Ashland School Committee Minutes
May 13, 2026

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 Marcy Culverwell, Member Tina Fitanides, Secretary James Adams, Superintendent Michael Caira, Assistant Superintendent Abhishek Karthik, student representative, Ashland High School
Absent:	Chris Mathieu, Director of Finance

Agenda Review and adoption
At 6:05 pm, Ms. Tosti opened the meeting, reviewed the agenda and took attendance.
Vote:
Ms. Culverwell: Present and AYE
Ms. Fitanides: Present and AYE
Mr. Kendall: Present and AYE
Mr. Terry: Present and AYE
Ms. Tosti: Present and AYE

Public Comment
None

Leo's Club at Ashland High School
The Leo's Club members would like to donate four new picnic tables for the AHS courtyard. They are a community-service oriented club, Jane Goss and Cate Terry came to present. Past fundraisers have included a Bingo Night and Food Drive. The picnic tables are made out of plastic and will be set up in late summer or early fall. The tables can be stored indoors in the winter, if necessary and are designed to fold up for easier storage. The club has the funds to purchase the tables already. Mr. Kendall moves to accept the donation as presented, Ms. Fitanides seconds the motion. Vote:
Ms. Culverwell: AYE
Ms. Fitanides: AYE
Mr. Kendall: AYE
Mr. Terry: AYE
Ms. Tosti: AYE

Give Kids the World Service Trip Request
Ella Matarese, GKTW Coordinator presented the dates for the upcoming proposed trip: November 19-22, 2026. 36-40 students will attend the trip with 4 chaperones. Jen Pavia-Shiels, Ashland High School Adjustment Counselor, is proposing that the trip be approved conditionally

with travel costs still to be determined. Ms. Tosti has been on the trip as a chaperone ten times, and supports it wholeheartedly. Mr. Terry moves to approve the trip as presented, Ms. Fitanides seconds. Vote:
Ms. Culverwell: AYE
Ms. Fitanides: AYE
Mr. Kendall: AYE
Mr. Terry: AYE
Ms. Tosti: AYE

Ms. Pavia-Shiels gave a speech to thank Ms. Tosti for all her years of service and her overwhelming support of the Make-A-Wish Club at the high school.

School Choice Policy Update
Mr. Adams reports that Ashland's School Choice policy needs updating in order to comply with Massachusetts General Law and DESE guidance. Two lotteries need to take place by November 1, if there are still open School Choice seats unfilled. Mr. Kendall moves to approve the updates to this policy. Ms. Fitanides seconds the motion. Vote:
Ms. Culverwell: AYE
Ms. Fitanides: AYE
Mr. Kendall: AYE
Mr. Terry: AYE
Ms. Tosti: AYE

Assistant Superintendent's Job Description
A Superintendent's Advisory Search Committee will be formed for the opening of this position. This position was last posted in 2016. Board Members agreed to move this item to the agenda for the next meeting.

Director of Student Services Opening
Mr. Adams reports that Brittany Hawkins, current Director of Student Services, put forth her letter of resignation, effective August 14, 2026. A search committee will be formed, and a School Committee member will be part of the search committee. The position will be posted May 15, applications will be due by June 6. Mr. Kendall nominates Tina Fitanides as the School Committee member to be on the search committee for the Director of Student Services position. Vote:
Ms. Culverwell: AYE
Ms. Fitanides: AYE
Mr. Kendall: AYE
Mr. Terry: AYE
Ms. Tosti: AYE

Superintendent's Summative Evaluation
Ms. Tosti read Mr. Adam's evaluation notes for the year from the School Committee. His overall evaluation rating is Exemplary. The committee moves to approve the Superintendent's evaluation. Vote:
Ms. Culverwell: AYE
Ms. Fitanides: AYE
Mr. Kendall: AYE
Mr. Terry: AYE

Ms. Tosti: AYE

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

Warrant Approvals
Between April 9, 2026, and May 13, 2026, Paul Kendall, authorized by his signature, payables in the amount of $ 1,471,122.56. This includes General Fund expenses of $1,146,364.54, Revolving expenses of $301,970.50, Grant expenses of $22,692.00, and Meals Tax expenses of $95.52. Finally, I authorized payroll for $ 4,528,414.35.

Superintendent's Report
Mr. Adams gave a speech honoring Laurie Tosti's 15 years of service on the School Committee. His speech was followed by other speeches by family, Ashland high school staff, Kristin Scully, President of the Ashland Educator's Association, State Representative Jack Lewis, Town Manager Michael Herbert, Select Board members Joe Magnani, Claudia Bennett, and Brandi Kinsman.

At 7:55pm, Mr. Terry moved to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Kendall seconded the motion. Vote:
Ms. Culverwell: AYE
Ms. Fitanides: AYE
Mr. Kendall: AYE
Mr. Terry: AYE
Ms. Tosti: AYE

The meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,
Gretchen King
Executive Administrative Assistant to the Superintendent

Documents used during the meeting
Warrant Approvals 05_13_26
VDH Memo to SC - Policy AD 4.15.26
Policy_ JFBB - SCHOOL CHOICE
Policy CDB Central Office Administrator Search Process
Minutes - April 8, 2026
GKTW overnight and out of state travel request November 2026.docx
FY 26 05.13.26 SCHOOL COMMITTEE ACCEPTANCE LOG
Asst. Superintendent for Curric & Instruction Job Description.doc
Adjusted School Committee Agenda May 13, 2026
2026 Director of Student Services Timeline