

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, Alice Carnahan, read the Land Acknowledgment aloud.

2. **Adoption of Agenda**

❖ **Motion:** Director Ferguson moved, and Vice Chair Hatch seconded adoption of the agenda as presented.

Aye: Dyson, Ferguson, Hatch, Rooklyn, Ruby

Nay: none

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

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

❖ **Motion:** Vice Chair Hatch moved, and Director Rooklyn 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. Personnel Report for April

4.C. Enrollment Report for April

4.D. Temporary Positions MOA

5. **School Presentation: Helman**

Helman Principal Susan Hollandsworth welcomed the Board to Dragon Country and presented an overview of Helman Elementary School's School Improvement Plan, including student demographics, achievement data, improvement goals, and strategies to support student success. Helman currently has 261 students enrolled in grades K-5, including a site-based classroom with 10 students.

Helman's school improvement plan aligns with the district goal of increasing graduation rates to 95% by 2028 by strengthening early literacy and math achievement. By June 2026, Helman aims for 80% of students to perform at or above grade level in reading and 78% in math through strong core instruction, weekly teacher collaboration, targeted interventions, implementation of the ELA curriculum, and additional math support through a specialist.

The plan also supports the district goal of fostering a safe, welcoming, supportive, and inclusive environment. By spring 2027, Helman aims for 98% of students to report a positive sense of belonging on the YouthTruth Survey. Ms. Hollandsworth noted encouraging trends in social-emotional learning and highlighted activities and programs that support a welcoming and inclusive school environment, many of them hosted by the Helman PTA and funded by the Ashland Schools Foundation.

Helman Youth Advocate Lawson, along with Junior Coaches Colin Ali, Louisa Machala, and Brooklyn Malamitsas, shared how the Junior Coach Program creates positive experiences for all students.

The presentation ended with a special song led by teacher, Tia McLean, and a group of kindergarteners.

6. **ASF Annual Report**

ASF Executive Director Erica Thompson reported on recent Ashland Schools Foundation achievements and upcoming activities, including the annual fund drive. Established in 1989, ASF supports teachers and students through programs such as teacher grants. This year, ASF awarded 115 grants totaling approximately \$125,000 and supported a variety of activities in and outside the classroom, including classroom libraries, school newspapers, and community partnerships. Ms. Thompson also noted ASF's support in helping teachers pursue additional grant

funding and highlighted a recent flat-rate fee secured for student Oregon Shakespeare Festival tickets. A complete list of recent grants is available on the ASF website.

Ms. Thompson shared that this year's fundraising campaign theme is "Big Dreams Begin Here." She announced five outreach parties to be held April 20–24 at Bestow and invited community members to get involved. Shift sign-ups are available at ashlandschoolsfoundation.org.

7. Finance Report

7.A. Finance Report for the period ending March 31, 2026

Director of Business Services Sherry Ely reported that budget projections remain stable. She shared that property tax revenue is currently projected to come in approximately \$500,000 above estimates. Because ODE corrections will not be finalized until May 2027, that adjustment is expected to be reflected in the 2026–27 budget. Ms. Ely noted that the May reconciliation has been released and that the district is working with ODE on errors and corrections. Board members asked how the budget would be developed without knowing whether the YAAL will pass. Ms. Ely explained that the proposed budget will be built assuming YAAL revenue is included, with a contingency plan identifying the reductions that would be necessary if the measure does not pass. She noted that this plan will be addressed at the budget meeting.

Ms. Ely reported no significant expenditure concerns at this time. She continues to monitor a possible over expenditure in IDEA and has incorporated that possibility into General Fund projections, using Psychology Services and Speech Pathology as placeholders for potential cost transfers related to additional contracted speech pathology services. Based on projected revenue and expenditures through the end of March, she estimated an Ending Fund Balance of \$3.43 million, or 7.84%. She also reported that work on the 2026–27 budget is underway.

8. ASD Transformation Update

Superintendent Hattrick presented an updated ASD Transformation Timeline and Step-by-Step District Guide aligned with the district's "Jog" Approach, spanning January 2026 through June 2028. He emphasized that no final decisions are expected until 2027 and that the updated timeline will be posted on the district and school websites.

He reported that the district is currently in Phase 2, focused on staff engagement and formation of the Transformation Steering Committee. An interest form will be distributed to collect names of interested participants, followed by a selection process designed to ensure the committee includes representation from focal areas across the district. He also shared that a staff survey is planned to gather broad hopes for the future of the district.

Dr. Hattrick explained that Phase 3 will begin broader community engagement through surveys and listening opportunities, with an emphasis on gathering input rather than proposing solutions. Later phases include scenario development, additional community engagement, revision and budget development, board review and approval, transition planning, and implementation with ongoing monitoring.

Board members asked when data on facility use would be available to better understand which buildings and rooms are underused. Dr. Hattrick responded that a summary of the data will be available once scenarios are developed. Board members also encouraged a community engagement approach centered on human connection, noting that face-to-face conversations may be more effective than surveys alone in supporting a successful transformation. They expressed concern about survey fatigue and emphasized the importance of building connections across schools, sharing broadly what the community values, and leaning into a positive message focused on opportunity, guiding principles, and imagining a strong future for the district. Board members also noted the importance of adequately budgeting for the work so the district can carry it through successfully.

Dr. Hattrick noted that the Board will remain engaged at key points throughout the process and reiterated that the timeline serves as a roadmap, not a final plan. He also shared that the district is learning from and collaborating with Southern Oregon University and the City of Ashland as they conduct their own strategic planning efforts.

9. Recurring Reports

9.A. OSEA Report- None

9.B. AEA Report

AEA Representative Alan Parowski shared that Schools across the district reported a mix of growth, celebration, and challenge as they prepare for spring events, student activities, and kindergarten open houses. Highlights included Bellview's Change Maker assembly, a fourth-grade performance with the Rogue Valley Orchestra, outdoor and enrichment activities at several schools, and continued enrollment growth at Ashland Connect.

AMS reported strong participation in spring activities, including track and field, and AHS shared updates on master scheduling and review of its crisis intervention plan. Staff also expressed appreciation to the AEA and district bargaining teams for reaching a contract that supports financial stability while preserving key working conditions.

9.C. Student-Board Representative Report

Student Board Representatives Alice Carnahan & Milo Leiserson reported that spring sports and activities are underway at Ashland High School, including upcoming competitions in softball, boys volleyball, tennis, track and field, baseball, and Speech and Debate.

The report also highlighted senior graduation planning, state testing for juniors, and several student-led activities, including a blood drive, spikeball tournament, prom preparations, a coin drive for Sanctuary One, and belonging interviews to support school connection and inclusion. Many seniors have also received college decisions, with several already committed.

10. **Board Reports**

Board members shared updates on district and community engagement activities, including work with the LGBTQ2SIA+ Advisory Board. One member reported that the Advisory Board's charter passed legal review and was presented to the OSBA Board for approval in March, helping formalize the group's role and future work. The Advisory Board also secured a budget for next fiscal year to support training and participation opportunities related to student safety, mental health, and basic rights.

Board members also reported participation in district events, support for the Superintendent evaluation process, and Ashland High School's advancement to the state OBOB competition.

Several members shared outreach efforts in support of the Youth Activities and Academics Levy (YAAL), including media engagement, sign distribution, volunteer efforts, and donor support. Board members emphasized the levy's importance to district programs and noted strong community support.

11. **Superintendent Report**

Superintendent Hattrick announced Leo Garcia as the Rotary Student of the Month, recognizing his academic achievement, leadership, service, and positive impact on the school community. Leo was praised by staff as an intellectually curious, empathetic, and community-minded student who leads with humility and consistently supports others. Leo plans to attend the University of Oregon Honors College to study Political Science with the goal of pursuing a career in politics or law.

Dr. Hattrick reported that the district has completed all required submissions for the Youth Activities and Academics Levy and continues to work collaboratively with the Superintendent Advisory Council, SOU, the City of Ashland consultants, and the licensed union through collective bargaining. He also shared that the Insurance Committee will meet later this month, interviews for the Student Services Director position were conducted this week, and the Guanajuato ambassador program will take place again this summer.

Dr. Hattrick further reported that he recently met with the Ashland Mill development team, will serve as keynote speaker at Raider Day on April 25, and will travel to Portland for a COSA conference and to Bend for PACE Day. He also noted that the district is partnering with Commute Options to support Safe Routes to School.

11.A. Out of State Field Trip Notification

Superintendent Hattrick announced that the six members of the AHS DECA team will travel to Atlanta, Georgia, on 4/24-4/29 to compete in the International Career Development Competition.

11.B. ACTION: Resolution Teacher Appreciation Week May 4-8, 2026

Superintendent Hattrick proudly read the official proclamation declaring May 4–8 as Teacher Appreciation Week and invited the community to join in celebrating and honoring the dedication, impact, and contributions of the district's teachers.

❖ **Motion:** Director Ruby moved, and Director Rooklyn seconded approval of the Teacher Appreciation Week Proclamation as read by Dr. Hattrick.

Aye: Dyson, Ferguson, Hatch, Rooklyn, Ruby

Nay: none

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

12. Hear Public Comments- None

13. Unfinished Business - None

14. New Business

14.A. ACTION: Science & Health Curriculum Adoption

Assistant Principals Rebecca Gyarmathy and Hillary Cusenza presented the final recommendations of the Science and Health Curriculum Adoption Committees. They reported receiving minimal feedback during the public review period, that the recommendations remain unchanged, and that the materials are expected to remain within budget.

Board members expressed appreciation for the thorough review process. Clarification was provided on alignment with Oregon standards, including the role of supplemental materials. It was noted that Amplify includes hands-on instruction not fully reflected in the digital review materials.

Science Committee proposal:

- Amplify K-8 with an upgrade to the 2E version in 2028.
- AP textbooks for AHS:
 - AP Biology In Focus-4th edition
 - AP Environmental Science-5th edition (to be published by Feb 2027)
 - Anatomy and Physiology Essentials of Human Anatomy and Physiology-12th edition

Health Committee proposal:

- K-8 Health: The Great Body Shop
- 9-12 Health: Live Well: Comprehensive High School Health

❖ **Motion:** Director Ferguson moved, and Director Rooklyn seconded approval of the Science and Health Curriculums as recommended by the Science and Health Curriculum Adoption Committees.

Aye: Dyson, Ferguson, Hatch, Rooklyn, Ruby

Nay: none

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

15. Announcements and Appointments

15.A. The board will hold a work session on Thursday, April 23, 2026, at 6:30 p.m. in the District Office, 885 Siskiyou Blvd., Ashland.

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

16. Adjourn

There being no further discussion, Chair Dyson adjourned the meeting at 8:09 p.m.

Submitted by:
Holly Rosser, Board Secretary

Date for Board Approval: May 14, 2026