

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, Milo Leiserson, read the Land Acknowledgment aloud.

3. Adoption of Agenda

- ❖ **Motion:** Vice Chair Hatch moved, and Director Ferguson seconded a request to add AEA MOA to the consent agenda as item 4.J.

Aye: Dyson, Ferguson, Hatch, Rooklyn, Ruby

Nay: none

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

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

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 Ferguson 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. Enrollment Report for March

4.C. Personnel Report for March

4.D. Resolution 2026-2027 #HR1

4.E. Recall Notification MOU

4.F. Insurance MOU

4.G. YMCA MOU

4.H. OSAA Cooperative Sponsorship Application for

ASD/PTS Combined Softball

4.I. Policy Updates

4.I.1) **Second Read/ Adoption**

4.I.1)a. Policy FFA Memorials

4.I.1)b. Policy KH Public Gifts to the School

4.I.1)c. Policy JECB Admission of Nonresident Students

4.I.1)d. Policy JECF Interdistrict Transfer of Resident Students

4.I.1)e. Policy GBN/JBA Sexual Harassment

4.J AEA MOA

5. School Presentation: Walker

Walker Principal J'me Strowbridge and School Counselor Brooke Johnson Thygeson presented an overview of Walker Elementary School's School Improvement Plan, including student demographics, achievement data, improvement goals, and strategies to support student success.

Walker serves 219 students in a blended grade-level model and partners with the YMCA preschool program, which is integrated into the school community. Strowbridge and Thygeson shared academic, attendance, and school climate data, along with goals to improve third-grade reading proficiency, regular attendance, and students' sense of belonging.

Strategies highlighted included literacy and math curriculum implementation, use of IXL for skill practice, professional learning focused on student growth, and social-emotional supports. Community-building efforts included schoolwide rewards, student affinity groups, Student of the Month recognition, celebration of student

achievements, and on-campus childcare, all aimed at strengthening connection and belonging for students. Three students from Walker's OBOB team also shared a highlight from their OBOB experience with the board.

6. Science & Health Curriculum Committee Update

AMS Assistant Principal Rebecca Gyarmathy and AHS Assistant Principal Hillary Cusenza provided an update on the work of the Curriculum Adoption Committee.

Ms. Gyarmathy reported that for K-8 science, the committee is leaning toward renewing Amplify, noting that a second edition is expected in two years and that there are advantages to maintaining consistency with the current curriculum. She also shared that the committee values having a curriculum that includes hard-copy books for K-5 students and a more condensed scope and sequence.

For 9-12 science, Ms. Gyarmathy reported that the committee is reviewing *Campbell Biology in Focus AP*, *Environmental Science* for AP courses, and *Essentials of Human Anatomy and Physiology*.

Ms. Cusenza reported on health curriculum options, sharing that the committee is considering Great Body Shop for K-8 and Live Well Health for high school. She noted that Great Body Shop was viewed as flexible, supportive, and inclusive of take-home opportunities, while Live Well Health aligns with Oregon standards and emphasizes health literacy and skill-based instruction.

Textbooks will be available for public review at the district office over spring break and during the first week of April. Ms. Cuddeback will notify the community through the district newsletter.

7. Finance Report

7.A. Finance Report for the period ending February 28, 2026

Director of Business Services Sherry Ely reported a nearly \$250,000 decrease in State School Fund revenue due to declining enrollment trends and reporting errors by other districts related to property taxes and transportation expenses. She also shared that ODE's recalculation of poverty rates is expected to reduce Title I funding by approximately 8 percent, or about \$54,000, in 2026–27, with no impacts to other funds anticipated at this time.

Director Ely reviewed a new cash flow report showing revenues and expenditures through February, along with year-end projections. The board expressed appreciation for the additional financial reporting detail. She also cautioned that federal developments in Washington, D.C., could affect school district funding and advised continued attention to those issues.

No significant expenditure concerns were reported since the last meeting. End-of-February projections show an estimated ending fund balance of 7.62 percent, or \$3.3 million. The board also discussed clarifications regarding Title I funding, trust and agency funds, and the effects of changes in poverty rates.

8. Recurring Reports

8.A. OSEA Report

OSEA President Steven Essig expressed appreciation for Classified Employee Appreciation Week and thanked community members who took time to recognize classified staff. He shared that OSEA is working with HR Director Michelle Cuddeback to organize site visits to strengthen collaboration across the union. He also noted that annual union elections and upcoming bargaining sessions are approaching, including a limited compensation bargaining session in May. Mr. Essig further acknowledged the rising cost of living and expressed concern about the impacts of violence in West Asia on students and educators.

8.B. AEA Report

AEA Representative Alan Parowski shared highlights from across the district, including 8th-grade transition visits to Ashland High School, student success in wrestling, hands-on learning projects, and continued growth in alternative education programming. He also noted the many ways schools recognized Classified Appreciation Week and emphasized the creativity, dedication, and community spirit shown by staff and students across the district.

8.C. Student-Board Representative Report

Student Board Representatives Alice Carnahan and Milo Leiserson shared updates from Ashland High School. Ms. Carnahan noted that the past few weeks had been challenging and reflected on the way the community has come together to support one another. She also highlighted upcoming and recent student activities, including the National

Honor Society spring formal, the start of spring sports, the math team's local competition win at SOU, DECA's state competition with six students qualifying for internationals in Atlanta, Georgia.

Mr. Leiserson recognized classified staff and shared additional student highlights, including an event hosted by the Asian Student Union, the final weekend of *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, an AHS sports rally, the second annual March Madness students-versus-staff tournament, and the Brain Bowl team's 7-0 performance heading into its final competition on April 26.

9. Board Reports

Board members shared updates on recent legislative, school, and community activities. They noted that while lawmakers passed several education-related bills on immigration policies, protections for homeless students, attendance reporting, and AI chatbot consumer protections, broader K-12 funding changes and universal school meals legislation did not reach the floor.

Board members also highlighted a range of local events and engagements, including the candlelight vigil, the AHS fundraiser, OBOB competitions, an OSBA webinar on school finance, meetings with the Ashland Community Land Trust and Ashland Schools Foundation, a SO Queer Education social, and a Jackson County Library Foundation event. Additional comments recognized community spaces and activities, including the Helman playground and the AHS play.

10. Superintendent Report

Superintendent Hattrick announced Rotary Student of the Month Lily Cramer, recognizing her academic dedication, environmental stewardship, and commitment to community. He also shared that Susan Hollandsworth will remain as Helman's Principal for another year, providing consistency during the district's transformation work.

Dr. Hattrick reported that the District Equity Committee continues to meet, with a current focus on applying the district equity lens to chronic absenteeism. He also noted that collective bargaining with the licensed employee union has begun and is progressing smoothly.

He shared several facts about YAAL funding, noting that it supports significant portions of athletics, fine arts, world languages, and counseling and mental health services, while only a small portion of classroom instruction is funded through the levy.

Dr. Hattrick also took time to acknowledge the February 22 tragedy that deeply affected the Ashland community, honoring the loss of two students and recognizing the ongoing recovery of three others. He expressed appreciation for the Ashland High School leadership team and staff for their care, compassion, and professionalism in supporting students, and thanked the broader community for its outpouring of support, including those who gathered for the vigil at Ashland High School.

10.A. Out of State Travel Notifications

- Helman students visiting Lake Shasta Caverns, CA, in March and Lava Beds National Monument, CA, in May.
- The AHS Baseball team will be traveling to Phoenix, AZ, over spring break.
- The AHS Softball will be playing in Etna, CA on April 2.

10.B. ASD Transformation Update

Superintendent Hattrick reminded the board that the consolidation process is now called the ASD Transformation process. Dr. Hattrick shared a revised timeline, which will be posted on the website tomorrow.

11. Hear Public Comments – None

12. Unfinished Business – None

13. New Business

13.A. ACTION ITEM: 2026-27 District Calendar

Assistant Superintendent Cuddeback presented the proposed 2026-27 district calendar. Feedback was received from the district lead team, contract maintenance team, labor management groups, AEA survey on conferences, and AEA presidents.

❖ **Motion:** Director Rooklyn moved, and Director Ruby seconded the adoption of the 2026-27 District Calendar as presented.

Aye: Dyson, Ferguson, Hatch, Rooklyn, Ruby

Nay: none

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

13.B. ACTION ITEM: Establishing the number of student transfers for 2026-27

Director of Student Services April Harrison presented the proposed number of transfer slots available in and out of the district for each grade for the 2026-27 school year. She suggested 10 transfers in and no transfers out, except in cases of hardship. These numbers can be adjusted based on grade level availability.

❖ **Motion:** Director Rooklyn moved, and Director Ruby seconded approval of the proposed number of student transfer slots as presented.

Aye: Dyson, Ferguson, Hatch, Rooklyn, Ruby

Nay: none

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

14. **Announcements and Appointments**

14.A. The School Board Work Session previously listed for March 19, 2026, will not be held. There is no work session scheduled for March.

14.B. The next Regular Session meeting will be held on Thursday, April 9, 2026, at 6:30 p.m. in the City Council Chamber, 1175 E. Main St., Ashland.

15. **Executive Session**

Chair Dyson called for a motion to enter Executive Session under ORS 192.660(2)(i) to review and evaluate the performance of the chief executive officer.

❖ **Motion:** Director Ferguson moved, and Vice Chair Hatch seconded that we enter Executive Session under ORS 192.660(2)(i), to review and evaluate the performance of the chief executive officer.

Aye: Dyson, Ferguson, Hatch, Rooklyn, Ruby

Nay: none

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

16. **Return to Open Session**

Chair Dyson reconvened the meeting in open session at 8:33 p.m.

17. **Adjourn**

There being no further discussion, Chair Dyson adjourned the meeting at 8:33 p.m.

Submitted by:
Holly Rosser, Board Secretary

Date for Board Approval: April 9, 2026