

ASHLEY SCHOOL/CO-OP MINUTES

Ashley Public School Minutes

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 Montgomery, 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) Acalypmics 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 (April 15, 2026)

ASHLEY SCHOOL BOARD REPORT
Ashley School District
03/10/2026 10:55 AM
Vendor Name, Description, Amount
Checking 1
Checking 1 Fund: 01, GENERAL FUND
ADVANCED BUSINESS METHODS,
COPIER MAINT..... 2,091.33
ALLARD TROPHY COMPANY, DUPLICATE STATE WR AWARDS 192.00
BAKKEN AREA SKILLS CENTER, ONLINE CLASS FEE..... 300.00

CHS RIVER PLAINS, BUS FUEL..... 2,015.95
CITY OF ASHLEY, WATER/SEWER/GARBAGE..... 272.68
COLE PAPERS INC, CUST SUPPLIES..... 1,048.43
DICKEY RURAL NETWORKS, SERVER MAINT/PHONES..... 2,536.44
DOANE, CHRISTOPHER, STATE WR LODGING/MEALS..... 633.34
FOLLETT CONTENT SOLUTIONS LLC, LIB BOOKS..... 106.35
GERRELLS SPORT CENTER INC, BASEBALLS..... 400.00
HOUGHTON MIFFLIN HARCOURT PUBLISHING CO, K MATH MATERIALS..... 797.34
J.W. PEPPER & SON INC, MUSIC..... 47.49
LINK'S DO IT BEST, CUST SUPPLIES..... 106.28
LINTON EDUCATION ASSOCIATION, ACALYMPICS FEE..... 125.00
LINTON PUBLIC SCHOOL, PD FEES..... 1,278.00
MARTZ, DENISE, REIMB CONF FEE/TRAVEL..... 479.05
MID AMERICAN RESEARCH CHEMICAL, CUST SUPPLIES..... 878.35
MONTANA DAKOTA UTILITIES, ELECTRICITY/HEAT..... 14,890.18
ND COUNCIL EDUCATIONAL LEADERS, SUPT CONF..... 350.00
QUALITY INN, SUPT CONF ROOM..... 110.00
SCHMIDT, JASON, STATE WR ROOM..... 189.18
SUMMIT FIRE PROTECTION, ANNUAL INSPECTION..... 1,850.00
TRIPLE J AUTO BODY AND REPAIR, LLC, BUS REPAIRS..... 2,345.77
WERC CENTER, STANDARDS COACH FEES..... 7,750.00
WESTSIDE HEATING & AC, PROPANE..... 1,655.60
Fund Total:..... 42,448.76
Checking Account Total:..... 42,448.76

GENERAL FUND BILLS PAID BETWEEN BOARD MEETINGS
MARCH 2026

PAID TO, DESCRIPTION, AMOUNT
Madison National Life, Disability 378.35
E&H Communications, Minutes. 109.02
NDSBA, Legal services..... 156.00
Dan Rieck, Flute corks..... 9.00
Anne Carlsen Center, Tuition 11,561.14
McIntosh Co Bank Visa, State WR meals, Special Ed sensory items/novels/WR rooms/Reading month supplies..... 4,824.00
Amanda Bader, Mileage-BB..... 10.88
Days Inn, WR rooms..... 660.00
Jason Goehring, BB transportation..... 262.50
Evan Mellmer, FB transportation. 30.00
Summit Fire Protection, Annual alarm monitoring..... 550.00
Teachers Council, H1B renewal..... 1,060.00
Jordan Montgomery, Reimb fuel.. 15.00
Radisson Hotel, AD conf room.. 227.00
Expressway Suites, State WR rooms... 2,875.00
(April 15, 2026)

Special Meeting

MARCH 31, 2026

The Ashley school board held a special meeting on Tuesday, March 31, 2026 at 7:30am in the conference room to discuss teaching positions. Present: Lyle Fey, Ross Litsey, Jordan Jenner, Amy Schlepp, Corey Ulmer (via phone), Jason Schmidt, Chris Doane, Teresa Dockter, Tucker Meidinger. The history applicant asked for an extension to April 3rd, which Mr. Schmidt granted. Discussion on various options and how to proceed if he declines the contract. After considering all possibilities, motion by Jenner to pursue the option of History via ITV if no other candidates apply for the position. Second by Schlepp, motion carried unanimously. President Fey adjourned the special meeting at 8:06am. Teresa Dockter, Business Manager Lyle Fey, President (April 15, 2026)

South Border Co-op Meeting Minutes

SOUTH BORDER CO-OP MEETING MINUTES
Monday, March 23, 2026, at 6:00 pm
ITV Room, Wishek Public School, Wishek ND

I. The Wednesday, March 23, 2026, co-op board meeting was called to order at 6:00 p.m. with members present: Curtis Meidinger, Rocky Brown, Trina Schilling, Danielle Goebel and Neil Horner (Wishek Public School Board), Lyle Fey via phone, Ross Litsey, Jordan Jenner, Corey Ulmer (Ashley School Board) Also, present were Shawn Kuntz, Charles Brandner, Jason Schmidt, Chris Doane, Bethany Vilhauer, Jeremy St. Aubin, Julianna Wolff, Barrett Herr, Curtis Kessler, Colin Crabtree and Michael Bechtle.

II. Agenda Addition/Approval: Removal of d)
Agenda Approval Motion made by Danielle Goebel, seconded by Neil Horner to approve agenda as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

III. Agenda Items:
a. School Song Presentation
Ms. Julianna Wolff presented a proposed school song, including background information and a live performance. After discussion, Jenner moved, Brown seconded to adopt the presented piece as the official South Border Co-Op School Song. Motion carried unanimously.

b. Bus Driver Sit-Time Pay
The board reviewed last year's increase to drive-time pay (\$25/hr CDL; \$15/hr non-CDL) and discussed raising CDL sit-time pay from \$15/hr to \$25/hr for consistency. Horner moved, Ulmer seconded to set CDL sit-time pay at \$25/hr, matching CDL drive-time. Motion carried unanimously.

c. Transportation Reimbursement Rates
Current reimbursement for all vehicle types is \$1.25/mile. The board reviewed comparisons among regular vehicles, mini-buses, and full-size buses, as well as data from Harlow's on operating costs, repairs, fuel, and insurance. After discussing rate structures and alignment with state mileage rates, Brown moved, Jenner seconded to

adopt the following reimbursement schedule:
Regular vehicles: State rate – \$0.73/mile
Mini-buses: Double state rate – \$1.46/mile
Full-size buses: Triple state rate – \$2.19/mile
Motion carried unanimously.

...d. Athlete Transportation – Release of Responsibility

e. 8th Grade Participation in JV/Varsity Athletics
The board held an extended discussion on whether 8th-grade students should continue to be moved up to JV or Varsity to address roster shortages. Key points included:

Prior practice required agreement among the student, parents, and coaches; this policy no longer exists in current guidelines. Concerns included student readiness, player development, morale, and long-term effects on program structure. Athletic Directors advised that students should only be moved up when they are fully prepared, not solely for numbers. Scheduling challenges were noted, particularly regarding combining JH, JV, and Varsity games on the same night. Future enrollment projections and the impact on team sizes were reviewed. Consensus emerged to maintain flexibility while reinforcing appropriate oversight. Decision: The board agreed to continue handling 8th-grade movement on a case-by-case basis, at the discretion of coaches and Athletic Directors, with parent involvement and situational considerations. No formal policy change adopted.

f. Practice Locations Based on Participation Numbers
The board reviewed participation data for fall sports and discussed adjusting practice locations to better reflect student numbers in each district. Current 50/50 practice scheduling has created inefficiencies, particularly for fall activities. Participation numbers reviewed included:
Elementary Volleyball: Wishek 18, Ashley 8

Track (boys & girls): Wishek 23, Ashley 12

Baseball (co-op with Kulm and Gackle): Ashley 6, Wishek 6, Kulm 4, Gackle 3
The board noted that winter sports are split due to gym space and that spring sports naturally centralize in Wishek because of facility availability (track, equipment, and baseball co-op proximity). Games will continue to be split evenly between districts. Motion: Horner moved, Brown seconded to amend Item 11 of the co-op guidelines by removing the phrase "and practices at school" and adding "excluding baseball." Discussion included communication procedures for handling concerns between districts. Motion carried unanimously.

g. HUDL Contract Review
The HUDL contract is up for renewal this spring. The board discussed whether to continue using HUDL or explore alternatives. Information from HUDL representatives was reviewed, including scouting/statistics features and livestreaming. Key points discussed: HUDL currently provides higher-quality imaging and less technical difficulty compared to alternatives. The mounted football camera cannot be moved to the baseball field due to lack of Wi-Fi. Multiple package options exist based on sports offered. The board discussed requiring each sport to secure sponsorships to help offset livestreaming costs. NFHS was briefly reviewed for comparison. Motion: Brown moved, Goebel seconded to maintain current prices for Varsity livestreaming, allow price adjustments for Elementary and JH, and require \$750 in sponsorship per sport for livestreaming to occur. Roll Call Vote: Schilling – yes; Brown – yes; Horner – yes; Goebel – yes; Ulmer – yes; Litsey – yes; Jenner – yes; Meidinger – yes; Fey – yes. Motion carried unanimously.

h. Charter/Activity Bus Discussion
The board discussed the possibility of sharing the cost of a charter bus and reviewed budget considerations, benefits, and drawbacks. Action: A committee was formed to re-

search charter bus cost options and report back to the board.

i. Motel Room Policy for Coaches
The board reviewed current practice whereby coaches occasionally share beds when hotel space is limited. Members agreed coaches must have their own bed and discussed providing options for individual rooms. Motion: Schilling moved, Brown seconded that if coaches share a room, the school covers 100% of the cost; if a coach requests a private room, the cost will be split 50% school / 50% coach. Motion carried unanimously.

j. Meals/Per Diem for State Events
The board reviewed State per diem usage, noting \$4,824 spent on State Wrestling this year at \$45/day per student. Discussion included whether the amount is adequate and the expectation that parents may send additional funds. Decision: The board will retain the current per diem rate.

Adjournment: Motion made by Trina Schilling, seconded by Danielle Goebel to adjourn the meeting. The co-op meeting was adjourned at 8:33 p.m.



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*Annual Percentage Rate effective as of 02/09/2026. Rates and terms are subject to credit approval. A 1% rate discount is available on eligible Auto, Boat & RV, and General Equipment loans and processing fee waived for qualifying borrowers. Rates as low as 3.99% APR apply only to Auto, Boat & RV loans, model years 2023 and newer with 50,000 miles or less, 36-month terms and approved credit. Minimum APR loan payment example: 3.99% APR for 36 months per \$1,000 is \$29.53. Qualifying rate is dependent on credit qualifications, term of loan, and other conditions. Offer not valid on FCCU refinances. Cash out or changes to borrowers do not qualify for offer. **First payment may be deferred up to 90 days, dependent on credit qualifications. Other terms and conditions may apply. Interest accrues from the date of contract. Limited time offer. FCCU reserves the right to terminate the promotion at any time.