

Dayton School District #8

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REGULAR BOARD MEETING

Tuesday, September 9, 2025

The Board of Directors of Dayton School District No. 8 met for the regular monthly meeting on Tuesday, September 9, 2025 in the District Board Room broadcast via zoom.

CALL TO ORDER/PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Board Chair Larry Ringnalda called the Regular Board Meeting to order at 7:04 PM and led the Pledge of Allegiance to the American Flag.

ATTENDANCE

Board Members	Administrators/Board Secretary
Larry Ringnalda, Chair	Amy Fast Superintendent
Kraig Albright, Vice Chair	Sean Burke Interim Director of Operation
Veronica Palmer - Zoom	Molly Arce, Data Specialist/Board Secretary
Pieper Sweeney	Stephanie Oliveira, Board Secretary
Ann Coleman	Student Board Members
Terri Paysinger	
Christopher Wytoski	

Oath of Office:

Board Member Appointment and Oath of Office

- Terry Paysinger

Additions, Deletions, and Amendments to Agenda:

- Additions Business
 - Approve Overnight Request FFA
 - Lower Willamette District FFA Leadership Camp: Location Falls City, Oregon September 17, 2025 – September 18, 2025
 - National FFA Convention: Location Indianapolis, Indiana from October 25, 2025 – November 2, 2025
 - State FFA Convention: Location Redmond, Oregon from March 19, 2026 – March 22, 2026

A motion to adopt the agenda with changes was made by Director Kraig Albright , seconded by Director Pieper Sweeney and carried unanimously (7-0) to adopt the agenda.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Board Chair Larry Ringnalda announced the public comment agenda item. He reviewed the rules that govern public comments, and paper copies of board policy BDDH-Public Comment at board meetings were available to the public.

The following public comments were heard by the Board: (Quoted topic titles were written as listed on public comments form.)

Benji Hedgecock

Mr. Hedgecock shared his thoughts on the memorial plaque, emphasizing that it was created to honor a student's memory. He thanked district administration for maintaining their stance and not giving in to external pressure. He expressed hope that the community would agree on the importance of recognizing and honoring those who have supported the Dayton community.

Michael Factor

Address: 120 West 19th Street, Lafayette, Oregon

Mr. Factor spoke about the moral and spiritual intent behind the plaque. He stated that the inclusion of a Bible verse was not meant to promote religion in schools but rather to remember the student and respect the family. He expressed his hope that the moral values represented by the plaque remain and that it not be removed.

Quinn Johnston

Ms. Johnston expressed appreciation for the opportunity to speak. She explained that she was the individual who designed and added the plaque in June to remember the student. Her intention was not to single out anyone but to include a meaningful verse that symbolized hope and a future, quoting *"For I know the plans I have for you," declares the Lord.*

She clarified that her intention was never to promote religion, but to honor the student's life and share a message of encouragement. She emphasized her zero-tolerance stance on bullying and stated that the project came from a place of compassion and remembrance. She also noted that she had read the same verse from the Jewish Bible, reinforcing that it was chosen for its universal message of hope.

Kathryn Nelson-Davis

Address: 16690 Woodland Heights Road

Ms. Nelson-Davis expressed how meaningful it was to hear from others and understand the heart and intent behind the plaque. She described it as a beautiful way to honor the student and family, and as an opportunity for unity within the community. She encouraged finding a solution that honors both perspectives, allowing the plaque to serve as a reminder of the student's life and the family's contributions to Dayton.

Justin Wilson-Garbor (via Zoom)

Location: Keizer, Oregon

Mr. Wilson-Garbor referenced the Torah/Jewish Bible and described the plaque as a representation of cultural learning and remembrance, aligning with the district's goal of education and inclusion. He expressed his condolences to the family and reaffirmed that the plaque was intended to honor Ethan's memory in a respectful, lawful manner.

He noted that he had originally envisioned the plaque being placed near the football field and expressed uncertainty about how it ended up in its current location. He concluded by emphasizing that his intent was to keep Ethan's memory alive and valued within the Dayton community.

CONSENT AGENDA

It was moved by Director Chris Wytoski, seconded by Director Ann Coleman, and carried unanimously (6-0) to approve the Consent Agenda as presented.

Note: Director Terri Paysinger abstained from voting, as she was absent from the previous meeting.

- Approve 2025-08-12 Regular Board Meeting Minutes
- Approve 2025-08-12 Special Board Meeting Minutes

Confirm New Employees

- Amber Gamel.Miller - District Nurse
- Bruce Moore - Head Girls Basketball Coach
- Ramon Nunez - Custodian
- Elizabeth Ramirez Romero - Grade School Teacher

REPORTS

FFA Fair Report: Presented by Mitch Coleman

Mr. Mitch Coleman provided an update on the Dayton FFA program and student participation at the Yamhill County Fair and Oregon State Fair.

Mr. Coleman shared that approximately 120 Dayton students participated in the county fair, generating nearly \$350,000 in total sales. He reflected on the meaningful learning experiences that FFA provides—students not only raise and show animals but also learn valuable life skills such as responsibility, communication, and teamwork. Students must learn to feed, groom, and care for their animals, interact with the public, and manage sales of their projects.

He noted that these experiences go far beyond competition:

“It stops being about me as an individual and starts being about the group.”

FFA, he emphasized, teaches students leadership, work ethic, accountability, and the importance of community.

At the Oregon State Fair, Dayton FFA brought approximately 20 students who exhibited goats, sheep, nursery plants, and crops. The group earned multiple banners and recognition for their efforts. Mr. Coleman highlighted that the focus remains on community, teamwork, and developing responsible young people.

Mr. Coleman, who has been involved in FFA for over 35 years, expressed his gratitude for the opportunity to work with Dayton students and the community. He shared that Claire Coleman will not continue in her current role, but that he will lead FFA in the fall and collaborate with staff to ensure the program continues to thrive. He emphasized that communication, honesty, and community support are essential to sustaining the success of the program:

Director Chris Wytoski inquired about community engagement within the FFA program. Mr. Coleman shared that outreach efforts have expanded significantly, particularly in supporting Spanish-speaking families. He highlighted the contributions of Kevin Ortiz, a bilingual FFA member who has helped bridge communication between FFA and Spanish-speaking parents.

Mr. Coleman noted that this summer, 40 Spanish-speaking families participated in fair activities—an important step toward ensuring inclusion and access for all students and families in the Dayton community.

Board members expressed appreciation for Mr. Coleman's long-standing leadership and commitment to students, as well as for the program's positive impact on student growth, inclusion, and community pride.

Food Service Report: Presented by Norma Huettl

Food Service Supervisor Norma Huettl provided an update on district nutrition services and shared reflections as she begins her 26th year with the Dayton School District.

Norma began by acknowledging that this school year has been a busy and eventful start, but also one filled with teamwork, trust, and connection. She shared that, after many years in food service, this year feels particularly special because of the unity and support within her team.

She recognized individual team members and their unique contributions:

- Rose, a long-time member of the department, serves as the district baker, known for her dedication and consistency.
- Sherri J., referred to as “the rock” of the grade school kitchen, is known for preparing meals “made with love” – and even adds stickers to brighten students’ days.
- Sarah M., known as the “queen of fruits and veggies,” brings a positive, can-do attitude and never hesitates to help wherever needed.
- Heather Q. is willing to jump in and do what is needed help.

Norma expressed her gratitude for the team’s flexibility and commitment during recent scheduling and staffing changes. She also thanked the administrative team, Otto, and the students for their ongoing support, emphasizing how everyone plays a role in creating a caring and collaborative environment.

She proudly noted that together, the district’s food service staff represent over 60 years of combined service and love for Dayton’s students. Norma closed her remarks by sharing her excitement for the year ahead and appreciation for the opportunity to serve the Dayton community:

“It feels so good to have a team built on trust and love – we’re working together, and I’m so excited to see what this year will bring.

Business Report Presented by: Superintendent Amy Fast on behalf of DeAnn O’Neil and Jan Bunn

The Fiscal Office provided an update on current financial operations and ongoing work to strengthen fiscal management practices within the Dayton School District.

The department is focused on implementing and maintaining robust internal controls to ensure that all financial statements are accurate and free from material misstatements. Efforts are underway to reestablish clear and concise financial reporting protocols that will serve both audit requirements and ongoing Board and Superintendent reporting, supporting transparency and accountability in district finances.

Current Focus Areas

1. September Payroll Processing

- September represents the first major payroll of the school year, requiring detailed verification to ensure that all staff are paid correctly per their contracts.
- The payroll process includes updates to deductions and benefits, cross-checking data for accuracy, and managing questions from staff while maintaining daily business operations.

- This work demands extensive review by multiple fiscal team members to ensure precision and timeliness.

2. Audit Preparation – October

- Preparations are underway for the annual financial audit scheduled for late October.
- The team is conducting a thorough reconciliation of accounts and fund balances, verifying transactions, and ensuring all documentation is properly maintained.
- The approach has been to prepare as if the current team had been in place for the full fiscal year, ensuring completeness and integrity of all records.
- Necessary corrections and adjustments are being made where discrepancies are identified.

Next Steps

A financial update will be presented to the Board in October, which will include the estimated beginning fund balance for the fiscal year.

The Fiscal Office expressed appreciation for the support of the Board, Superintendent, Business Director, and district office staff as they continue to strengthen fiscal operations and ensure sound financial stewardship.

Superintendent Report: Presented by: Superintendent Amy Fast

Superintendent Fast began her report by sharing a personal reflection on the legacy of Ethan Kearns, whose life and leadership left a lasting impact on the Dayton community. She noted that while Ethan was not a student officially enrolled at Dayton High School, his influence was deeply felt by students, staff, and the community—symbolizing the unity, teamwork, and family spirit that define Dayton.

Dr. Fast discussed the importance of tradition, inclusion, and community identity within Dayton School District. She emphasized that while the district strives to ensure all students feel represented and included, it also values long-standing traditions that reflect the heart and history of the community.

She reiterated that every decision made under her leadership—whether related to curriculum, memorials, or personnel—centers on student rights, leadership, and wellbeing. She reflected on her guiding expectation for all staff: *“Being a good teammate is a non-negotiable.”*

Superintendent Fast shared reflections from attending Dayton’s annual Alumni Reunion, noting the sense of belonging and connection among generations of graduates. She described her personal feelings about the challenges and joys of leadership, clarifying that while she may not always feel *happy* in her role, she remains deeply committed, hopeful, and purpose-driven in serving the district and community.

She addressed recent community perceptions that the Board operates without independent consideration, affirming that Dayton’s School Board is characterized by critical thinking, respectful disagreement, and shared vision, rather than blind consensus. She expressed gratitude for a Board that engages in thoughtful, student-centered decision-making and upholds transparent dialogue.

Superintendent Fast concluded her report by reaffirming her dedication to the mission of the district and confidence in the leadership team working beside her. She drew a parallel to the late Ethan Kearns’ legacy of teamwork and leadership, encouraging the community to continue rowing together in pursuit of greatness.

"When we put the team first—before our individual agendas, opinions, or politics—we actually hold in our hands the treasure that we have all been seeking all along."

DISCUSSION

Schedule of Board Events

- Board Work Session, Tuesday October 14, 2025 beginning at 6:00 PM
- Next Regular Board Meeting, Tuesday October 14, 2025 beginning at 7:00 PM
- Oregon School Board Association Annual Convention, November 6-8, 2025, at the Portland Marriott Downtown Waterfront. Registration opens September 10, 2025 - Please notify the board secretary if you would like to attend.

BUSINESS

Approve Superintendent Evaluation Process for the 2025-2026 School Year

It was moved by Director Terri Paysinger, seconded by Director Kraigh Albright, and carried unanimously (7-0) to approve the Superintendent Evaluation Process for the 2025-2026 School Year as presented.

Approve Alternative Education Programs for the 2025-2026 School Year

It was moved by Director Chris Wytoski, seconded by Director Ann Coleman, and carried unanimously (7-0) to approve the Alternative Education Programs for the 2025-2026 School Year.

Approve Propane Contract for the 2025-2026 School Year

It was moved by Director Terri Paysinger, seconded by Director Chris Wytoski, and carried (6-0) to approve the Propane Contract for the 2025-2026 School Year.

Director Larry Ringnald abstained due to a conflict of interest.

Approve FFA Overnight Requests

The Board reviewed and approved the following FFA overnight requests:

- Lower Willamette District FFA Leadership Camp – Falls City, Oregon
September 17-18, 2025
- National FFA Convention – Indianapolis, Indiana
October 25 – November 2, 2025
- State FFA Convention – Redmond, Oregon
March 19-22, 2026

It was moved by Director Pieper Sweeney, seconded by Director Chris Wytoski, and carried unanimously (7-0) to approve the FFA Overnight Requests as presented.

NON-AGENDA ITEM – COMMUNITY COMMENT

Sheryl Walsh – 20755 Neck Rd., Dayton

Ms. Walsh thanked the Board for the opportunity to speak. She referenced a recent student survey distributed to classes and reflected on the impact of teacher Alica Wilson, describing her as a *high-quality, multi-grade teacher who raises the bar in Dayton*. Ms. Walsh shared that Ms. Wilson is greatly missed by many students and expressed hope that she will be allowed to return to the classroom.

Jeremy Oliveira

Mr. Oliveira commented on community values and the influence of certain individuals and decisions that, in his view, have had lasting impacts on Dayton. He expressed concern that some actions have taken away from the positive aspects of the community.

Kathleen Brassel – Webfoot Rd., Dayton

Ms. Brassel spoke as a concerned parent and coach with children enrolled in the district. She emphasized her belief in the importance of maintaining high standards for all district staff. She raised concerns regarding reports of sexual misconduct, noting that such issues can erode community trust. Ms. Brassel stated she could not, in good conscience, support hiring decisions that do not uphold the integrity and safety expected in the district.

Benji Hedgecock

Mr. Hedgecock spoke in support of a district administrator, noting that this individual has significantly improved the athletic program, generated cost savings of approximately \$150,000 related to Title IX, developed new programs, proposed the removal of athletic fees, expanded the weight room, increased coaching opportunities, and advanced female athletic participation. He stated that there was no arrest or proof of wrongdoing and expressed his belief that this person remains a strong asset to the Dayton School District.

Justin Wilson-Gabor (via zoom)

Mr. Wilson-Gabor thanked the student representatives for their efforts and commended Quinn for her courage in standing up for her beliefs. He expressed concern about district leadership and communication, sharing that some community members feel their voices are not being heard. He emphasized the importance of listening to student and community perspectives when making district decisions.

Jeff Crapper (via zoom)

Mr. Crapper, a former Board member, expressed appreciation for the Superintendent's leadership and dedication. He shared his respect for the Superintendent's vision and stated that he feels hopeful about the district's positive momentum under current leadership.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

At 8:15 PM, the board chair announced that the Board would meet in Executive Session for the following purpose:

The Dayton School Board will now meet in Executive Session pursuant to ORS 192.660(2)(b), ORS 192.660(2)(i), and ORS 192.660(2)(f) which allows the Board to meet in executive session for the following purposes:

Executive Session (as allowed under ORS 192.660(2)(h)):

This section specifically permits executive sessions to consult with counsel about legal rights and duties regarding current or likely litigation.

The meeting reconvened into the Regular Board Meeting at 8:51PM.

BUSINESS**Approval of Legal Counsel to Represent Superintendent Dr. Amy Fast**

It was moved by Director Terri Paysinger, seconded by Director Pieper Sweeney, to approve the hiring of outside legal counsel to represent Superintendent Dr. Amy Fast in ongoing legal proceedings.

Motion carried unanimously and passed (7-0)

Approval of Legal Counsel to Represent Sean Burke

It was moved by Director Terri Paysinger, seconded by Director Kraigh Albright, to approve the hiring of outside legal counsel to represent Sean Burke.

Motion passed (5-2).

Board Reflections:**Director Chris Wytoski**

Director Wytoski shared closing thoughts with appreciation for the ongoing work of the district.

Director Ann Coleman

Director Coleman expressed that she is glad to see the district moving forward in a positive direction. She also commended the recent hire of the school nurse, describing it as a very good decision for the district.

Director Veronica Palmer

Director Palmer provided closing remarks of support for the district and its continued progress.

Director Kraigh Albright

Director Albright stated that he is hopeful the district will continue moving in the right direction and encouraged everyone to take time to self-reflect as they move forward together.

Director Larry Ringnalda

Director Ringnalda shared that he regularly checks in with Superintendent Dr. Amy Fast and feels the district is in a good place. He emphasized that the Board and district leadership understand and value the Dayton community and its traditions. He also commended student representative Quinn, stating she is an *"outstanding young woman with a bright future,"* encouraging her not to let others' opinions affect her confidence. He reaffirmed that the Board supports Dr. Fast and the district.

Director Pieper Sweeney

Director Sweeney expressed her appreciation for Quinn's comments during the meeting, calling them *"amazing."* She also shared that her daughter had posted on social media about Dr. Fast's positive leadership, noting that it gave her renewed hope in what Dayton stands for and where it is heading.

Director Terri Paysinger

Director Paysinger addressed Dr. Fast, acknowledging the challenges she has faced and commending her for handling them with professionalism and grace. She added, *"We're going to get through this together."*

Superintendent Dr. Amy Fast

Dr. Fast concluded by sharing that her goal is not to be political, but rather to bring hope to the district and community.

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

No Future agenda items were discussed

The Board Chair adjourned the meeting at 9:00 PM.

Respectfully submitted,



Larry Ringhalda, Chair
Dayton Board of Education



Molly Arce, Board Secretary
Dayton Board of Education

