

Minutes

1. Call to Order and Roll Check

Chair Dyson called the meeting to order at 6:31 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, Milo Leiserson, read the Land Acknowledgement aloud.

3. Adoption of Agenda

- ❖ **Motion:** Director Ruby moved, and Director Rooklyn seconded adoption of the agenda as presented.

Aye: Ferguson, Dyson, 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.)*

Director Ruby requested the following clarifications on Policies KBA and GCAB - Policy KBA will have an associated AR, and the language in GCAB came directly from OSBA.

- ❖ **Motion:** Director Rooklyn moved, and Vice Chair Hatch seconded approval of the consent agenda.

Aye: Ferguson, Dyson, 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 for January

4.C. Enrollment Report for January

4.D. Boys Head Volleyball Coach MOA

4.E. Policy Updates

4.E.1) First Read

4.E.1)a. Policy JHCA Immunization, School Sports Participation, Concussions and Other Brain Injuries

4.E.2) Second Read/ Adoption

4.E.2)a. Policy KBA Public Records Request

4.E.2)b. Policy IKJ Artificial Intelligence

4.E.2)c. Policy CEA Educational Equity Advisory Committee

4.E.2)d. Policy DBEA Budget Committee

4.E.2)e. Policy JOA Directory Information

4.E.2)f. Policy JHFE/GBNAB Suspected Abuse of a Child

4.E.2)g. Policy GCAB Personal Electronic Devices and Social Media - Staff

4.E.2)h. Policy GCAA Standards for Competent and Ethical Performance of Oregon Educators

4.E.2)i. Policy LBEA Denial for Virtual Public Charter School Student Enrollment

4.E.2)j. Policy GBDA Expression of Milk or Breastfeeding in the Workplace

4.E.2)k. Policy IF District Curriculum

4.E.2)l. Policy IIA Instructional Materials

5. School Presentation: Bellview

Principal Christine McCollom presented an overview of Bellview's School Improvement Plan, highlighting growth in ELA and Math. Goals include increasing the percentage of students at or above grade level in ELA and Math and maintaining or improving pro-social skills schoolwide.

She reviewed strategies, including implementation of the EL Education and 95% curricula, use of IXL, PLC collaboration, daily workshop time, and Bellview's MAPS model with blended classrooms and team teaching. She noted baseline data is still being established due to new assessment tools and that this is the first year of the new ELA curriculum and IXL.

Principal McCollom also reviewed Math Studio supports, SEL assessment using the Strengths and Difficulties Survey, supplemental materials for learning gaps, and efforts to support a welcoming and inclusive school culture using YouthTruth data and programs such as Kindness Club, Student Council, and Playworks. She noted the PBIS/EDI team ensures alignment with the district's focus on belonging and dignity.

6. Bond Report

Executive Director of Operations Steve Mitzel announced the official completion of the 2019 Ashland School District Capital Bond Initiative. He expressed appreciation to the many individuals and groups whose efforts made the successful completion of the bond projects possible, including Robby Moles and Rebecca Bjornson, site principals and staff, and departments that were impacted by construction work throughout the process.

He also acknowledged the leadership and contributions of past board members, district business leadership—beginning with Jordan Ely and concluding with Sherry Ely—as well as Superintendent Raymond, Superintendent Bogdanove, and Superintendent Hattrick for their guidance at different phases of the bond. He thanked the contractors and project partners for their work and collaboration, noting that the completion of the bond represents a significant milestone for the district and reflects years of coordinated effort and commitment to improving district facilities.

6.A. Bond Wrap-up Report

HMK owners Chris McKay and David McKay, along with Project Director Josh Whitaker, presented a final wrap-up report on the 2019 Capital Bond Program. They expressed appreciation for the partnership and specifically thanked Executive Director of Operations Steve Mitzel for his leadership and support throughout the projects.

They reviewed the original bond goals, which included improving health and safety, flexibility and adaptability, sustainability and energy efficiency, inclusiveness, financial stewardship, standardization of facility systems, and long-term planning. Projects ultimately included districtwide safety enhancements; HVAC, mechanical, electrical, and plumbing upgrades; seismic improvements; bathroom upgrades; technology infrastructure improvements; and major renovations or replacements at Walker, Helman, Ashland Middle School, and Ashland High School.

Chris McKay noted the district's emphasis on transparency, including monthly board updates, oversight committee involvement, design teams, and ongoing communication, as well as a focus on sustainability and standardization of systems across the district. An overview of each major project was provided, highlighting improvements at each site.

The Ashland School District Executive Team identified recommendations for future bond planning, including additional upgrades at Helman, Ashland Middle School, and Ashland High School; minimal updates at Walker; and relocating the District Office off the high school campus.

A financial summary was presented, noting that the district issued approximately \$107.38 million in bonds and, through premiums, grants, and reinvestments, delivered approximately \$151.57 million in capital improvements. The district is expected to complete the program with approximately \$4 million remaining. The board will determine how to allocate the remaining funds.

Board members expressed appreciation to HMK and all involved for their professionalism and collaboration, and thanked staff and partners for the successful completion of the bond program. It was noted that a future bond planning process may begin in approximately four to five years.

7. La Clinica Annual Report

La Clinica Business Development Director Elise Travertini presented an overview of services offered at the student-based health center located on the Ashland High School campus. She reported that data shows increased utilization of the health center since 2022, based on three years of data.

She shared that grant funding has supported renovations to the clinic space. Students access the center for both medical and behavioral health services, and youth and families may also receive assistance connecting to community resources. She reviewed the PHLOW program, a consultative model that partners with medical providers, and described substance use intervention and prevention efforts, including collaboration with school counselors to provide screening, the Teen Intervene program, and treatment supports. She also noted that the opioid prevention curriculum used in classrooms is called *Catch Your Breath*.

Ms. Travertini shared that students may walk in for services and that youth are often their strongest advocates. She also discussed the potential to expand access to students from other schools, noting that services would continue to be provided on the high school campus.

8. Science & Health Curriculum Adoption Updates

Science Review: AMS Vice Principal Rebecca Gyarmathy provided an update on the science curriculum review process and the research currently underway. She is leading the Science Curriculum Committee, which includes representation from all school sites.

She reported that the committee reviewed SBAC data to assess the current Amplify curriculum and is using the ODE rubric, along with district priorities, to evaluate curriculum options. Key criteria include support for blended classrooms, alignment with culturally responsive standards, availability of physical materials, and ease of implementation.

The committee has narrowed its consideration to either continuing with Amplify or shifting to OpenSciEd for grades K–8, and updating AP textbooks for grades 9–12, including biology and environmental science.

Ms. Gyarmathy shared that the committee will hold three more meetings and plans to present a K–12 recommendation to the board in March, with hoped-for approval in April to order materials for Fall 2026 implementation.

Health Review: AHS Vice Principals Becca Laroi and Hillary Cusenza provided an update on the health curriculum review process and the research currently underway. They reported that data shows high levels of student engagement in health and wellness at both AMS and AHS.

Health education standards include:

- Wellness and health promotion
- Safety and first aid
- Substance use prevention
- Nutrition and physical activity
- Social-emotional and mental health
- Healthy relationships and violence prevention
- Growth and development
- Sexual and reproductive health

They noted that curriculum options are limited and that the ODE has already completed significant work identifying curricula aligned with these standards.

Ms. Laroi and Cusenza shared that the committee is using a decision-making matrix to evaluate alignment, content, diversity, and inclusiveness, and is currently reviewing the following options: The Great Body Shop for grades K–5; Live Well Middle School Health and The Great Body Shop for grades 6–8; and Live Well Comprehensive High School Health for grades 9–12.

They also noted that the MAPS program will pilot the *Comprehensive Instructor Manual: Sexuality Education for People with Developmental Disabilities*. Next steps include the committee meeting to share evaluation notes and discuss options before bringing a proposal to the School Board.

9. Finance Report

9.A. Finance Report for the period ending Dec. 31, 2025

Director of Business Services Sherry Ely reported adjustments to the December financials, including updating revenue and the Beginning Fund Balance to audited actuals. This reduced the prior estimate by approximately \$300,000 but remains \$169,000 above budget. She also reduced State School Fund revenue to reflect the deposit of transportation depreciation into Fund 277, with the Bus Replacement Fund deposit to be made in January.

On the expenditure side, she reported moving certain salary expenses from IDEA to the General Fund to address overspending in the IDEA fund and adjusting insurance expenses to reflect the need for additional supplementation. She noted that future budgeting will need to account for continued reductions in IDEA funding and the need to cover certain salary costs through the General Fund or other sources. With these adjustments, she projects an Ending Fund Balance of approximately \$3.347 million, representing 7.62%.

10. 2024-25 Audit Report

Sorren Auditor Ben Cohn presented the final audit report for the district's 2024–25 financial statements. He reviewed the auditor's responsibilities, noting that the audit provides reasonable assurance that there are no material misstatements and is conducted on a test basis focused on the largest transactions. He also noted an *emphasis of matter* related to a change in accounting practices.

The auditor reported that there were no material weaknesses identified. One discrepancy was noted as a repeat finding from the prior year, but it was classified as low risk. Tests of the financial statements did not identify any major concerns;

however, the auditors noted overspending in one category, budgeting of negative fund balances, and that some resolutions were not signed by the board. The auditor also reviewed the letter to governance, which referenced GASB 101 related to accounting for employee leave.

The auditor reported that district management corrected all items identified during the audit. Recommendations included enhancing internal controls through a monthly reconciliation process, a year-end closing schedule, clearer assignment of preparer and reviewer responsibilities, and improved document retention practices. These items are included in the district's written corrective action plan.

Board members asked clarifying questions regarding deferred inflows and outflows and the flow of loan funds, which staff addressed. A board member also requested information on the number of district buses, which Superintendent Hattrick will provide. Board members thanked Director Ely and the auditors for their work.

{It was nearing 9 pm; board members moved to extend the meeting by 30 minutes.}

❖ **Motion:** Vice Chair Hatch moved, and Director Rooklyn seconded to extend the meeting by 30 minutes.

Aye: Ferguson, Dyson, Hatch, Rooklyn, Ruby

Nay: none

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

After all questions were answered and gratitude expressed, the board approved the corrective action plan as written.

❖ **Motion:** Director Ruby moved, and Vice Chair Hatch seconded to approve the corrective action plan as presented.

Aye: Ferguson, Dyson, Hatch, Rooklyn, Ruby

Nay: none

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

11. Recurring Reports

11.A. OSEA Report – None

11.B. AEA Report

AEA Representative Alan Parowski thanked the School Board for its partnership and dedication on behalf of the Ashland Education Association. He shared highlights from across the district, noting a busy winter season with strong student participation in activities, athletics, arts, and academic competitions.

He also noted schoolwide efforts focused on dignity, belonging, and student leadership, as well as staff efforts to navigate and strengthen blended classroom models. Districtwide initiatives and events were highlighted, including assemblies, student activities, and experiential learning opportunities. Mr. Parowski concluded by noting staff interest in future planning, including anticipation of the 2026–27 district calendar.

11.C. Student-Board Representative Report

Student Board Representatives Alice Carnahan and Milo Leiserson shared highlights of recent student activities and accomplishments. They reported on upcoming finals week, promotion of the new “off and away” cell phone policy, and student involvement in the AHS principal interview process. They also noted a successful food drive, student-led fundraisers, and ongoing participation in winter athletics, including basketball, swimming, wrestling, and rowing.

12. Board Reports

Board members shared updates on recent community engagement, legislative outreach, and student activities. Several members reported attending the Ashland High School Winter Fine Arts Festival and other student and school community events, including the TRAILS Solstice celebration. Board members also participated in a legislative reception, where discussions focused on shared priorities and the importance of proactively communicating the district's needs and concerns to legislators. It was noted that while enrollment decline is a statewide issue, Ashland's decline is significantly greater than in many other districts, underscoring the need to clearly communicate the district's unique circumstances to state leaders and to emphasize fiscal responsibility within the district.

Additional updates included participation in community meetings, such as the Ashland Attainable Housing Project, as well as ongoing informal community engagement and outreach activities.

13. 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.*)

Community member Jim Westrick spoke during public comment regarding the completion of the bond program and expressed strong appreciation for Executive Director of Operations Steve Mitzel's leadership throughout the project. He praised Mr. Mitzel's professionalism, integrity, and ethical approach, noting that he navigated complex challenges with transparency and respect. Mr. Westrick stated that Mr. Mitzel dedicated far more time and effort than required and credited him with bringing heart and commitment to the work of improving the district. He concluded by offering heartfelt thanks for Mr. Mitzel's service and leadership on behalf of the community.

14. Superintendent Report

Superintendent Hattrick announced Ashland High School's January Rotary Student of the Month, Leo Chase, recognizing his involvement in *The Catalyst* and *Rogue News* and his passion for storytelling and writing.

He welcomed everyone back for the new year and provided several district updates. He reported that deconstruction at Lincoln School is complete and that the district is currently awaiting engineering reports.

He shared that the final round of Ashland High School principal interviews was completed the previous evening, including interviews with students, staff, and parents. Superintendent Hattrick will conduct reference checks and plans to bring a recommendation to the Board at the next meeting.

He also provided an update on the consolidation engagement timeline, noting that data collection is underway and that leadership team review of the data will begin next week. He shared that a more detailed timeline will be developed and that information will continue to be posted on the district website.

Finally, Superintendent Hattrick reported on the state accountability bill, noting that the district currently uses IXL for interim assessments, which does not meet the Oregon State Board of Education requirements. He shared that the district plans to provide testimony to the state regarding this issue.

14.A. School Board Appreciation

Superintendent Hattrick read a proclamation recognizing the Ashland School Board members in honor of Oregon's School Board Recognition Month. He encouraged the community to acknowledge the many hours of volunteer service board members contribute on behalf of students and the district. He expressed appreciation for the Board's service and specifically recognized Rebecca Dyson, Russell Hatch, Dan Ruby, Deltra Ferguson, Jordan Rooklyn, and Student Board Representatives Alice Carnahan and Milo Leiserson. He thanked the Board for their leadership, noting their humility, respect, and commitment to the care of students and the community.

{It was nearing 9:30 pm, and the board moved to extend the meeting by 30 minutes.}

❖ **Motion:** Director Rooklyn moved, and Vice Chair Hatch seconded to extend the meeting by 30 minutes.

Aye: Ferguson, Dyson, Hatch, Rooklyn, Ruby

Nay: none

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

15. Unfinished Business – None

16. New Business

16.A. ACTION ITEM: 2026-27 Budget Calendar

Superintendent Hattrick presented the timeline for the 2026-27 budget cycle and recommended that the board adopt the presented calendar.

❖ **Motion:** Director Ferguson moved, and Vice Chair Hatch seconded approval of the 2026-27 Budget Calendar as presented.

Aye: Rooklyn, Ruby, Ferguson, Dyson, Hatch

Nay: none

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

16.B. ACTION ITEM: Update Board Meeting Schedule

Due to a scheduling change, the board has agreed to move the regular board meeting from Feb. 5th to Feb. 12.

❖ **Motion:** Director Rooklyn moved, and Vice Chair Hatch seconded approval of the amended 2025-26 Board Meeting Schedule.

Aye: Rooklyn, Ruby, Ferguson, Dyson, Hatch

Nay: none

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

17. **Announcements and Appointments**

Chair Dyson read the following announcements:

17.A. The board will hold a work session on Thursday, January 22, 2026, at 6:30 p.m. on Zoom.

17.B. The next Regular Session meeting will be held on Thursday, February 12, 2026, beginning at 6:30 p.m. in the City Council Chamber, 1175 E. Main St., Ashland.

18. **Executive Session**

Chair Dyson called for a motion to enter Executive Session under ORS 192.660(2)(e) to conduct deliberations with persons designated by the governing body to negotiate real property transactions.

❖ **Motion:** Director Ruby moved, and Vice Chair Hatch seconded that we enter into executive session under ORS 192.660(2)(e) to conduct deliberations with persons designated by the governing body to negotiate real property transactions.

Aye: Rooklyn, Ruby, Ferguson, Dyson, Hatch

Nay: none

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

The regular meeting recesses for executive session at 9:33 p.m.

19. **Return to Open Session**

Chair Dyson reconvened the meeting in open session at 10:02 p.m.

20. **Adjourn**

There being no further discussion, Chair Dyson adjourned the meeting at 10:02 p.m.

Submitted by:
Holly Rosser, Board Secretary

Date for Board Approval: February 12, 2026