Ashland School Committee Minutes
June 3, 2026

Ashland High School
Library
65 East Union Street
Ashland, MA

Present:	Marc Terry Paul Kendall Marcy Culverwell Tina Fitanides Chantal Kokaram James Adams, Superintendent Michael Caira, Assistant Superintendent
Absent:	Chris Mathieu, Director of Finance

Agenda Review and adoption
Mr. Adams opened the meeting, took attendance, and read through the agenda. The first item on the agenda was the reorganization of the School Committee.

Mr. Kendall moves to approve Mr. Terry as Chair of the School Committee. Ms. Fitanides seconds the motion. Vote:
Ms. Culverwell: AYE
Ms. Fitanides: AYE
Mr. Terry: AYE
Ms. Kokaram: AYE
Mr. Kendall: AYE

Ms. Fitanides moves to approve Mr. Kendall as Vice-Chair of the School Committee. Ms. Kokaram seconds the motion. Vote:
Ms. Culverwell: AYE
Ms. Fitanides: AYE
Mr. Terry: AYE
Ms. Kokaram: AYE
Mr. Kendall: AYE

Public Comment
None

Copper Family Education Fund
Mr. Adams presented a summary of the gift proposal from the Cooper Family. The Cooper Family will be gifting Ashland Public Schools an amount of $50,000 to support math education, and a scholarship for students looking to pursue math education. Mr. Kendall moves to accept the Cooper Family Education fund gift and to establish the fund. Ms. Fitanides seconds the motion. Vote:
Ms. Culverwell: AYE
Ms. Fitanides: AYE
Mr. Terry: AYE

Ms. Kokaram: AYE
Mr. Kendall: AYE

Appointment of the Superintendent to the Board of Directors for the ACCEPT Collaborative
Mr. Kendall moves to appoint Mr. Adams to the Board of Directors for the ACCEPT Collaborative. Ms. Fitanides seconded the motion. Vote:
Ms. Culverwell: AYE
Ms. Fitanides: AYE
Mr. Terry: AYE
Ms. Kokaram: AYE
Mr. Kendall: AYE

Removal of Regulation AD 1.382 Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum, Instruction and Assessment Job Description
Mr. Terry gave Ms. Kokaram some background around this policy update around the Assistant Superintendent's job description. Mr. Kendall moves to approve the removal of the regulation from the job description. Ms. Fitanides seconded the motion. Vote:
Ms. Culverwell: AYE
Ms. Fitanides: AYE
Mr. Terry: AYE
Ms. Kokaram: AYE
Mr. Kendall: AYE

Appointment of a School Committee Member to the Assistant Superintendent's Search Committee
First round interviews will take place Tuesday, June 17 and Wednesday, June 18 in the afternoon. This role is a School Committee appointment, so all members of the board will have an opportunity to meet the final candidates. Chantal Kokaram volunteered to participate in the search committee. Ms. Fitanides moves to nominate Ms. Kokaram to the Assistant Superintendent's search committee. Ms. Culverwell seconded the motion. Vote:
Ms. Culverwell: AYE
Ms. Fitanides: AYE
Mr. Terry: AYE
Ms. Kokaram: AYE
Mr. Kendall: AYE

Warrant Approvals
Between May 14, 2026, and June 3, 2026, Paul Kendall authorized by his signature, payables in the amount of $ 766,933.32. This includes General Fund expenses of $515,839.53, Revolving expenses of $245,606.01, Grant expenses of $5,411.93, and Meals Tax expenses of $75,85.

Finally, he authorized payroll for $ 1,505,849.88.

Superintendent's Report
Mr. Adams is looking to hire for two Administrative positions – Assistant Superintendent and Director of Student Services.

He has received 24 applications for the Director of Student Services position. A search committee has been selected, and Kate Altman and Erin Lachapelle will lead the committee. It

will likely be an August 1 start date for the new hire. Mr. Adams will review the initial applications, to confirm certifications, and select 6 candidates to interview with the committee.

Mr. Adams has received 54 applications for the Assistant Superintendent position. This position is a School Committee appointed position. Mr. Adams will select six candidates to interview with the committee, which will be lead by Ms. St. Coeur and Mr. Regan. He is particularly looking for a candidate who is experienced with K-5 literacy programs, and someone who has elementary teaching experience.

School Committee Summer Retreat
The board has agreed to schedule their retreat on Monday, July 27, 2026 in the Music Room at Mindess School.

Consent Agenda
Mr. Terry moves to approve the Consent Agenda. Mr. Kendall seconded the motion. Vote:
Ms. Culverwell: AYE
Ms. Fitanides: AYE
Mr. Terry: AYE
Ms. Kokaram: AYE
Mr. Kendall: AYE

Reports of School Committee Members
Ms. Culverwell attended the Reality Fair at Ashland High School. She wanted to give a shout out to the staff who organized the event: Josh Wiczer, Lauren Giombetti. She reported that the event was a huge success.
Ms. Fitanides also volunteered at the Reality Fair at the High School with the senior students. She also attended an ASHPAC meeting, where members of the group discussed Unified Sports and gave an update. There are things with Unified Sports that are going better this year than last year, and areas of improvement requested.
Mr. Kendall also attended the Reality Fair, and noted that it is a unique event to Ashland High School.
Mr. Terry attended a High School Site Council meeting, where the conversation was about the School Improvement Plan.

At 6:38pm, Mr. Kendall moved to adjourn the meeting. Ms. Fitanides seconded the motion. Vote:
Ms. Culverwell: AYE
Ms. Fitanides: AYE
Mr. Terry: AYE
Ms. Kokaram: AYE
Mr. Kendall: AYE

The meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,
Gretchen King
Executive Administrative Assistant to the Superintendent

Documents used during the meeting

Minutes - May 13, 2026
Item 1 - Reorganization of School Committee
FY 26 06.03.26 SCHOOL COMMITTEE ACCEPTANCE LOG
Cooper Family Ashland Math Education Fund
Asst. Superintendent for Curric & Instruction Job Description.doc (1)
Appointment of Superintendent to ACCEPT Collaborative_2026-2027