

**Ashland School Board Meeting**  
**Public Participation remote access @ <https://www.youtube.com/user/AshlandES>**  
**Physical Location: Ashland Elementary School – Heffernan Media Center**  
**Ashland, NH**  
**December 1, 2020**

**MINUTES**

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

**Members Absent:**

**Administrators Present:** Mrs. Mary Moriarty, Superintendent; Mrs. Trish Temperino,  
Assistant Superintendent\*; Ms. Elaine Dodge, Director of Student  
Services\*; Mr. Stephen Guyer, AES Interim Principal; Mrs. Kelly  
Avery, AES Associate Principal\*

**Others Present:** Mr. Lester Brent, Technology Coordinator; Public & Press\*  
*\*Remote Attendance*

**CALL TO ORDER**

Vice-Chair Coleman called the meeting to order at 6:32++ 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 public attendance for this meeting. 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.*

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Mrs. Moriarty noted that there was an Addendum to the Agenda; a Public Hearing regarding acceptance of unanticipated grant awards distributed by the State of NH. Mrs. Temperino reported the following award amounts: CARES Act - \$62,772; and SPSRF - \$32, 800.

The Public Hearing notice was posted in the Record Enterprise on November 19<sup>th</sup>.

**PUBLIC HEARING**

Public Input on Acceptance of Unanticipated Grant Awards from Coronavirus Aide, Relief, and Economic Security Act (CARES Act); and Supplemental Public School Response Fund (SPSRF) to offset Unanticipated Expenses from the Coronavirus Pandemic.

Vice-Chair Coleman called the Public Hearing to Order at 6:45 p.m.

Public Input/Comment – No input or comments

Ms. Coleman moved, seconded by Ms. Sharps, to approve acceptance of unanticipated grant awards from CARES Act and SPSRF to offset unanticipated expenses from the coronavirus pandemic.

The Chair called for a roll call vote on the motion on the floor, as follows:

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

Motion carries 5-0

Vice-Chair Coleman closed the Public Hearing with no public input or comment at 6:49 p.m.

**MINUTES**

**A. Regular Meeting & Budget Work Session of November 17, 2020**

Ms. Sharps moved, seconded by Mr. Felton, to approve the Minutes of the November 17, 2020 Regular Meeting & Budget Work Session as written.

The Chair called for a roll call vote on the motion on the floor, as follows:

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

Abstain: Mr. Heath

Motion carries 4-0-1

**PRIVILEGE OF THE FLOOR #1** None

**COMMUNICATIONS** None

**ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS**

**A. Enrollment/Principal's Report**

Mrs. Avery, Associate Principal reported enrollment is at 167 students; 126 physically in-person, 41 remote. There are currently five new students completing the registration process.

Staff of the Month are Dianna Johnson, Receptionist and Sue Rubbe, School Nurse. Dianna has done an amazing job working with parents, coordinating schedules, and keeping things organized. Nurse Rubbe, enough cannot be said about the work she has done and continues to do during this time.

The Virtual Open House is up on the AES Website; fantastic job putting it together. Virtual Parent Conferences were held on November 23, staff liked the process as it allowed parents to join their child's conference even from work. Mrs. Avery provided an overview of ongoing

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and upcoming activities to include the Winter Recreation Program. Information regarding Winter Rec will be shared as soon as it is available; the program's activities will remain local providing students great outdoor opportunities.

Mr. Guyer, Interim Principal provided updates from the COVID-19 Committee. There has been a positive case of COVID-19 at AES; although not technically in school it has increased the number of families wanting to go remote from in-person learning. Although the Opening Plan asked that families move from one learning tier to another at specific times, the decision has been made to accommodate families that have concerns – we will not hold their request to the established dates. Staff has been fantastic, taking on the extra work to get things organized for their students.

The Committee has been reviewing winter sports, concerns, risk factors, options, etc. There are two options to present to the School Board for consideration moving forward. The first option is to continue with Basketball on Intramural basis; students would be playing against each other (Volleyball did this last season) within school. The second option is to continue as an Interscholastic Team, with the first game scheduled for December 15 at Wentworth; we would want to see what the situation is at that time.

Lengthy discussion ensued regarding winter sports relative to risk factors, mitigation efforts, and game schedule. Consensus of the School Board was to not play three scheduled games in December; winter sports would be re-evaluated at the January 5 meeting. Consensus of the Board was called as follows:

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

The Administration will communicate to families that AES will not be playing games with other schools until after the January 5 School Board Meeting. Students will play intramural on the interim.

**B. Financial Report**

Mrs. Temperino reported that due to the short period of time since the last meeting there is no report for this evening.

**C. Facilities Update**

There is no update at this point; the Facilities Committee is scheduled to meet Friday.

**BUSINESS OF THE BOARD**

Ms. Sharps extended thanks to Team Honesty for the envelope full of thank you notes from students for the donation of candy for the Halloween Parade; the notes were all handmade, they were very cute and app

**BUSINESS OF THE SUPERINTENDENT**

The manifest will be brought forward to the Special School Board Meeting on December 17; the manifest can be left at the school for signatures.

**OLD BUSINESS**

**A. Follow-up on the 2021-2022 School District Budget**

The budget has been adjusted with recommendations made by the School Board at the November 17<sup>th</sup> meeting. Mrs. Temperino emailed the updated budget to Board members; the new bottom line is now \$3,888,744 which is \$548 less than the current year's voted budget. It is basically a level funded budget. When applied to revenues, the budget brought

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the estimated assessment from 6.4% to 4.9%. Discussion ensued regarding potential future impact from the decrease in Free & Reduced Meal applications being processed. It is a statewide issue that may be reviewed and adjusted to accommodate issues associated with the pandemic.

Mrs. Moriarty shared an update to the budget relative to salary; due to the Office Manager's level of responsibility and the skillset that this individual brings to the position there is an additional \$1,000 increase. This increase will not bring the bottom line up, adjustments will be made in other lines.

The 2021-2022 Budget will be brought forward for approval at a Special School Board Meeting following the SAU #2 Board meeting on the December 17. Board members supported the adjustments as discussed; there were no further adjustments recommended.

**NEW BUSINESS**

**A. Ashland 2020 Tax Rate**

Mrs. Temperino reviewed the calculation comparison breakdown (*Agenda attachment #3*). No questions were brought forward.

**B. COVID-19 Committee Updates and Recommendations**

COVID-19 Committee Update was provided during the Principal's Report.

Mrs. Moriarty is recommending amending the school calendar, making December 23 a full non-student day; providing staff a full day off and providing a cushion before the holiday. Staff has done an amazing job balancing remote and in-person learning.

Board members expressed support of the 23 as a no school day. Discussion ensued regarding the consideration of having the whole week off, providing a full two week break.

Ms. Foote moved, seconded by Ms. Sharps, to end school on December 18 having December 21-23 as full non student days providing two full weeks off; returning to school on January 4.

The Chair called for a roll call vote on the motion on the floor, as follows:

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

Motion carries 5-0

**C. Donation**

Thank you to the Sharps family for the donation of solar lighting for the school driveway entrance.

Ms. Coleman moved, seconded by Ms. Foote, to accept the donation as presented.

The Chair called for a roll call vote on the motion on the floor, as follows:

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

The motion carries 5-0

Ms. Sharps would like to bring a design plan forward next month for approval by the School Board. Members supported moving forward with approving the design at the January meeting.

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**D. Principal Nomination**

Ms. Coleman moved, second by Ms. Sharps, to approve the Superintendent's nomination of Kelly Avery as Principal of Ashland Elementary School; July 1, 2021 – June 30, 2022.

The Chair called for a roll call vote on the motion on the floor, as follows:

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

The motion carries 5-0

**POLICY**    No Action Required

**PRIVILEGE OF THE FLOOR #2**    None

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**A. Thursday, December 17, 2020**

SAU #2 Board – Remote Access via Google Meet

*<https://meet.google.com/uqc-kqfz-btq>*

- SAU #2 Board Meeting & Budget Public Hearing – **6:00 p.m.**
- Ashland School Board Special Meeting – **Immediately following the SAU #2 Meeting**

**B. Tuesday, January 5, 2021**

Ashland School Board @ Remote from Ashland Elementary School – Heffernan Media Center  
(Public Participation via Remote Only)

- Policy Review Committee – **5:45 p.m.**
- School Board Meeting – **6:30 p.m.**

**ADJOURNMENT**

Ms. Sharps moved, seconded by Mr. Felton, to adjourn at 8:01 p.m.

The Chair called for a roll call vote on the motion on the floor, as follows:

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

The motion to adjourn carries 5-0

Respectfully Submitted,

Marilyn G. Martell  
Recording Secretary