

Minutes

1. Call to Order and Roll Check

Chair Dyson called the meeting to order at 6:30 PM. Roll check confirmed that all board members were present: Chair Dyson, Vice Chair Hatch, Director Ferguson, Director Ruby, and Director Rooklyn.

2. Land Acknowledgment

Student Board Representative, Alice Carnahan, read the Land Acknowledgment aloud.

3. Adoption of Agenda

Director Ruby requested to add Consideration of a Letter of Support for the Census Tract 19 Opportunity Zone 2.0 Application, under New Business, item 16.C.

❖ **Motion:** Director Ruby moved, and Vice Chair Hatch seconded adoption of the agenda as amended.

Aye: Dyson, Ferguson, Hatch, Rooklyn, Ruby

Nay: none

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

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

❖ **Motion:** Director Rooklyn moved, and Director Ruby seconded approval of the consent agenda.

Aye: Dyson, Ferguson, Hatch, Rooklyn, Ruby

Nay: none

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

4.A. Approval of Minutes

4.B. Personnel Report

4.C. Enrollment Report

4.D. Student Tutor Center Supervisor MOA

4.E. Superintendent Contract Approval

5. School Presentation: AHS

AHS Principal Francisco Atanes, along with Assistant Principals Becca Laroi and Hillary Cusenza, presented highlights from the 2025–26 school year. The report included student demographics, YouthTruth results, academic assessment data, electives and exploratory opportunities, athletics, activities, and school culture.

The presentation highlighted strong growth in ELA, improved science results, positive 9th-grade math benchmark growth, and continued work to strengthen college and career readiness. AHS also emphasized its broad elective offerings, affinity spaces, student activities, athletics, and efforts to support belonging, attendance, school culture, and the transition from middle school to high school.

6. School Resource Officer Annual Report

Superintendent Hattrick recognized Officer Bates for receiving the NASRO Exceptional Service Award for Region 9 and thanked him for his leadership in reestablishing Ashland's SRO program and strengthening relationships between students, schools, and the Ashland Police Department.

Officer Bates presented the annual School Resource Officer (SRO) report, highlighting the continued growth of the partnership between the Ashland Police Department and Ashland School District. He reviewed progress on program goals, including expanded classroom presentations, student and family engagement, and continued use of age-appropriate curriculum on topics such as online safety, drug awareness, driving, legal issues, and fire safety.

Officer Bates shared future goals, including training additional officers in school-based policing, continuing outreach to new classrooms, and strengthening partnerships with local agencies such as Ashland Fire & Rescue and the Oregon State Fire Marshal. He noted that the SRO role includes law enforcement, mentoring, public safety education, and prevention.

The presentation also highlighted program accomplishments, including updated emergency response mapping, participation in safety drills, classroom instruction, student leadership activities, and instructor-level training.

Principal Atanes and Board members expressed appreciation for Officer Bates' positive, calm, and steady presence and his role in supporting student safety, trust, and belonging.

7. 2026-27 Student Board Representative Recommendations

Superintendent Hattrick reviewed the policy and process used to select the 2026–27 Student Board Representatives, including the application and recommendation process. He announced the nominees recommended by Principal Atanes: Tobias Pew and Leah Lennett as primary student board representatives, and Sylvia Fox and Thea Vogel as alternate representatives.

Each nominee introduced themselves to the Board, and the current student board representatives confirmed their support for the recommendations.

7.A. ACTION: 2026-27 Student Board Representative Approval

❖ **Motion:** Director Rooklyn moved, and Vice Chair Hatch seconded to accept the nominations of the 2026-27 Student Board Representatives and Alternates as recommended.

Aye: Dyson, Ferguson, Hatch, Rooklyn, Ruby

Nay: none

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

8. Annual Superintendent Evaluation Summary

Chair Dyson read the public summary of the Board's annual evaluation of Superintendent Hattrick, noting that the Board found he has provided strong and effective leadership during a period of financial and organizational challenge. The summary highlighted progress in stabilizing district finances, improving transparency, strengthening community engagement, and building trust, culture, and communication across the district.

The Board also discussed updates to the Superintendent's contract, including a one-year extension and the addition of an 8% Tax Sheltered Annuity contribution, consistent with the original contract terms, following positive performance.

❖ **Motion:** Vice Chair Hatch moved and Director Ruby seconded to extend the Superintendent's contract by one year, through June 30, 2029.

Aye: Dyson, Ferguson, Hatch, Rooklyn, Ruby

Nay: none

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

9. Insurance Committee Report

Health Insurance Consulting Actuary Kelly Grebinsky of OneDigital, along with Insurance Committee members Ashley Schwedes and Becky DeSalvo, provided an update on the district's health insurance program. They reviewed the history of ASD's self-funded health plan, noting that the model had been successful for many years, saving the district significant costs while offering strong benefits.

The committee shared that, since 2020, rising costs and reduced financial advantage have made the current self-funded model unsustainable. After months of reviewing options, the Insurance Committee recommended that ASD join the OEBB Health Plan effective October 1, 2026, selecting Moda Medical Plan 5 with an HRA buy-up. The change is expected to provide savings for both the district and employees, with projected district savings of approximately \$3 million in 2027 and lower employee contributions. The HRA component is expected to cost approximately \$700,000 in the first year and would be administered by a separate vendor. The committee noted that some expenses from the current plan will still need to be processed after the transition. No Board action was required.

10. Finance Report

10.A. Finance Report for the period ending April 30, 2026

Director of Business Services Sherry Ely reported that there were no significant revenue or expenditure updates and that the District is awaiting final ODE reconciliation numbers, with a catch-up payment currently estimated between \$80,000 and \$100,000. Based on current projections, the Ending Fund Balance is estimated at approximately \$3.1 million, or slightly over 7%. Director Ely noted that the estimate is conservative and may increase once final June expenditures are complete.

11. Recurring Reports

11.A. OSEA Report- None

11.B. AEA Report

AEA Representative Alan Parowski reported that schools across the district are finishing the year with strong academic, arts, athletics, and community celebrations. Highlights include prom and graduation preparations at AHS, student success in speech and debate, spring sports, track and field, band, and art showcases, as well as many end-of-year concerts, ceremonies, field trips, and family events. Elementary and middle school students are also completing state testing, participating in hands-on learning experiences, and engaging in community-building traditions. Across sites, staff and families are supporting students through a busy and meaningful end to the school year.

11.C. Student-Board Representative Report

Student Board Representative Alice Carnahan shared appreciation for Officer Bates and noted that, from a student perspective, his presence as the School Resource Officer has exceeded expectations by helping create a sense of safety, welcome, and connection on campus.

Both representatives, Alice and Milo, also reported on recent and upcoming AHS events, including the Great Gatsby-themed prom, ASB and class elections, senior superlatives, College Decision Day, Prom Spirit Week, Clash on the Quad, the blood drive, He-Man, Powderpuff, the Spring Arts Show, and graduation. They highlighted student organizations that have thrived this year, including the newly formed Dance Team and Asian Student Union, and shared updates on spring athletics, including baseball, tennis, boys volleyball, track and field, and softball. The Belonging Committee has also begun conducting student interviews and plans to gather staff input before compiling insights to support belonging and connection at AHS next year.

12. Board Reports

Board members reported on recent district and community activities, including SOU Raider Days, the Ashland Schools Foundation's successful April donor drive, TRAILS outdoor learning field trip, regional workforce pathway discussions, YouthTruth data review, and policy work. Members noted that the public complaint policy will come forward for further board discussion and shared appreciation for the positive tone of recent bargaining-related meetings. Board members also recognized the AHS OBOB team for placing fourth at state, encouraged community members to return ballots for the current election, and expressed support for collaborative solutions related to SOU's planning process.

13. Superintendent Report

Superintendent Hattrick recognized Kaya Lutz as Ashland High School's Rotary Student of the Month, highlighting her leadership, service, academic and athletic involvement, and contributions through Key Club, DECA class leadership, student board service, the student store, and girls soccer. He noted that Kaya will attend Vanderbilt University in the fall to study human and organizational development.

He reported on recent district and community events, including reunification training, the Willow Wind Maypole Dance, Policy Workgroup, COSA meetings related to instructional minutes and the State School Fund formula, the SOU Board of Trustees meeting, Ashland Reads, student recognition events, the Ashland Schools Foundation donor event and phone banks, and Guanajuato Night.

Superintendent Hattrick provided an update on the TRAILS field trip incident, noting that the two students and staff member involved are out of the hospital and recovering. He expressed deep gratitude for the staff members' leadership, care, and response, and gave special recognition to TRAILS teacher Marcia Ososke for her calm, compassionate, and skillful handling of the situation. He noted that her leadership, along with the response of the staff team, had been described by many as heroic.

He also noted upcoming bargaining with OSEA and AEA, the retiree and probationary graduation celebration, Budget Committee meeting, promotion ceremonies, and graduation. Superintendent Hattrick closed by thanking Student Board Representatives Alice and Milo for their service during the year.

13.A. Out of State Field Trip Notification- Superintendent Hattrick also informed the Board that the AHS Speech and Debate Team will travel out of state to Richmond, Virginia, from June 13–20.

13.B. ASD Transformation Update

Superintendent Hattrick provided an update on the ASD Transformation process, noting that the district is currently in Phase 3, which runs from May through June and includes community survey development, staff engagement, and ongoing data collection. He reported that the Phase 2 staff survey had received 38 responses to date, or approximately 10% participation, and remains open through May 18.

He also reported that the district received 54 applications for the Transformation Steering Committee and accepted 23 applicants, with additional appointees and invitations added to ensure balanced representation across schools, roles, and community perspectives. The committee will include 38 members, plus two honorary elected official members. Membership includes district leadership, principals, parents, staff, community members, and one student, with interest in adding additional student representation.

The first Transformation Steering Committee meeting is scheduled for May 26. All Transformation updates and materials will be posted on the district website.

14. **Hear Public Comments – None**

15. **Unfinished Business - None**

16. **New Business**

16.A. ACTION: iReady Adoption (Interim Assessment)

Assistant Superintendent Michelle Cuddeback informed the Board that the recently adopted IXL interim assessment program is no longer recognized as a state-approved assessment tool under Senate Bill 141, Oregon’s education accountability legislation, which requires districts to use a state-approved interim assessment in language arts and mathematics.

Because the Ashland School District has previously used iReady, staff recommended returning to iReady to ensure compliance with state requirements. The estimated annual cost to the district is \$26,400. Although the district remains under contract with IXL for two more years, teachers may continue using IXL as an instructional support tool while iReady serves as the district’s official interim assessment program.

❖ **Motion:** Director Rooklyn moved, and Director Ferguson seconded to approve iReady as ASD’s interim assessment program.

Aye: Dyson, Ferguson, Hatch, Rooklyn, Ruby

Nay: none

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

16.B. ACTION: Summer Learning Grant Agreement

Ericka Beck-Brattin shared that the Ashland School District was awarded a State Summer Learning Grant of \$350,000 per year for three years. She requested Board approval of the State Summer Learning Grant Agreement as presented.

Ms. Beck-Brattin described the program as a robust summer learning opportunity designed to serve approximately 350 students. The program will be literacy-focused while also providing instruction in science and mathematics. Summer programming will be available for students in PreK through grade 12, including opportunities for credit recovery, writing, and math support at the high school level.

The district plans to offer programming for rising first-grade through 12th-grade students from August 3–21, with a Kindergarten Jump Start program scheduled for August 10–21. The program will include nutrition services, transportation, school nursing services, and administrative support.

Ms. Beck-Brattin noted that the district is emphasizing consistent attendance and student engagement to encourage regular participation throughout the summer session. She also highlighted partnerships with ScienceWorks and the YMCA, as well as a strong focus on community partnerships and family engagement. She shared that, as this is the

first year of implementation, the district anticipates opportunities to expand and evolve community partnerships in future years.

❖ **Motion:** Chair Dyson moved, and Director Rooklyn seconded to acknowledge and accept the State Summer Learning Grant Agreement as presented.

Aye: Dyson, Ferguson, Hatch, Rooklyn, Ruby

Nay: none

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

16.C. Letter of Support for the Census Tract 19 Opportunity Zone 2.0 Application

Director Rooklyn stepped down from the dais to speak in her capacity as an employee of the City of Ashland and recused herself from any vote on the matter. Ms. Rooklyn requested the District's support for a federal tax incentive program for which the City of Ashland is applying. She explained that the program is designed to attract private capital investment into designated low-income census tracts and would provide federal-level incentives without creating negative tax implications for the District.

Ms. Rooklyn shared that potential benefits of the program include increased housing and commercial investment in Ashland, growth in the property tax base, and additional capital opportunities for housing projects and Southern Oregon University. She noted that the program would provide a 10-year window to support long-cycle development projects.

She further explained that the opportunity is available only once every 10 years through a gubernatorial selection process and that demonstrated community support would strengthen the City's application.

❖ **Motion:** Director Ruby moved, and Director Hatch seconded to authorize the District to provide a letter of support for the City of Ashland's application related to Census Tract 19.

Aye: Dyson, Ferguson, Hatch, Ruby

Nay: none

Recused: Director Rooklyn

Result: The motion carried by majority vote

17. **Announcements and Appointments**

17.A. The Budget Committee will hold its first meeting on Wednesday, May 20, 2026, at 6:30 p.m. in the District Office, 885 Siskiyou Blvd., Ashland.

17.B. The Budget Committee has a second meeting scheduled on Wednesday, May 27, 2026, at 6:30 p.m. in the District Office, 885 Siskiyou Blvd., Ashland.

17.C. The board will hold a work session on Thursday, May 28, 2026, at 6:30 p.m. in the District Office, 885 Siskiyou Blvd., Ashland.

17.D. The board will hold a Budget Hearing on Thursday, June 11, 2026, at 6:30 p.m. in the City Council Chamber, 1175 E. Main St., Ashland.

17.E. The next Regular Session meeting will be held on Thursday, June 11, 2026, immediately following the 6:30 p.m. Budget Hearing, in the City Council Chamber, 1175 E. Main St., Ashland.

18. **Adjourn**

There being no further discussion, Chair Dyson adjourned the meeting at 8:42 p.m.

Submitted by:
Holly Rosser, Board Secretary

Date for Board Approval: June 11, 2026