

ADEL SCHOOL DISTRICT
REGULAR BOARD MEETING
OCTOBER 16, 2025 6PM

MEMBERS PRESENT

Jim Hiatt
Aja O'Keeffe
Terry Cahill

STAFF PRESENT

Lane Stratton, Superintendent
Stacey Martin, School Teacher
Tonya Stratton, Clerk

PUBLIC PRESENT

None

OPENING

The meeting was called to order at 6:09 p.m. by Aja O'Keeffe at the Adel School in Adel, Oregon.

AGENDA

Jim Hiatt made a motion to approve the October 2025 agenda. Terry Cahill seconded and the motion carried.

APPROVE MINUTES

Terry Cahill made a motion to approve September 11, 2025 minutes. Jim Hiatt seconded and the motion carried.

CORRESPONDENCE

None

PUBLIC COMMENT

None

REPORTS

6.1 Teacher Report – Stacey Martin

The end of the first quarter is approaching on October 31st.

Health Screenings:

The dentist will return in May.

The Lions Club recently conducted vision screenings.

Professional Development:

Robin, Sandy, and Stacey attended a writing training in Ontario. They are now working on writing summaries, and Stacey reported that all students in grades 5 and up can write a summary paragraph.

The Rural Math Collaborative meets every Wednesday.

Margy and Lane visited on October 2nd. Margy has been an excellent resource for Stacey; together they reviewed data and explored additional tools available through Renaissance Learning.

School Activities:

The first all-school Zoom was held today with about 60 students participating. Our students did an outstanding job!

Preschool screenings have begun and will take place again in the winter and spring.

The Smart Lab Open House is scheduled for November 3rd.

The Ballet performance is set for November 30th at 6:00 p.m.; Stacey has booked the rooms.

Work has begun on the Christmas play, which includes a German literature and education component. Students have read the book and play, and parts have been assigned. This project is currently on hold while students prepare for the STEM Lab Open House.

STEM and Academic Programs:

Adel has been selected to participate in the ODE Research Program for Rural STEM Projects.

This fall, we're participating in a science challenge through EOREN.

Rosanna is working with grades 6–8 on higher-level problem solving using emotional reasoning.

Amy Fortune is helping streamline math data.

Speech and Language:

Kathleen, our SLP, has worked hard on successfully exiting a speech student. She will also begin phonemic awareness work with our preschool teachers.

6.2 Maintenance Report

Winterized preschool sprinklers and fixed some sprinklers.

6.3 Principal Report (Lane Stratton)

Mr. Stratton met with the mentor program team, and efforts are underway to find a mentor for the Girls Talk group. He shared that the new collaborative group he is part of has been very beneficial and distributes monthly newsletters.

Mr. Stratton also provided updates on state and financial matters:

The H1 bill will have financial effects on schools, specifically in federal programs.

The Corporate Activity Tax (CAT) continues to impact schools, as several large corporations are leaving Oregon, reducing state revenue.

The Oregon Department of Education (ODE) has indicated it could operate for approximately three months in the event of a shutdown and the State has asked departments to identify 5% in potential budget cuts as a precaution.

A significant PERS rate increase is expected in the next biennium, which could further strain public education budgets.

6.4 Clerk Report (Tonya Stratton)

The clerk reported that she picked up the mower bag and backup mower. Harley has resigned from her cleaning position, and Emilia Swartz will be assisting with cleaning duties and possibly some mowing.

A water leak has been identified in one of the classrooms. School pictures are expected to arrive soon.

For the upcoming STEM Ribbon Cutting event, the clerk will contact The Butcher Block to arrange for burgers. Local tent rentals are priced at approximately \$350, though Sherry Schadler may have a smaller tent available for use.

The clerk has been searching for Costco outdoor lights, and Mrs. Stacey has some available to use. The team reviewed the invitation list and discussed food planning. The clerk has created a food list and asked board members for input on what they would like to bring. She will coordinate with both parents and board members to assign items.

The Smart Lab will be providing drinks, a photographer, and dessert for the event.

6.5 Board Report

Stratton attended the District 7 Board meeting last night. The board did not vote on withdrawing from the ESD. It was agreed that a mediator will be hired to help move the process forward. This marks the fifth year that this issue has been under discussion.

Financial Report

No questions

INFORMATION/DISCUSSION ITEMS

7.1 Division 22

Discussion was had on Adel School District #21 Division 22 standards. We are meeting all the categories. Mr. Stratton went through each Division 22 OAR.

7.2 SIA/Integrated Programs Report

Mr. Stratton reported what the SIA funds were used for during the 24-25 year we had \$41,800 in SIA money that was spent on summer camps, summer camp travel costs, summer swim bus travel, lunch for summer school swim, summer swim passes, professional development, summer tutoring, stem room technology, stem room supplies, character strong, preschool transitional program, end of the school year field trip and all left over went to stem lab

7.3 HSA/HRA Policy Review

Mr. Stratton reported that at this time, staff members are not eligible to participate in a Health Savings Account (HSA) or a Health Reimbursement Arrangement (HRA). He provided an example:

if a couple employed by Adel chooses not to take the district's health insurance, they lose that benefit entirely, rather than having the option to redirect it into an HSA or HRA.

The board needs to determine what percentage of the benefit will be offered to Adel employees. Mr. Stratton advised against offering 100%, as this would require the district to pay FICA and PERS contributions, effectively increasing the cost to about 140%.

He also noted that if an employee is allotted \$1,500 for health insurance but their chosen plan costs only \$700, the employee currently cannot use the remaining funds toward an HSA.

To address these issues, Mr. Stratton proposed that the board pass a resolution adopting a Health Reimbursement Arrangement (HRA) to provide greater flexibility and benefit options for staff.

7.4 Discipline Report

Mr. Stratton went through the discipline report and reported that Adel School District did not have any restraints or seclusions for the 2024-2025 school year.

7.5 Substance Abuse Prevention Plan

Mr. Stratton presented the 2025/2026 substance abuse prevention plan for board approval. The plan outlines steps, curriculum, and resources that the school uses to address the problem.

7.6 Stem Lab Use

Mr. Stratton discussed the original vision for the STEM Lab, noting that one way to help recoup costs would be to offer summer STEM camps. Recently, Miss Stacey was approached by Silvies School about the possibility of bringing their students to Adel once a week to work in the STEM Lab and participate in additional activities with our students.

One of our ongoing goals is to increase student interaction and socialization opportunities, especially for students in smaller grade cohorts. The group discussed implementing a flat participation fee of \$5,000 for the period of January through May.

To begin, the plan is to conduct a trial run in November, during which Silvies students will visit on the three Thursdays in November at no cost. The results of this pilot will be reviewed and presented to the board at the December meeting.

Silvies would bring no more than 14 students each week. The STEM Lab can comfortably accommodate that number, including our own students, by rotating groups.

Everyone expressed enthusiasm about this collaboration, as it will provide valuable opportunities for our students—particularly those who are the only ones in their grade—to collaborate and engage with peers their age.

ACTION ITEMS

8.1 Approve September Bills

Jim Hiatt made a motion to approve the September 2025 bills. Terry Cahill seconded and the motion carried.

8.2 Board Swearing

Terry Cahill was sworn in.

8.3 Division 22

Terry Cahill made a motion to adopt the Division 22 report 2024-2025 as presented. Jim Hiatt seconded and the motion carried.

8.4 SIA/Integrated Programs Report

Terry Cahill made a motion to adopt the Division 22 report 2024-2025 as presented. Jim Hiatt seconded and the motion carried.

8.5 HAS/HRA Policy Review

Jim Hiatt made a motion to approve the HRA with the percentages at a different time. Terry Cahill seconded and the motion carried.

8.6 Discipline Report

Terry Cahill made a motion to approve the discipline report as presented. Jim Hiatt seconded and the motion carried.

8.6 Substance Abuse Prevention Plan

Jim Hiatt made a motion to approve the substance abuse plan as presented. Terry Cahill seconded and the motion carried.

8.8 Stem Lab Use

Terry Cahill made a motion to approve the trial of the Silvies students coming out three times in the month of November to use the stem lab and then reporting back to the board in December. Jim Hiatt seconded and the motion carried.

Adjournment

Jim Hiatt made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:46pm. Terry Cahill seconded and the motion carried.

Peter Osborne, Board Chair

Lane Stratton, Principal