

Minutes

1. Call to Order and Roll Check

Chair Dyson called the meeting to order, and a roll check confirmed that all members were present. Directors Franko, Ruby, Skuratowicz, Hatch, and Dyson were present in person.

2. Land Acknowledgment

Student Board Representative Owen Taylor read the Land Acknowledgment.

3. Adoption of Agenda (*At this time Board members are provided the opportunity to amend the Regular Session agenda.*)

Chair Dyson asked that the following items be added to the agenda: ELA Curriculum Adoption and Resolution 2024.2025 B-1.

Motion: Director Skuratowicz moved, and Hatch seconded this amendment to the agenda, and the amended agenda was approved by a unanimous vote of the five directors.

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

- ❖ **Motion:** Director Franko moved, and Hatch seconded approval of the consent agenda as presented. The motion carried by unanimous vote of the five members present.

- A. Approval of Minutes
- B. Personnel Report for March 2025
- C. Resolution 25-26- 01HR
- D. Enrollment Report for March 2025
- E. Furlough Day OSEA-ASD MOU
- F. AEA Behavior Analyst MOA

5. School Presentation: TRAILS Outdoor School

TRAILS Principal Ericka Beck-Brattin, TRAILS teacher Marcia Osoke, and Ashland Connect teacher Amanda Groover shared highlights and updates about their programs.

Ashland Connect serves 25 students using a hybrid learning model. Ashland Connect teacher, Amanda Groover, serves all the students in this program. Students attend classes online and two days a week at TRAILS. A grandmother of one student shared a heartfelt testimony about how much the program has helped her grandson after he struggled to reintegrate following the COVID-19 pandemic. Amanda shared videos of Ashland Connect students doing activities together and thriving. One Ashland Connect family made a video to express their immense gratitude for the hybrid learning program at Ashland School District.

TRAILS student Zenyn shared a PowerPoint presentation about MLK, highlighting the social justice work students are doing at TRAILS.

TRAILS 7th-8th grade teacher Marcia Osoke introduced TRAILS as a “Choice School” in the district, focusing on getting students outside. This program has been offered in the district for almost 20 years. TRAILS students participate in several activities, many of them funded by grants. A recent grant provided them with a new water filter for their base camp at Earth Teach and a food dehydrator for dehydrating provisions for backpacking trips. Preparedness, prevention, and safety are integrated throughout the curriculum at every grade level, fostering resilience that culminates in outdoor exploration and achievement in the 8th grade.

8th-grade students Alma and Teo Galicia shared highlights of their educational opportunities at TRAILS. 7th and 8th graders recently used physics to build catapults and trebuchets; used waffles to understand linear equations; and hiked Mt. McLaughlin using elevation charts and stride measurements to factor pacing strategies; they’ve tested camp stoves, sleeping bags, and sleeping pads for quality, efficiency and cost; in 8th grade each student presents a capstone project that leaves a lasting mark in the community. Past projects have included welding a bike, creating a video game, an afterschool art club, dance for women's empowerment, FOTAS work, Rogue Climate paintings, and a food waste audit.

6. Computational Thinking Project

Helman teachers Anne Collonge and Trish Dorr delivered a presentation about their work on the Computational Thinking (CT) Project. This project is sponsored by the Southern Oregon Computer Science (SOCS) for All initiative, where a group of teachers from around the region are developing curriculum using CT concepts in their classrooms. Computational Thinking can be used to solve problems, accomplish large and complex tasks, and organize and understand information in all content areas, not just computer science.

ODE is developing a computer science education plan for K-12 students, which will begin in the 2027-2028 school year. The work that Anne and Trish have done puts ASD ahead of the game. We now have teachers with experience in these lessons and research-based curricula to offer.

Anne and Trish donned glitter jackets and handed out prize candy, leading the school board in a lively game of Jeopardy to learn about the work SOCS for All has been doing to promote CT learning in the state.

7. Recurring Reports

A. AHS Student Report

AHS Co-Presidents Owen Taylor and Azaleah Davis Powell congratulated multiple student achievements over the last month; AHS Ski Teams went to state; Leadership is working on March Madness for high school basketball; Prom is on May 3; next blood drive is May 6, AHS DECA students did well in Portland; several DECA students will be going to nationals.

B. OSEA Report

OSEA Board Member James Johnson reflected on Classified Employee Appreciation Week and shared that at AMS, teachers took over lunch duties so that the classified staff could enjoy lunch together.

C. AEA Report

AEA Board Representative Alan Parowski reported a long list of highlights and happenings at each school in the district. All schools reported on the ways they showed their appreciation during classified employee appreciation week; Bellview and TRAILS boasted their OBoB accomplishments; Ashland Connect received a few new students; AMS will host a school dance on April 11; May Fair preparations are underway at Hellman; there is a talent show coming up at Walker; Pi Day will be celebrated at Willow Wind.

8. Board Reports

Chair Dyson reported on the good turnout for the board candidate information session. She attended the ASF board meeting, where they are planning a fund drive in April. Dr. Dyson is committed to protecting the rights and safety of all students and shared the following personal statement:

“I know there is a lot of concern and uncertainty in the community regarding the many orders coming from the Federal government and the potential impact on our district. First, I will say as an individual that I would like to someday be able to share the story of how I got my name, Rebecca, but suffice it to say that it is in itself a statement against not only injustice but against keeping quiet in the face of injustice. In recognition of my mother who defied her heritage in giving me this name, and in honor of all those who have lost anything and everything because not enough people spoke up or took action against injustice, I want to assure everyone who hears this that I as an individual and we as a board are fully committed to protecting the rights and safety of our students and staff.”

Following her statement, Chair Dyson read the following Statement from the School Board:

“In the face of rapidly changing directives from the Federal government which are often in direct conflict with Oregon State statutes, the Board of Directors of the Ashland School District would like to reinforce that Ashland School District will continue to follow Oregon law supporting equitable treatment of all students and that we will remain true to the vision and ideals that have always guided this district. We will not alter our legal and moral responsibility to serve and protect every student and staff member in our district. We will continue to follow our mission of providing a safe and welcoming space for all students regardless of race, religion, gender, or identity. We will continue to strive for equity in all areas and to respect and value every student who relies on this district for their education in and beyond the classroom. We are proud and grateful to be members of this extraordinary community that is Ashland, and we will continue to embody the ethic and integrity for which Ashland stands.”

Director Ruby supports Dr. Hattrick’s vision that we become the #1 district in the state. He reported that AHS is ranked in the top 10% of public high schools in Oregon and that our students’ academic achievement has increased over the past 30 years. The district's regular attendance rate and enrollment were noted as areas of improvement. Director Ruby highlighted the work he does as part of the OSBA LGBTQ2S+ Advisory Committee. This group works to ensure the safety and security of our most vulnerable students. He emphasized his unwavering support and the district’s commitment to protecting the rights of all students. Mr. Ruby enjoyed volunteering for the school-wide OBoB competition at TRAILS, a valuable extracurricular activity that has proven to improve academic performance. He is excited to be on the Future Climate Collective board that is piloting climate literacy curriculum in Portland public schools and advocating for the adoption of climate standards statewide.

Director Skuratowicz focused her time on advocating for the upcoming school board elections. She attended the information session that OSBA held in Medford and spoke with potential candidates there. She was pleased with the turnout at the candidate info session for ASD and has met with five people who are interested in running. AAUW will host a Candidates Forum on Sunday, May 4, in the AHS theater.

She continues her research on chronic absenteeism, which is not just an issue in Oregon; it's a national issue.

Director Hatch is excited about the rising interest in running for the School Board. He hopes the energy to volunteer within the school community continues even after the election. He picked up the new willow tree for Willow Wind.

Vice Chair Franko shared her gratitude for our community, where folks prioritize putting kids first. She is humbled by the many offers of support.

9. 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.*)

None

10. Student Representative Report

AHS Student Representatives Owen Taylor and Azaleah Davis Powell reported that applications have gone out to find their replacements for School Board Student Representatives. Leadership is taking applications for new members. Azeleah is running a segment on applying for school board student rep in the Rogue News.

11. Superintendent Report

Dr. Hattrick was pleased to announce Ashland High School's Rotary Student of the Month, Jes Jeranko. Jes is known for her kindness, leadership, and dedication to the school community. She is an essential part of the AHS theater program and is currently performing in Little Women. Her efforts in organizing the Homecoming Week teacher dance strengthened school culture by creating an environment where students and staff felt a sense of connection. Jes leads not by seeking recognition, but by being the kind of person others aspire to be. She is a shining example of what it means to lead with kindness, talent, and dedication.

Superintendent Hattrick introduced Holly Rosser as the new Board Secretary and commended her for her quick onboarding. Dr. Hattrick notified the board of an out-of-state field trip to Yreka for the AHS softball team on March 21. He gave a shout-out to the fantastic classified staff, who have been celebrated at their various sites all week.

At the recent AASA conference, Dr. Hattrick was impressed by the AI education platform created by Colin Kaepernick. Dr. Hattrick is in communication with Mr. Kaepernick regarding the potential use of the program in our district. A few days later, on March 11, Dr. Hattrick represented the COSA Equity Board, which teamed up with the OSBA School Board Members of Color Caucus, and advocated at the first "Education Leaders of Color Advocacy Day." They lobbied for support for the Governor's recommended state school fund budget of \$11.36 billion and to increase the special education funding cap from 11% to at least 15%. He encouraged the board to attend the OSBA Advocacy Day in Salem on April 24.

Superintendent Hattrick enjoyed being featured in this month's OLLI podcast. He continues to engage with thirty-five parents and community members at the monthly Superintendent Advisory Council

meetings. The Leadership Team continues to collaborate on proposals aimed at increasing efficiency. Dr. Hattrick reaffirmed his commitment to transparency in the decision-making process.

Superintendent Hattrick delivered the following Statement of Commitment to All Within Our Community:

“Tonight, I want to take a moment to reaffirm something that is at the heart of everything we do in the **Ashland School District**—our unwavering commitment to **every** student, **every** staff member, and **every** family in our community. We welcome All...as you are!

We are committed to ensuring **every person who walks through our doors deserves to feel safe, valued, and seen for who they truly are**. While the world outside our doors may feel scary and confusing at times, at the Ashland school district, we want you to know that you are valued and you are loved. Of course, we have policies that guide our work around how to treat people; but more importantly, it is our shared responsibility to bring these commitments to life in our classrooms, hallways, and workplaces every single day.

We know that equity is not about policies—it’s about **people**. It’s about ensuring that each student, no matter their background, race, gender identity, ability, or circumstance, has the support and opportunities they need to thrive. It’s about uplifting **our staff** so they can do their best work in an environment where they feel respected and valued. It’s about partnering with **our families** to create a community where every child feels a sense of belonging.

As we move forward, we do so with intention, using compassion and love to remove barriers, challenge inequities, and create spaces where all voices are heard. This is not just a goal—it is a promise. A promise that in the Ashland School District, **every student belongs, every staff member matters, and together, we will continue to build a future where everyone has the opportunity to succeed**.

Thank you for being part of this work, this district, and thank you for standing with us in our commitment to **equity, inclusion, and belonging** for all. I am personally thankful and proud to live, and lead in the Ashland School District Community! “

12. Bond Report

Executive Director of Operations Steve Mitzel began the presentation by reviewing the early work package, which was part of Amendment 1 - a contract for \$1,089,604.70 to Outlier Construction Co. for the Science Building Seismic Rehabilitation Project at Ashland High School. The board approved the award of Amendment 1 at the special session held on February 27, 2025. That work has now begun.

The team is working on Amendment 2, which is time-sensitive to secure contractors within the project timeline. Amendment 2 will be presented at the March 20 special session meeting and is expected to be the final amendment recommendation for the Seismic Rehabilitation Project.

A. Monthly Report March 2025

HMK Project Manager, Josh Whitaker, reviewed the Capital Bond Program Report for February with the board. There are still active projects ongoing at the high school. They are completing the modernization project on the Humanities Building and initiating the seismic rehabilitation project on the Science Building. Fencing will be going back up as they demo and excavate. In June, the quad will undergo a hardscape renovation that will beautify the area and protect the large redwood tree. The project is expected to be completed in August.

13. Finance Report

A. Finance Report as of March 2025

Director of Business Services, Sherry Ely, reviewed the fiscal report on financial data as of February 28, 2025. Revenues and Expenditures are reported for the General Fund #100 only.

Director Ely reported that we are seeing a projected decrease in local revenues due to property taxes and the YAAL coming in lower than budgeted. Property Taxes and the State School Fund are tied together, so if property taxes come in higher or lower, an adjustment will be made in May of 2026. She estimates that the district will receive approximately \$800,000 in SOESD flow-through. All this will be taken into consideration when budgeting for 2025-2026.

The primary issue for the General Fund this year is the starting balance of a negative \$2,004,187. This also results in a projected negative Ending Fund balance of \$2,638,059. The district has implemented measures that are resulting in a reduction of expenses for this school year. Director Ely anticipates there will be additional savings as we refine the projections and continue the trend of reducing expenditures.

To get a clearer picture of the district's financial situation, Director Ely recreated the 2022-23 and 2023-24 budgets and used those numbers to create a 2-year average trend, which she is using to project associated payroll costs and purchased services for the rest of 2024-25 and build the 2025-26 budgets. Director Ely's goal is to create an accurate budget for 2025-26 that aligns with projected revenues and actual expenses.

During the lookback, Director Ely revealed that the district had been overspending on ESSER, transportation, and food services. She also reported that the district did not allocate sufficient funds for insurance (associated payroll costs) in this fiscal year.

Director Ely reviewed the 2024-25 action plan, which aims to save \$2.2 million. So far, the district has saved nearly \$800,000 in furloughed days and received almost \$900,000 from a very generous anonymous donor. These, along with the measures in place to reduce expenses in this fiscal year, are getting us closer to the goal. Director Ely will review the district's progress toward this goal at the April meeting.

Board members requested a financial report that included the special revenue funds, in line with the format provided by Jackie Olsen, Executive Director of the Oregon Association of Business Officials.

Director Ely recommended that the board consider a Full Faith and Credit loan to bridge us until we can rebuild the ending fund balance. A resolution to allow the district to apply for a loan is on the agenda. The resolution also gives the District the authority to enter into a Tax Anticipation Note (TAN) if that is determined to be the more feasible option. A TAN is a short-term loan that districts can enter into, but it must be repaid within 13 months.

Board members expressed gratitude for the challenging work Director Ely is doing.

A. Resolution 2024.2025 B-1

Sherry Ely, Director of Business Services, explained the two components of the resolution: a short-term borrowing option and a full faith and credit option. The resolution does not mean the district is borrowing money; it's a necessary legal step the district needs to take to be able to explore loan options with lenders.

Director Ely explained that interest rates will be determined once the district goes out to market. A Full Faith and Credit loan can be amortized over a longer period, which would allow the district the necessary time to get its finances back to a more stable position, as the debt service payments would be lower than those required for the shorter TAN borrowing option.

- ❖ **Motion:** Director Franko moved, and Director Skuratowicz seconded, to approve Resolution 2024.2025 B-1, which allows the Ashland School District to seek either a Full Faith and Credit loan or a Tax Anticipation Note, up to \$10 million, to address cash flow needs. The motion carried by unanimous vote of the five members present.

2. ELA Curriculum Adoption

ELA Curriculum Adoption team members, Christine McCollum, Caitlyn Olson, and Ashley Schwedes, presented their process and recommendations for the K-5 ELA Curriculum for Ashland School District. The entire team of thirteen consisted of teachers, coaches, reading specialists, and administrators from all elementary schools in the district. Over the course of six months, the group researched and developed a rubric that enabled them to examine each of their curriculum samples for deep background knowledge and explicit instructions on the components of reading. In February, the team finalized its recommendations and provided multiple opportunities for public review and feedback, including notices and links on the district website. The team reported that all input thus far has been positive.

With excitement about this new curriculum, the team recommends that the board adopt the state-recommended EL Learning for ELA core modules, paired with 95% Group's Core Phonics for explicit reading skills, which is not included in the state's recommendation list.

Ms. McCollum explained that the two years' worth of the Early Literacy Grant will cover the cost of all ELA materials for the first year. Recurring costs will be student workbooks, but the schools will assess the need after the first year and only order workbooks if they are being used. Licensing fees for the 95% Group are included in the first year, and then \$75 per teacher is due in subsequent years.

Director Skuratowicz mentioned that she was not aware of any public viewing opportunities and requested that the team allow at least one more chance for public input before the board makes a motion to adopt the curriculum. Ms. McCollum agreed to create an additional event that would invite all board members and requested that the ELA Curriculum adoption be placed on the March 20 Special Session agenda due to the time-sensitive nature of ordering the materials to arrive before the end of the school year.

3. Unfinished Business

None

4. New Business

A. ACTION ITEM: Budget Calendar for 2025-2026 Budget Year

Director of Business Services, Sherry Ely, presented the Calendar for the 2025-2026 Budget Year. Meetings are moved as far back as possible to allow more time for information to flow down regarding federal and state funding.

- ❖ **Motion:** Director Hatch moved, and Director Skuratowicz seconded the motion to approve the 2025-2026 Budget Calendar as presented. The motion carried by unanimous vote of the five members present.

B. ACTION ITEM: 2025-2026 School Calendar

Assistant Superintendent Michelle Cuddeback presented the 2025-2026 School Calendar for review and approval. Calendar changes included:

- One unified K-12 School Calendar
 - Two conference days in fall and spring for K-8, instead of three
 - Rearranging inservice days; fewer inservice days in August, added inservice to October and November
 - Minimize the number of short weeks in the school year; it is better for learning and less food waste
 - High School Graduation will be on June 5th, 2026
- ❖ **Motion:** Director Hatch moved, and Director Skuratowicz seconded, to approve the 2025-2026 School Calendar as presented. The motion carried by unanimous vote of the five members present.

C. ACTION ITEM: 2024-25 Superintendent Evaluation

Chair Dyson read the 2024-2025 Superintendent Evaluation Summary:

"In his first months with the Ashland School District, Superintendent Hattrick has demonstrated strong and effective leadership, particularly in the areas of financial management, transparency, and community engagement, setting the district on a much-needed positive trajectory. While much of Dr. Hattrick's focus has by necessity been on stabilizing the district amid financial challenges, he has also laid the groundwork for future progress in instructional leadership, interdistrict and community collaboration, and continued commitment to equity and excellence within our schools. The Board has witnessed positive changes in district culture and staff morale, and Superintendent Hattrick's commitment to community engagement has been widely recognized. While challenges remain, trust in leadership has increased, and a sense of optimism is growing. With continued attention to academic achievement, collaborative partnerships, and long-term financial sustainability, the district is well-positioned for growth and success under Superintendent Hattrick's leadership."

- ❖ **Motion:** Director Franko moved and Director Skuratowicz seconded to accept the superintendent's evaluation as presented. The motion carried by unanimous vote of the five members present.

5. Announcements and Appointments

Chair Dyson read the announcements of upcoming meetings.

6. Adjourn

There being no further business, Chair Dyson adjourned the meeting at 10:17 pm.

Submitted by:
Holly Rosser, Board Secretary

Dated for Board Approval: April 10, 2025

DRAFT