

- DRAFT -

**Ashland School Board Meeting/Work Session
William J. Tirone Gymnasium
Ashland Elementary School, Ashland NH
July 30, 2020
5:00 PM**

MINUTES

Members Present: Mr. Stephen Heath, Chair; Ms. Sandra Coleman; Mr. Stephen Felton; Ms. Jennifer Foote, Ms. Leigh Sharps

Members Absent: None

Administrators Present: Mrs. Mary Moriarty, Superintendent; Mrs. Trish Temperino, Assistant Superintendent; Mr. Stephen Guyer, AES Interim Principal; Mrs. Kelly Avery, AES Associate Principal

Others Present: Mr. Tim Paquette, Mr. Lester Brent, Ms. Jacqui McGettigan; Ms. Gail Spears, Ms. Teresa Merrifield, Ms. Katie Chamberlain; Ms. Sarah Lindberg

CALL TO ORDER

School Board Chair Heath called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m.

Mr. Heath welcomed everyone, thanking the Administrators and Leadership Team for all the work that they have done to develop the School Opening Plan to meet student needs, ensuring safety following established guidance and protocols.

Superintendent Moriarty commended everyone for the work that has been put into developing the draft plan; working together is a key component to AES community. She noted that weekly meetings with all SAU #2 School Nurses and Administrators has been a helpful tool in planning with shared information and ideas.

2020-2021 SCHOOL OPENING WORK SESSION

Superintendent Moriarty provided a detailed review of the draft COVID-10 Risk Mitigation and School Opening Plan for the 2020-21 School Year (attached). The draft plan includes two models for learning, remote and physically in person. Decision making for the physically in person model was discussed in-depth; the current Safety Committee would serve as the Decision Making Team to monitor/analyze information to adjust tiers as needed.

The School Board is being asked to consider delaying the start of the school year for students until August 31, 2020; providing four days to support staff transitioning for new school operations and planning. Mrs. Avery indicated that once families get a sense of what school will look like there may be changes in regards to whether they want remote learning or attending school physically; the four days will provide essential transition time and lesson planning for each model.

Mrs. Temperino reported that the Department of Education Bureau of Nutrition put out a report that we will be able to feed children whether they are in-school or remote until June 2021. More specific guidance will be shared by the DOE as we move forward.

Ms. Merrifield indicated that NHIAA released information recently that all fall sports are a go; it will be up to schools to decide how to move forward. Mrs. Moriarty suggested it would be best to wait and see, and make a decision later with the primary focus on opening school at this time.

A ten minute recess was called at 6:00 p.m.; prior to moving on with the protocols and procedures developed for in-school specific opening plans.

Mrs. Avery provided an in-depth review of protocols outlined in the draft School Opening Plan (attached) developed by Administrators and the Leadership Team. Highlights include: students will remain in one classroom – teachers will go to the students to limit movement within the building; designated Office Hours will provide time for parents to engage with teachers for remote learning; limit visitors into the school to start the school year to support the focus on student safety and the school day. Directional maps were shown outlining the flow of students throughout the building, and entering and exiting school.

Mr. Guyer stated that the plan will keep students as separate as possible, to keep them safe. The Team looked at many scenarios to accommodate everyone's needs. The primary focus was about ensuring students are safe and comfortable at school.

Mrs. Temperino provided a handout of possible expenditures that could fall under CARES Act 2020 for the Board's consideration and review. The list was developed by Administrators and the Leadership Team to meet current needs preparing for school opening.

Mr. Paquette discussed the school's ventilation system which resulted in the need to purchase the double exhaust fans for classroom windows. Everything is being done possible to keep the flow of fresh clean air into the building.

Board members asked clarifying questions regarding ventilation options; survey results; possible solutions to transportation; and the ability to meet the timeline to implement all facets of the plan for school opening as anticipated on August 31, 2020. Further discussion regarding the school's ability to go 100% remote if the government decides to delay school opening or mandates closure. It was confirmed that Ashland Elementary School is prepared to take on that task if necessary.

Mrs. Moriarty spoke about mixed reaction from families regarding masks; all Board members supported the use of masks in school as another layer of protection. There will be mask breaks built into the day for students, they will not be required to wear a mask for several hours straight. Mr. Guyer addressed plans to support those students who do not comply with the required use of a mask in school.

Administrators shared the importance of providing four days at the start of the year for teachers to plan and put things in place – August 25-28.

Eliminating the use of school facilities to outside organization and visitors was discussed. Board members felt it was important to be consistent with use of space; options for the Primary Election scheduled for the gymnasium was discussed. Mrs. Moriarty will follow-up with Ms. Tucker, Town Clerk regarding expenses associated with cleaning and other options within the town that may be available.

Mr. Paquette confirmed that products for cleaning provided for student use would be hydrogen peroxide; it is safe, not harmful and kills germs instantly. No bleach will be at the hands of children.

After lengthy discussion School Board members voiced their approval of the combined plans as presented for opening school for the 2020-21 school year to be brought forward to the August 4, 2020 School Board Meeting for final review and public comment.

ADDITIONAL BUSINESS

Mr. Heath opened discussion regarding the meeting location for the August 4th meeting; the Media Center may not be the right place. It was determined that the meeting would be entirely remote for School Board members with remote access for the public to participate.

Both plans will be uploaded to the website for families to review; meetings will be scheduled for staff and families to ask questions and review the plans with Administrators.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

A. Tuesday, August 4, 2020

Ashland School Board @ Remote from Ashland Elementary School – Conference Room
(Public Participation via Remote Only)

- Policy Review Committee – **5:30 p.m.**
- School Board Meeting – **6:30 p.m.**

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Felton moved, seconded by Ms. Sharps to adjourn at 7:39 p.m. The Chair called for a roll call vote as follows:

YES: Mr. Felton, Ms. Sharps, Ms. Coleman, Mr. Heath NO: --

The motion to adjourn carried unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted,

Marilyn G. Martell
Recording Secretary