

Ashland School Board Meeting
Remote Meeting via Google Meet @

meet.google.com/com/mco-tdix-cvm

July 14, 2020

6:30 PM

MINUTES

Members Present: Ms. Sandra Coleman, Vice-Chair; Mr. Stephen Felton*; Mr. Stephen Heath*, 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. David Ruell*; AES Staff Members*; Public*

*Remote attendance (School Board) confirmed location home & alone

CALL TO ORDER

Vice-Chair/Acting Chair Ms. Coleman called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

REMOTE MEETING INFORMATION/ANNOUNCEMENT

Mrs. Moriarty read the following regarding electronic meetings of the Board:

As Superintendent of the Ashland School District I will announce that due to Covid-19/Coronavirus crisis and in accordance with Governor Sununu's Emergency Order #12 pursuant to Executive Order 2020-04, the Board is authorized to meet electronically.

Please note there is no physical location for the meeting for the public. Additionally, in accordance with the Emergency Order, this is to confirm that we are:

- a) *Providing public access to the meeting by telephone, with additional access possibilities by video or other electronic means;*

We are utilizing the Google Meet platform for this electronic meeting. All School Board Members have the ability to communicate contemporaneously during this meeting through the Google Meet platform, and the public has access to contemporaneously listen/participate to this meeting by contacting Marilyn Martell at 279-7947 for details

- b) *Providing public notice of the necessary information for accessing the meeting;*

We previously gave notice to the public of how to access the meeting through notice on the Ashland School District website.

- c) *Providing a mechanism for the public to alert the public body during the meeting if there are problems with access;*

If anybody has a problem, please call Marilyn Martell at 279-7947.

- d) *Adjourning the meeting if the public is unable to access the meeting.*

In the event the public is unable to access the meeting, we will adjourn the meeting and have it rescheduled at that time.

Please note that all votes that are taken during this meeting shall be done by a Roll Call vote.

REORGANIZATION OF SCHOOL BOARD

A. School Board Chair

Superintendent Moriarty called for nominations to fill the vacant School Board Chair seat.

Mr. Felton moved, seconded by Ms. Sharps, to nominate Mr. Heath as Chair of the School Board. There being no further nominations, Superintendent Moriarty called for a roll call vote as follows:

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

The nomination was approved unanimously.

Superintendent Moriarty turned the meeting over to Mr. Heath.

B. Committee Assignments

Mr. Heath called for interest in filling two vacant committee assignments.

- ♦ Policy Committee – Mr. Felton
- ♦ Budget Committee, Alternate – Table assignment until new member is assigned.

Discussion regarding the now vacant Secretary seat led to tabling moving forward with filling that seat now; with further discussion and review at the Policy Review Committee level.

MINUTES

A. Regular Meeting of May 19, 2020

Ms. Sharps moved, seconded by Mr. Felton to approve the minutes of May 19, 2020 Regular Meeting as amended. The Chair called for a roll call vote as follows:

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

The motion carried unanimously.

B. Emergency Meeting of June 1, 2020

Ms. Sharps moved, seconded by Mr. Felton, to approve the minutes of the June 1, 2020 Emergency Meeting, as amended to note title as Vice Chair/Acting Chair under call to order. The Chair called for a roll call vote as follows:

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

The motion carried unanimously.

C. Regular Meeting of June 2, 2020

Ms. Sharps moved, seconded by Mr. Felton, to approve the minutes of the June 2, 2020 Regular Board Meeting, as amended to note title as Vice-Chair/Acting Chair and correct typographical error on page 2 . The Chair called for a roll call vote as follows:

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

The motion carried unanimously.

D. Special Meeting of June 18, 2020

Ms. Sharps moved, seconded by Mr. Felton, to approve the minutes of the June 18, 2020 Special Meeting as written. The Chair called for a roll call vote as follows:

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

The motion carried unanimously.

PRIVILEGE OF THE FLOOR #1 None

COMMUNICATIONS

A. NHSBA Membership

Mrs. Moriarty reported that correspondence from NHSBA was received regarding no increase in rates for the 2020-21 school year.

B. Letter of Interest in School Board Vacancy

Mrs. Moriarty shared the letter from Jennifer Foote, Ashland resident, received earlier today expressing interest in filling the vacant position on the Ashland School Board.

Discussion ensued regarding filling the Board vacancy without advertising.

Ms. Sharps moved, seconded by Mr. Felton, to nominate Ms. Jennifer Foote to fill the vacant School Board Member seat until the March 2021 elections.

Ms. Coleman suggested it would be best to advertise the vacancy to ensure the community is aware of the opening, before moving forward with nomination.

Mr. Heath called for consensus from the Board to move forward with nomination on the floor to fill the vacant School Board Member seat without advertising. Consensus from the majority of the Board was to move forward. Mr. Felton, Mr. Heath, Mrs. Sharps – Yay and Mrs. Coleman, Nay

The Chair called for a roll call vote on the nomination of Mrs. Jennifer Foote as follows:

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

The motion carried unanimously.

BUSINESS OF THE BOARD

A. School Board Member Vacancy – Advertisement

Previously discussed; no further discussion

B. School Board Minutes – Posting

Mrs. Moriarty stated that there were technical issues with posting minutes on the website; minutes were completed in compliance and available upon request. There should be no further issues with uploading minutes to the website.

C. School Board Agenda Materials Timing/Distribution

Mr. Heath reviewed the concern that Board members were not getting their Agenda packet early enough to review material. Mrs. Moriarty responded that the Agenda goes out immediately, upon completion; U.S. Mail delivery is not consistent. The option was offered to send the Agenda out to School Board members prior to all backup documents being available for inclusion to allow timely delivery; this would create the need for an addendum to be sent out with additional backup documentation.

BUSINESS OF THE SUPERINTENDENT

A. General Operating Expenses

Ms. Sharps moved, seconded by Mr. Felton, to approve the payment of bills, manifest #2019 and #2001. The Chair called for a roll call vote on the nomination as follows:

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

The motion carried unanimously.

OLD BUSINESS

A. Budget Review – Administrative Support 2020-2021

Mrs. Temperino reviewed the costs and funding sources for staffing changes for FY 2020-21 (*Attachment #13*). The budget funding is \$58 to the positive.

Mr. Felton requested a breakdown of benefits for each position. Mrs. Temperino will provide that information as a non-public item due to the inclusion of benefits at the August meeting.

B. Nomination – Diana Paul, Title I Teacher

Mr. Felton moved, seconded by Ms. Sharps, to approve the nomination of Diana Paul as the Title I Teacher for the 2020-2021 School Year. The Chair called for a roll call vote on the nomination as follows:

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

The motion carried unanimously.

NEW BUSINESS

A. School Opening Plans

Mrs. Moriarty reported that the Governor released State Guidance for school opening at 3:00 p.m. this afternoon. There appears to be a great degree of flexibility; the State understands that not all Districts are in the same place. We are surveying staff and families along with the previously held listening sessions.

Mrs. Avery and Mr. Guyer reviewed that surveys were sent out yesterday to families; 80 responses have been received so far. Quick review shows that there are an equal number of families that want face-to-face in school as those who prefer remote learning. Staff surveys will be reviewed tomorrow. The surveys are not a commitment, they are collecting opinions regarding preferred learning model, weekly schedule options, masks, personal health screening, and transportation. Parents cannot make a committed decision until they are presented with a plan. With the Governor's guidance and feedback we will move forward with school opening planning.

Mr. Guyer commended teachers for the set-up of the Summer BLAST program to ensure social distancing.

Mrs. Moriarty reviewed the complexity of organizing all of the details involved with face-to-face in school programs to ensure social distancing and planning for remote learning. Transportation is one of the biggest challenges, we are awaiting a quote for the costs of an anticipated second bus.

B. Coronavirus Aid, Relief and Economic Security (CARES) Act and Elementary and Secondary Schools Emergency Relief (ESSER) Funds Update

Mrs. Moriarty reported that funds from ESSER in the amount of approximately \$62,000 were allocated for Ashland. She is working with Administrators to prioritize use of the funds; transportation, additional custodial support and additional technology are some of the primary areas at this time.

Discussion ensued regarding a deadline to establish what school opening will look like; remote learning or face-to-face in school; and the details that need to be finalized before presented to parents for a commitment. It is a very tight timeline, but making decisions were not possible prior to receipt of the Governor's guidance that was received a few hours ago.

POLICY – No action required. Policy Review Committee will resume meetings in August.

PRIVILEGE OF THE FLOOR #2 - None

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.**

NON PUBLIC

Ms. Coleman moved, second by Mr. Felton, to enter Non-Public Session at 7:29 p.m. in accordance with RSA 91-A:3 II (a)(c). The Chair called for a roll call vote as follows:

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

The motion carried 4-0.

Public Session

Ms. Sharps moved, second by Mr. Felton, the School Board return to Public Session at 7:49 p.m. The Chair called for a roll call vote as follows:

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

The motion carried 3-1.

Mr. Heath stated that during the Non-Public Session the Board discussed a meeting that took place as to whether it was lawful or unlawful according the Right to Know Law. The meeting in question was following the resignation of the School Board Chair Liebert. School Board Policy states that the Chair meets with the Superintendent for purposes of setting the Agenda for the next meeting; Ms. Sandra Coleman as Vice-Chair would fill that role and go to the meeting as Acting Chair. Ms. Coleman was concerned that she was accused that this was a violation by her to be at that meeting. "It certainly is not a violation; it is policy and she attended the meeting as Acting Chair. She had no part if the meeting was in fact unlawful. I was the second person invited to attend the meeting, as School Board Secretary at that time and I attended. Because two members of the Board were at this meeting another School Board member raised the question if the meeting was a violation of the Right to Know Law in regards to these meetings," said Chair Heath.

The School Board decided to revisit the policy covering this and has the authority to amend that article to include at least a second person at these meetings.

Mr. Heath stated that Ms. Coleman did not in any way, shape, or form violate any laws. No further questions or comments.

ADJOURNMENT

Ms. Sharps moved, seconded by Mr. Felton to adjourn at 7:54 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

Amended – August 27, 2021