

MARCH 11, 2026

The Ashley school board held their regular meeting on Wednesday, March 11, 2026 at 8:00pm in the conference room. Present: Lyle Fey, Ross Litsey, Jordan Jenner, Amy Schlepp, Corey Ulmer, Jason Schmidt, Chris Doane, Teresa Dockter, Tucker Meidinger.

Motion by Schlepp to approve the agenda with one addition. Second by Jenner, motion carried unanimously.

Motion by Ulmer to approve the minutes of the February 11th meeting as written. Second by Litsey, motion carried unanimously.

Motion by Jenner to approve payment of general fund bills (\$42,448.76). Second by Schlepp, motion carried unanimously.

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

There were no public comments.

Motion by Litsey to approve contracts as listed:

Ann Bettenhausen—Driver's Ed- \$1650 classroom/\$200 per student BTW

Chris Doane—HS Principal- \$91,200 (26/27), \$94,000 (27/28)

Athletic Director-\$7,100 (26/27), \$7,350 (27/28)

Jason Schmidt—Supt-\$123,000 (26/27), \$126,700 (27/28)

Elem Princ--\$7,100 (26/27), 7,350 (27/28)

Second by Jenner, motion carried unanimously.

The second reading of the policy 'Separation of At-Will Employees' was held. Motion by Schlepp to approve the policy as written. Second by Jenner, motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Schmidt reviewed quotes for elementary cubbies: Roughrider Industries-\$8,070; Accent-\$11,720; Innovative-\$20,286.45. Motion by Schlepp to accept the quote from Roughrider Industries. Second by Litsey, motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Schmidt reported he received an open enrollment form for a student from the Strasburg school district. The form was dated 2/26/26, however was sent to the wrong school so wasn't received in Ashley until after March 1st. DPI said it can be approved since it was dated prior to the deadline. Motion by Ulmer to approve the open enrollment. Second by Schlepp, motion carried unanimously.

Building updates: 1) Received a response from Consolidated Construction regarding the wall cracks. They state the issue is due to shifting of the building during the ground freeze, rather than a workmanship issue with the drywall. Any repairs would result in the same issue when the ground freezes. Since the 1-year workmanship warranty has expired, they will not do any further drywall work. Prior to construction, the walls had wire meshing plus solid ceilings, which kept that type of thing from happening. The regular drywall material is not as strong

which allows the shifting and cracking. 2) Had a roof leak due to an icicle hitting the rubber membrane. 18x18 blocks on the roof will need to be replaced this summer to avoid that problem—there are 42 of those. 3) Custodians will sand/paint the blue sections on the north side of the building this summer.

Motion by Schlepp to accept the resignations from Jordan Montgemery, Dan Girard and Linda Gutschmidt. Second by Litsey, motion carried unanimously.

Open positions: 1) Speech—Sami Ketterling will still come on Mondays and the special ed unit is working on a replacement for Linda Gutschmidt; 2) Ag interviews—committee voted unanimously to offer a contract to Evan Mellmer; 3) History and Phy Ed openings are being advertised.

Transportation: 1) Red suburban needs a new engine-has 213,000 miles on it so not worth fixing. Board members agreed we should advertise for salvage bids; 2) Zeeland buses will be put out on sealed bids in June; 3) Team bus is working ok now; 4) #9 fire damage will be covered by insurance; 5) Really in need of another mini-bus—directed to ask for quotes on that and a large bus.

Playground fund is about \$90,000. Waiting on a couple grants, total cost will be about \$150,000.

Co-op meeting on March 23rd at 6pm in Wishek—agenda items distributed.

Requested a \$150 stipend per teacher for Infinite Campus summer training—they will be required to document their hours. Will use the two scheduled PD days in the fall before school starts as well. Motion by Ulmer to approve the training stipend. Second by Litsey, motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Schmidt's report: 1) ND State Superintendent will visit on March 27th from 1:30-3:30. Will attend reader buddies, sit in on a high school class, take a tour and meet with board members; 2) About 8-10 Zeeland students expected—may have a driver interested in transporting students; 3) Teacher contracts are due back by 3/16.

Mr. Doane's report: 1) Grade 5-12 concert on 3/12; 2) Seven students qualified for state science fair; 3) Acalympics on 3/17; 4) Schedule is done for next year; 5) Cole Nitschke was named to the academic all-state silver team.

Next meeting will be April 8, 2026 at 8:00pm. Motion by Jenner to adjourn, second by Schlepp. Motion carried unanimously, meeting adjourned at 9:41pm.

Teresa Dockter, Business Manager

Lyle Fey, President

