

FEBRUARY 11, 2026

The Ashley school board held their regular meeting on Wednesday, February 11, 2026 at 7:00pm in the Ashley school conference room. Present: Ross Litsey, Jordan Jenner, Lyle Fey, Amy Schlepp, Corey Ulmer, Jason Schmidt, Chris Doane, Teresa Dockter, Tucker Meidinger.

Motion by Schlepp to approve the agenda with two additions. Second by Ulmer, motion carried unanimously.

Motion by Jenner to approve the minutes of the January 14th meeting as written. Second by Schlepp, motion carried unanimously.

Motion by Litsey to approve payment of general fund bills (\$44,737.94). Second by Jenner, motion carried unanimously.

Motion by Litsey to approve financial reports as presented. Second by Ulmer, motion carried unanimously.

There were no public comments.

Motion by Schlepp to hold the annual election on June 2, 2026 from 11am-7pm. Second by Litsey, motion carried unanimously. Corey Ulmer (city) and Amy Schlepp (at-large) are the candidates whose terms expire this year.

The first reading was held on policy DKBA-Separation of At-Will Employees.

Motion by Jenner to approve the 26/27 school calendar as presented. Second by Ulmer, motion carried unanimously. School will start on August 13, 2026 and end on May 13, 2027. Graduation will be on May 16, 2027.

Motion by Schlepp to authorize issuance of teacher contracts for the 2026-27 school year. Second by Litsey, motion carried unanimously.

Motion by Jenner to approve open enrollment forms for the 26/27 school year for 3 students from the Strasburg school district. Second by Schlepp, motion carried unanimously.

Motion by Litsey to approve the contract for Brody Hoffman for pee wee wrestling (\$900). Second by Ulmer, motion carried unanimously.

Jordan Nieuwsma from Consolidated Construction was here on 2/9—installed a barrier in the locker room shower area to divert water to the drain. Took pictures of the cracks in the walls & will do some more digging into what can be done to resolve that problem.

Mr. Schmidt will get some quotes to replace the cubbies in the elementary classrooms. May have to replace some active boards on the high school side also.

Mr. Schmidt reviewed information regarding the recent legislative action on funding school lunch. The issue could be on the November ballot which would make it a constitutional item if it passes. Cost of that would come out of the state's budget, which could very likely mean no increase in per pupil payment funding.

Motion by Litsey to hire Ann Bettenhausen to teach driver's ed for \$1,650 for classroom instruction and \$200 per student for behind-the-wheel instruction. Second by Jenner, motion carried unanimously.

Fire alarm monitoring system has been installed and fire alarm inspection will be scheduled in the near future.

Mr. Schmidt's report: 1) State superintendent of schools will visit on 3/27; 2) Co-op meeting will be held in Wishek on 3/23; 3) Elementary interim testing is complete; 4) Will start elementary evaluations soon; 5) Zeeland students & parents came to visit our school on 2/10; 6) Will apply for BIC grant for preschool next year; 7) Playground committee continuing to work on that project--have received some donations from community businesses and applied for endowment money. Tri County Fair has donated \$20,000 and Lions have committed \$50,000.

Mr. Doane's report: 1) Mathcounts team took 1st at county competition and Sarah Schauer took 2nd overall; 2) Explained a leadership activity he had the seniors do; 3) Mock draft of next year's schedule was distributed to teachers—includes an additional period for intervention; 4) County spelling bee is 2/17, region science fair on 3/9; 5) Girls wrestling team qualified for state dual tournament, region individual tournaments are 2/13 & 2/14; district GBB—girls won first game, BBB will have play-in game for district tournament.

Next meeting will be March 11, 2026 at 8:00pm. Board recess from 8:16-8:22.

President Fey moved into executive session per NDCC 14-04-19.2 at 8:22pm to discuss administrative negotiations.

The regular meeting reconvened at 8:47pm. Motion by Jenner to adjourn, second by Ulmer. Motion carried unanimously, meeting adjourned at 8:47pm.

Teresa Dockter, Business Manager

Lyle Fey, President