrick reviewed Policy JFCEB on Personal Electronic Devices and its related administrative regulation (JFCEB-AR) Request for Personal Electronic Devices Exception. The policy and AR were collaboratively created by school administration, student leadership, and the school board. The updated policy, JFCEB Personal Electronic Devices, and JFCEB-AR were recommended for board approval. District implementation of the revised policy is due by Jan. 1, 2026.

- ❖ **Motion:** Director Rooklyn moved, and Vice Chair Hatch seconded to adopt policy JFCEB and the associated AR as presented.

Aye: Ruby, Ferguson, Dyson, Hatch, Rooklyn

Nay: none

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

14. New Business

14.A. Consolidation Engagement Process

Superintendent Hattrick outlined a process-focused exploration of potential school consolidation, emphasizing that he is not recommending closing schools but starting to gather information to help the Board determine the appropriate process. With declining enrollment, reduced funding, and resources spread thin across multiple sites, the district aims to evaluate how to best meet community needs and strengthen the system in the long term.

Two possible approaches—an expedited (“run”) process and an extended (“walk”) process—were presented, each with clear pros and cons related to timing, community engagement, community impact, and planning requirements. Staff and family surveys will be launched immediately, with results presented to the Board on December 11 to support a decision on which process to follow.

Key data to be reviewed includes enrollment trends, building capacity, facility conditions, educational best practices, and future development. Additional considerations include transfer patterns and the effectiveness of current reconfigurations on student outcomes. The Superintendent emphasized the importance of a transparent rationale, broad community engagement, and a focus on resource optimization to benefit students. He noted that if consolidation occurs, it would involve rethinking space rather than cutting programs. The Superintendent’s Advisory Committee and DEC will also take part in this work.

14.B. ACTION: OSBA Election

Chair Dyson announced that the board will vote on the OSBA Legislative Policy Committee representative for the Southern Region.

❖ **Motion:** Vice Chair Hatch moved, and Director Rooklyn seconded that the Ashland School Board support Daniel Ruby for the OSBA Legislative Policy Committee position #5.

Aye: Ferguson, Dyson, Hatch, Rooklyn

Nay: none

Abstain: Ruby

Result: The motion carried by unanimous vote of the quorum.

15. **Announcements and Appointments**

Board Chair Rebecca Dyson read the following announcements:

15.A. The board will hold a work session on Thursday, November 20, 2025, at 6:30 p.m. on Zoom. The work session is scheduled a week earlier due to Thanksgiving.

15.B. The next Regular Session meeting will be held on Thursday, December 11, 2025, beginning at 6:30 p.m. in the City Council Chamber, 1175 E. Main St., Ashland.

16. **Adjourn**

There being no further discussion, Chair Dyson adjourned the meeting at 8:58 PM.

Submitted by:
Holly Rosser, Board Secretary

Date for Board Approval: November 13, 2025