

Minutes

1. Call to Order / Roll Check

Chair Dyson called the meeting to order at 6:31 PM. Roll check confirmed that all five members were present on Zoom: Directors Rooklyn, Ferguson, Ruby, Vice Chair Hatch, and Chair Dyson.

2. Adoption or Adjustment of Agenda

- ❖ **Motion:** Director Ruby moved, and Vice Chair Hatch seconded to accept the agenda as presented.
Aye: Rooklyn, Ruby, Ferguson, Hatch, Dyson
Nay: none
Result: The motion carried by unanimous vote of the five members.

3. Board Appeal Request Re: Individual Tutoring

Chair Dyson presented an appeal against Superintendent Hattrick's decision regarding a request to allow an individual student to receive tutoring from an EA outside instructional hours on a district campus. Each director had the chance to review all relevant communication, documentation, and policy citations.

- ❖ **Motion:** Vice Chair Hatch moved, and Director Ferguson seconded that the board deny the appeal.
Aye: Rooklyn, Ruby, Ferguson, Hatch, Dyson
Nay: none
Result: The motion carried by unanimous vote of the five members.

The decision of the Board is final. Per complaint policy KL this decision may be appealed to the state as outlined in Oregon Administrative Rule (OAR) 581-022-1940.

4. Annual McKinney-Vento/ Maslow Project Report

School-Based Program Director Cheyenne Nichols presented current McKinney-Vento (MKV) data and outlined the supports provided through the district's partnership with the Maslow Project. Maslow serves homeless youth and families lacking stable housing across Jackson and Josephine counties, offering resources to help students access and remain engaged in school. Nichols reported that 2,174 homeless students were identified in Jackson County in 2024-25, including 120 in Ashland. She noted that Maslow assists with school engagement, basic needs, and housing navigation, and that ASD's strong partnership with the organization helps expedite identification and service delivery for students and families in need.

5. OSAS Data Presentation

Assistant Superintendent Michelle Cuddeback provided an overview of our Oregon Statewide Assessment System (OSAS) data, including cohort performance trends and factors affecting student outcomes. This marks the third year of implementing the new math curriculum, and staff continue to monitor whether OSAS results align with classroom performance. Factors such as teacher turnover and Math Studio professional development for 7th and 8th grades were noted. The district emphasized the importance of using multiple data points and highlighted ongoing work in PLCs, with a renewed focus this year. The 2025-26 school year will be the first with the new ELA curriculum, with professional development priorities aligned to data trends.

The report included information on focal groups and instructional efforts to strengthen engagement, equity of voice, and universal design practices. The district currently identifies 5-6% of students as TAG

and 13–14% as SPED. Some demographic comparisons, such as gender, are possible, while others, including LGBTQ+ disaggregation, are not available.

The online report card was released the same day, providing multiple ways to view student data. The Board expressed interest in hearing more about proficiency-based grading at AMS and math trends at the high school in a future session.

6. Healthy and Safe Schools (HASS) Report

Executive Director of Operations Steve Mitzel provided an overview of the development of the district's state-required HASS Plan, initially completed in 2019. The plan details districtwide testing and monitoring procedures for lead, asbestos, radon, pest management, and carbon monoxide. He noted that the district must submit an annual statement to ODE confirming ongoing compliance with all HASS requirements, and that this reporting continues to be completed each year.

7. Artificial Intelligence at ASD

Executive Director of Operations Mitzel provided an overview of current AI trends in education and discussed how ASD's policy updates support effective and responsible implementation. He noted that AI tools have advanced rapidly and are now integrated within most instructional platforms rather than existing as standalone products. AI is increasingly used to differentiate instruction and promote deeper learning, though disparities in home internet access remain a concern. Mitzel highlighted the newly released free educator version of ChatGPT and referenced an AI report from Microsoft shared during the discussion.

The Board discussed workplace expectations for AI competency and the importance of safeguarding confidential information. Draft policy IKJ includes FERPA and CIPA compliance requirements, along with additional recommendations from OSBA. Several school sites have purchased AI-related tools, and the Board requested a follow-up summary of which tools teachers find most useful. Administration will refine the policy and present it at the December board meeting for first reading.

Professional development in AI is currently self-directed, with workshops also available through the ESD. The conversation included the importance of digital citizenship and the need for a phased approach to help teachers build confidence and capacity in using AI tools effectively.

8. Board Learning

Board members shared highlights from the book *Improving School Board Effectiveness*. They will review the sections on Superintendent Evaluation next during the Jan. 22 work session. A special meeting may be considered for a more in-depth, discussion-style review.

9. Other Items of Interest

Director Rooklyn announced that the city ice rink will not open this Friday due to a delay in obtaining an engineer's sign-off.

Director Rooklyn requested an update on the AMS band program. Administration reported that the current plan is to keep the 6th-grade band program as it is for the rest of the school year, with no schedule changes expected because such changes would affect other classes and programs. Band enrollment includes 53 students taught by two teachers, and all students who asked to join the band were able to participate.

The district is comparing enrollment figures with neighboring districts and exploring options for next year, including expanding beginning band access beyond 6th grade. Chair Dyson noted that very large beginning band classes are not practical for learning an instrument. AMS continues to receive support from ASF for band coaching stipends, and the district remains dedicated to music and the arts despite budget and staffing challenges.

Discussion also addressed class-size issues in some core subjects. While no immediate solutions are available, the district reaffirmed its long-term commitment to strengthening and expanding music opportunities and assured families that planning for sustainable solutions is in progress.

10. Adjourn

There being no further discussion, Chair Dyson adjourned the meeting at 8:59 PM.

Submitted by:
Holly Rosser, Board Secretary

Date of Board Approval: December 11, 2025

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