Ashland School Committee Minutes
September 24, 2025

Ashland Town Hall
101 Main Street
Select Board Meeting Room

Hybrid meeting: recorded on Zoom

Present:	Laurie Tosti, Chair Marc Terry, Vice Chair Paul Kendall, Member Tina Fitanides, Secretary James Adams, Superintendent Michael Caira, Assistant Superintendent Chris Mathieu, Director of Finance Abhishek Karthik, student representative, Ashland High School
Absent:	Marcy Culverwell, Member

Agenda Review and adoption
Ms. Tosti opened the meeting, took attendance and reviewed the agenda.
Vote:
Ms. Fitanides: Present and AYE
Mr. Kendall: Present and AYE
Mr. Terry: Present and AYE
Ms. Tosti: Present and AYE

Public Comment
There was none.

No Warrant Approvals were available for this meeting.

Superintendent's Report
Mr. Adams sent an email to the community about safety and electronic bikes. He has seen an increased usage of students riding e-bikes to school, especially at the middle school. In order to keep students and drivers safe, students who are riding an e-bike must dismount their e-bike and walk it to the bike rack for storage. Students cannot ride e-bikes through the parking lot of the school. In addition – no bikes, regular or electronic, are allowed on the turf fields at the middle school or on the fields at the high school.

Mr. Adams and Dr. Caira met with the AEA Union today and had a productive meeting.

Mr. Terry asked if there were any new student behaviors that are happening at the beginning of school, especially as students move to a new level or a new school? Mr. Adams reported that playgrounds are wide open and there are some disciplinary behaviors, but for the most part things are relatively normal. Mrs. Altman and Mrs. Lachapelle are both still new in their positions at their respective schools, so there are some adjustments being made.

Assistant Superintendent's Report
Dr. Caira reported that the first MTSS meeting (Multi-level Tiered Systems of Support) will be held on October 7.
The first Safety Committee meeting will be held on October 9. The first Early-release day will be Friday, October 10 for professional development for teachers.

AHS Student Handbook changes
Mr. Adams reminded the board that on June 11, 2025, they reviewed and approved some disciplinary changes to the AHS Student Handbook. They also reviewed and approved a series of 5 disciplinary policies.

These policies need to be referenced from within the handbook, per DESE. Mr. Adams is asking the board to re-approve the handbook with these policies referenced within.
Mr. Kendall moves to approve the AHS Student Handbook amendments as presented. Ms. Fitanides seconds the motion.Vote:
Ms. Fitanides: AYE
Mr. Kendall: AYE
Mr. Terry: AYE
Ms. Tosti: AYE

Consent Agenda
Mr. Terry moves to approve the Consent Agenda. Ms. Fitanides seconds the motion. Vote:
Ms. Fitanides: AYE
Mr. Kendall: AYE
Mr. Terry: AYE
Ms. Tosti: AYE

School Committee Member Reports
Abishek reported that several students were awarded National Honors at AHS. Some college acceptances are in already for a few students. Application season is getting busy.
Ms. Fitanides has been volunteering with a group to support Ashland Day. It's scheduled for October 4 with a rain date of October 5.
Mr. Kendall attended the Fall Fest recently, which is a fundraiser for our student athletes. He wanted to commend those folks who organized the event. He attended a Building Committee meeting.
Ms. Tosti reported that she is not available to attend Ashland Day, but hopes it is a big success.

Ashland Cross-Country team PreSeason Camp report
Members of the Ashland High School x-country team reported on the pre-season camp that took place over Labor Day weekend. Madeline Callahan, Jane Goss, Leah Kriegsman, Luca Domestico, Davis Robustelli presented.
Last year's camping trip was the first one, and they are hoping to make this an annual event. Campfires at night allowed the kids to bond. They hiked Mt. Cardigan in NH. It was a challenging hike and the students developed team unity and made connections. The group went swimming at the dam. They had three groups to rotate the job of cooking and cleaning up from meals. They did a long run on Sunday, and a sunrise hike on their last morning. They also had an informal Talent Show. Students sang, danced, played the ukulele and did magic tricks. Overall, the students reported that the trip was extremely worthwhile, and they would love to be able to continue it in the future.

Ms. Tosti appreciated that the team members could return to the School Committee and give a follow up report on their trip. Ms. Fitanides was pleased to hear that the trip was successful and met the goals that they set forth originally.

Ms. Fitanides moves to adjourn the meeting at 6:33pm. Mr. Terry seconded the motion. Meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,
Gretchen King
Executive Administrative Assistant to the Superintendent

Documents used during the meeting
Ashland High School Student Handbook Revision
Minutes - September 10, 2025
Ashland Cross Country Preseason Camp 2025