School Board Work Session
Thursday, February 26, 2026 6:30 PM

District Office
885 Siskiyou Blvd
Ashland, Oregon 97520

Minutes

1. **Call to Order / Roll Check**
Vice Chair Hatch (acting Chair) called the meeting to order at 6:31 PM. Roll check confirmed that four out of five members were present and one absent. Present: Directors Rooklyn, Ferguson, Ruby, and Vice Chair Hatch. Absent: Chair Dyson. Vice Chair Hatch stated that the meeting was being recorded and that the recording would be maintained as part of the public record.

2. **Adoption or Adjustment of Agenda** *(At this time, Board members are provided the opportunity to amend the agenda)*

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

2. ACTION: Resolution No. 2025-26 B-3 Calling an Election
Board Secretary Holly Rosser presented a resolution calling for an election for the purposes of submitting a renewal of a local option levy. In reviewing the election submission requirements, we identified that a required step had been missed: formal Board adoption of a resolution authorizing the election and designating the Superintendent as the District's Authorized Representative to file the required forms with Jackson County Elections.

- **Motion:** Director Ferguson moved, and Director Ruby seconded to approve Resolution 2025-26 B-3 Calling an Election as presented.
  Aye: Rooklyn, Ruby, Ferguson, Hatch
  Nay: none
  Result: The motion carried by unanimous vote.

4. **Lincoln Field Geotesting Report**
Executive Director of Operations Steve Mitzel provided an update on the February 11 preliminary site investigations at Lincoln Field by Outlier Construction and Applied Geotechnical Engineering, conducted under the exclusive negotiating agreement to evaluate the property's feasibility for potential affordable housing development. Decomposed granite was observed at all depths tested. Additional studies will be conducted if future work proceeds to specific building sites.

Director Mitzel also reported that an acoustical study has been completed to evaluate City noise standards, and a traffic study is underway. Official reports will be provided when available.

5. **Legislative Advocacy Report**
Director Ruby shared highlights from Education Advocacy Day in Salem on December 17. He reported that Ashland School District joined Three Rivers, Grants Pass, and the SOESD to advocate for using the state's education stability fund to backfill potential funding gaps. He noted that by the end of the day, legislators indicated that no cuts to educational funding were expected.

Director Ruby also provided an overview of several bills under consideration that could affect educational entities, including proposals on K–12 and higher education funding, student health and emergency response requirements, class size and bargaining, federal immigration-related policies, early learning instructional time, and barriers for students experiencing homelessness. He noted the short session timeline and that the following week was expected to be significant for legislative activity.

6. **Understanding Board Role in Collective Bargaining**
Superintendent Hattrick outlined the collective bargaining process between AEA and the Ashland School District, noting that bargaining is scheduled to begin March 6, 2026, with 13 contract articles to be reviewed and a goal of completion by June.

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He reviewed the Board's role, referencing Policy BBA. The Board does not typically participate in bargaining sessions but sets direction through district/Board goals, budget priorities, and fiscal guardrails. Proposed agreements will be brought to the Board for review and ratification, and the Superintendent serves as the primary conduit for negotiation and communication.

He noted that Board members may observe bargaining meetings, but only purposefully and as needed, since Board presence can change the dynamic at the table. The Superintendent will keep the Board informed throughout the process.

7. **Board Learning**

7.A. Book Review: *Improving School Board Effectiveness*

The Board reviewed the self-evaluation chapter and identified the "10 elements" as a useful tool.

The Board also discussed measuring success beyond academic outcomes, including:

- Requesting feedback from Cabinet on how effectively the Board supports their work
- Using YouthTruth data to inform the Board's governance priorities, vision, and direction
- Ensuring Board policies are current and effective

The discussion reinforced that the Board's role is primarily indirect, providing checks and balances, serving as a sounding board, and using reflection tools rather than engaging directly in day-to-day operations.

7.B. Board Goals Review

The Board reviewed its goals and discussed using them to better guide the Board's work, including assigning individual Board members to specific duties or areas of need. Members noted it is appropriate to adjust strategies as needed to meet established goals.

The Board discussed additional community engagement options, including feedback from partner agencies and community listening sessions. Members noted that past budget listening sessions were effective and may be helpful for future difficult topics, and requested Superintendent Hattrick's help leading these sessions. The Board also discussed assigning Board members to attend community meetings and/or public presentations with the Superintendent.

7.C. Board Self-Assessment Plan

The Board discussed the timing and purpose of its self-evaluation, noting that it is intended to assess the Board as a governing body and its collective progress toward goals. The Board agreed to conduct the evaluation in June, review the results in July, and use the findings to help set Board goals for the next school year. Chair Dyson and Vice Chair Hatch will compile the results and share them at the Board retreat.

7.D. Statement of Economic Interest (SEI)

Board Secretary Holly Rosser reminded Board members to confirm that their OGEC accounts are active and to watch for an email from OGEC regarding the annual Statement of Economic Interest (SEI) around March 15. The SEI filing deadline is April 15.

8. **Other items of interest**

Superintendent Hattrick requested Board feedback on his draft State of the District Report, which summarizes key work since the start of his tenure and outlines plans related to the district transformation process.

Superintendent Hattrick also provided an update and expressed appreciation to the regional response team, local leaders and organizations, and the broader community for their support to families and the district following the recent tragic event involving five Ashland High School students. A community vigil was announced for Friday (2/27) at 6:00 p.m. at the AHS quad. Board members expressed appreciation to staff involved in the response efforts and for continuing to show up for students during an especially difficult time.

9. **Adjourn**

There being no further business, Vice Chair Hatch adjourned the meeting at 7:41 PM.

Submitted by: Date for Board Approval: March 12, 2026

Holly Rosser, Board Secretary

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