

APRIL 8, 2026

The Ashley school board held their regular meeting on Wednesday, April 8, 2026 at 8:00pm in the conference room. Present: Ross Litsey, Jordan Jenner, Lyle Fey, Amy Schlepp, Corey Ulmer, Chris Doane, Jason Schmidt, Teresa Dockter, Tucker Meidinger, Breigh Schlepp*, Jessica Schmidt*, *Erich Kroh (*8:01).

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

Motion by Jenner to approve the minutes of the March 11th regular, March 31st special & March 23rd co-op meetings as written. Second by Litsey, motion carried unanimously.

*Erich Kroh entered the meeting at 8:01pm.

Motion by Schlepp to approve payment of general fund bills (\$54,271.53). Second by Jenner, motion carried unanimously.

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

There were no public comments.

Breigh Schlepp and Jessica Schmidt explained the plans for new playground equipment—cost for the project is \$157,000 (includes installation & wood chips). The committee has raised \$90,000 so far through Lions, Tri County Fair1, business & private donations. They are waiting on results from a couple of grants—if those come through, the total raised would be about \$155,000—should know by end of April. They are planning a couple of fundraisers. Asked if the school board would be willing to commit some money to the project. Hoping to get the project done this summer, as prices will continue to increase. They have also talked about a possible storage shed and a new basketball hoop. Board members agreed they are in support of the project and willing to contribute--asked them to come to the May meeting when they have more solid numbers on the amount needed. *Breigh Schlepp & Jessica Schmidt left the meeting at 8:23pm.

Opening of sealed bids for the 2007 Suburban were as follows:

#1-Brian Bertsch-\$355; #2-Robert Meidinger-\$212; #3-Mark Schnabel-\$375; #4-Dillon Becker-\$225. Motion by Jenner to accept the bids and award to the highest bidder (Mark Schnabel). Second by Litsey, motion carried.

Motion by Ulmer to approve contracts as listed:

Joseph Alcalá--\$52,400

Kristi Bender--\$65,300

Wendy Bichler--\$55,100

Brenda Dohn--\$51,900 (amended for lane change)

Alexis Kempf--\$50,600

Kelsi Lippert--\$51,800

Denise Martz--\$63,000

Sara Sathre--\$59,000

Nathan Schauer--\$50,200

Breigh Schlepp--\$53,500

Jessica Schmidt--\$61,800

Brooke Stevens--\$50,600

Teresa Thiery--\$51,800 (amended for position change)

Tucker Meidinger--\$53,500
Evan Mellmer--\$53,000
Rachel Rueb--\$51,800

Sara Thyen--\$51,400
Ann Wolf--\$61,250
Trudy Wolf--\$39,329.25

Extra-Curricular Contracts:

Joseph Alcala—\$200 (Mathcounts)

Chris Doane--\$5,090 (Head VB)

Ali Harriman--\$4,072 (Asst Girls Golf), \$750 (co-advisor FBLA)

Alexis Kempf--\$612.50 (co-advisor FBLA)

Kelsi Lippert--\$350 (Cognia)

Evan Mellmer--\$1,350 (FFA), \$5,090 (Head FB)

Sara Sathre--\$350 (Cognia)

Second by Schlepp, motion carried unanimously.

Breigh Schlepp-\$350(Cognia)

Jessica Schmidt-\$350(Cognia)

Jeremy St. Aubin-\$5,090
(Head Girls Golf)

Ann Wolf-\$350(Cognia)

Trudy Wolf-\$1,325(Music)

Ancillary staff increases—discussion on wage realignment for some positions to bring them in line with area salaries/experience. Business manager was directed to provide cost projections on the suggestions. Matter was tabled to May meeting.

Mr. Schmidt explained there's a total of 9 students coming next year from Zeeland—4 are open enrolled and the other 5 have submitted tuition share agreements. The Ashley district will get the per pupil payments for all the students, however since the Zeeland school is non-operating for another year, they will have to pay Ashley the difference between the per pupil payment and the per student cost of education for those 5 on the tuition share agreements. Motion by Schlepp to approve the tuition agreements. Second by Litsey, motion carried unanimously.

Motion by Schlepp to approve the resignation from Mary Hilgemann effective at the end of this school year. Second by Jenner, motion carried unanimously.

Election update—Cody Lippert filed for the city position and Dillon Spurr filed for the at-large position. Election officials will be Charles Dockter, Jo Weisser, Judy Haupt and Pam Mcshane. The election will be held on June 2nd from 11am-7pm.

Mr. Schmidt reported 26/27 Title money is estimated at \$182,000—final allocations are released in July.

Transportation—still working on a driver for the Zeeland route. Received quotes on minibuses and a large bus from Forman Sales—no used minibuses available but they do have some 2024 chasis available to be built at a discounted price. Discussion on the need for another minibus--board members directed Mr. Schmidt to advertise for bids & then will hold a special meeting as soon as those are available.

Three students qualified for National FBLA (1 senior, 2 JH)—board policy has been to pay \$500 per student, however at the time that was put in place, only 9-12 students were involved and JH students were not allowed to go to the state competition. Board members agreed that the district will pay the \$500 as well for the JH students who qualified for Nationals.

Mr. Schmidt's report: 1) NDA+ Summative testing in elementary; 2) Almost all parents came for reader buddies when the state superintendent was here.

Mr. Doane's report: 1) NDA+ math testing complete for 7-12, starting language arts next; 2) PK-12 concert on 5/4; 3) Four students qualified for state speech; 4) Two students qualified for the Know Your State contest; 5) 7-12 Zeeland students have been registered for classes next year; 6) Working on schedule change to include ITV History; 7) Open coach positions—VB C-squad, asst FB, head GBB; 8) RSchool is transitioning to Arbiter.

Next meeting will be May 13, 2026 at 8:00pm. Motion by Schlepp to adjourn, second by Litsey. Motion carried unanimously, meeting adjourned at 9:35pm.

Teresa Dockter, Business Manager

Lyle Fey, President

APRIL 15, 2026:

The Ashley school board held a special meeting on Wednesday, April 15, 2026 at 7:30am in the conference room. Present: Lyle Fey, Jordan Jenner, Amy Schlepp, Corey Ulmer (via phone), Jason Schmidt, Chris Doane, Teresa Dockter. Ross Litsey was absent.

Agenda: 1)Bus purchase, 2) Ancillary staff—motion by Jenner to approve the agenda. Second by Schlepp, motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Schmidt reported that as he gathered bus information, he discovered that the district is a member of Sourcewell, which is a cooperative purchasing program. Sourcewell does all the competitive bidding for the purchaser, which saves time and ensures fair and competitive pricing and relieves the district of going through the bidding process on our own. Many districts purchase buses using this method. Research on minibus prices: Harlow's \$106,000; Foreman \$103,000 (2026) or \$93,500 (new 2024—full warranty). He stated Forman would have the 2024 ready for school start and will do a July billing. Motion by Jenner to purchase the 2024 minibus from Forman Sales (without cruise control) for \$93,500. Second by Schlepp, motion carried unanimously.

Reviewed the updated ancillary information requested by board members which included \$3 wage realignments for the business manager, head custodian, head cook and assistant cook to bring those into a competitive market range based on area salaries and experience. Motion by Ulmer to approve a \$3 wage realignment for the four positions discussed and a 4% raise for the remaining ancillary staff. Second by Jenner, motion carried unanimously.

Motin by Schlepp to adjourn, second by Jenner. Motion carried unanimously, meeting adjourned at 7:47am.

Teresa Dockter, Business Manager

Lyle Fey, President

