

# Ashland School District 5

Code: BCBA -AR(2)  
Adopted: 4/24/23

## Application for Student School Board Representatives

Name: Leah Lennett Home Phone: [REDACTED]  
Cell Phone: [REDACTED] Email: leahlennett@gmail.com  
Address: [REDACTED], Ashland OR  
City: Ashland Zip Code: 97520  
Year in School: graduate 2027 School: Ashland High School

Why would you like to serve on the School Board (300 words or less)?

*For answers, see back pages.*

How would you provide value to the School Board if you were selected (300 words or less)?

Describe an aspect of school culture or policy that has impacted you (150 words or less).

What impact would you seek to have on the Ashland School Board (150 words or less)?

Can you commit to attending the meeting dates that have been approved by the School Board?  
 Yes  No

Please list up to three teachers or staff members we can reach out to as a reference for you.

- 1) Alec Slinkard
- 2) Toni Wright
- 3) Brian Hobeln

Student Board members are appointed by the School Board in an advisory capacity. Appointees are selected from the completed applications; emails and letters of interest will not be considered. Please return completed form to your school principal.

Student Signature: Leah Lennett

Date: 4 / 11 / 26

Why would you like to serve on the School Board?

I would like to serve as a student board representative because I want to represent all student voices and ensure they're reflected in the decisions that shape our schools. I would like to close the gap by bringing student perspective into school board discussions. Decisions should be made with informed realities, powered by real student sentiment and not assumptions. I understand how school policies affect students differently depending on different circumstances. I want to make all student voices heard, not just those that are most visible. This role is important to me because I care about student experience and I see this as a position help create an environment better reflective of real experiences and needs of students. I desire students to feel more connected to their school environment and feel represented on decisions that involve them. I think this connection will increase overall investment in school life, as their input will have real impact. I want to serve on the school board to be able to be that representative that makes students feel heard and valued.

How would you provide value to the School Board if you were selected?

I would provide value to the school board by representing a variety of perspectives from students. As a student from an immigrant and multiracial background, I understand how policies affect non-English-speaking families as well as students of diverse cultural backgrounds. I believe my perspective would provide a more inclusive, wider range of student voices. Additionally as a past student of Walker Elementary School, and Ashland Middle School I can extend my insight to not only the high school. Beyond my background, I am also involved in Ashland High School's leadership class. I've had direct involvement in planning school events and engaging with many groups of students. This has given me a multifaceted experience of student life, which provides the understanding of how decisions would impact student engagement, as well as school climate. In addition, I am involved in many extracurriculars at my school that also represent different student groups. For instance, I compete in DECA, a school CTE/CTSO program, and I am also on the high school dance team, a traditionally underrepresented sport. This allows me to provide a wide set of perspectives in student activities. With my experiences balancing extracurriculars and managing classwork, I understand the pressures students face and can offer insight into how policies affect both performance and well-being. I believe my many perspectives would provide exceptional information to the board. I would also be committed to turning student voices into input meaningful to the school board and communicating student experiences. I would be dedicated to this role and have a strong focus of representation of all students.

Describe an aspect of school culture/policy that has impacted you?

An aspect of school culture that has impacted me is the mental health support at Ashland High School. Often while balancing coursework, I emphasize my performance over my wellbeing. The school has provided me with excellent mental health support that has helped me, especially during times when my life outside of school has also affected my mental health and focus on my education. Through resources at school like the Rogue Valley Mentoring Circle and counseling, I am able to talk through my feelings and experiences while being supported by a community. By being able to feel connected and supported at this school, my engagement has increased throughout the course of my high school experience in clubs, leadership, and participation. Additionally, it has allowed me to focus on working towards academic and non-academic goals in high school and beyond.

What impact would you seek to have on the Ashland School Board?

If I was a school board representative, I would seek to ensure student input is integrated into the decision making process. I would bridge the gap between policy making and the student opinion, that would otherwise not be represented. To do this, I would listen to student experiences in school and school based activities and recognize consistencies that can inform more student forward decisions. I would present on student life and student sentiments at board meetings to inform the board on student experience. Ultimately, the main goal of my impact is to provide insight on students to then be considered in policy making.