

ASHLAND SCHOOL BOARD SPECIAL MEETING

Remote Access only via Google Meet

<https://meet.google.com/ahd-sfdn-iyp>

Phone: 1 563-447-1886 PIN: 647 372 715#

January 5, 2021

MINUTES

CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Heath called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

REMOTE MEETING INFORMATION / ANNOUNCEMENT

Mrs. Moriarty read the following statement 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 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.

RECORD ROLL

Members Present:

Mr. Stephen Heath, Chair
Ms. Sandra Coleman, Vice-Chair
Mr. Stephen Felton*
Ms. Jennifer Foote*
Ms. Leigh Sharps*

Members Absent:

None

**Remote attendance*

Administrators Present:

Mrs. Mary Moriarty, Superintendent
Mrs. Trish Temperino, Assistant Superintendent*
Mr. Steve Guyer, Interim Principal
Mrs. Kelly Avery, Associate Principal

Others Present:

Mr. Lester Brent, Technology Coordinator
Public & Press*

MINUTES

A. Regular Board Meeting of December 1, 2020

Mr. Felton moved, seconded by Ms. Foote, to approve the Minutes of the December 1, 2020 Regular Board Meeting as corrected.

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

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

Motion carries 5-0

B. Special Board Meeting of December 17, 2020

Ms. Coleman moved, seconded by Mr. Felton, to approve the Minutes of the December 17, 2020 Special Board meeting as reviewed.

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

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

Motion carries 5-0

PRIVILEGE OF THE FLOOR #1 None

COMMUNICATIONS

Mrs. Moriarty shared Thank You notes expressing appreciation from staff regarding adjustments to the vacation schedule approved by the School Board.

ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS

A. Enrollment/Principal's Report

Mrs. Avery, Associate Principal reported enrollment is at 170 students; 128 physically in-person, 42 remote. Thank you to the School Board for the December break.

Staff of the Month are Sarah Lindberg, Team Integrity Teacher and Hailey Kelley, Music Teacher. Principal Avery said, "Sarah is an integral part of the Team she shows great leadership skills and is always willing to provide assistance wherever needed; she has been a valuable support to others with new Math program. Hailey is a second year teacher, she is an enthusiastic, creative teacher of band and chorus to grades K-8. Hailey's students are always totally engaged, she is continually looks for more creative ways to teach music."

Mrs. Avery provided building updates: Declan Ulicson's Eagle Scout Project is complete, there are 4 picnic tables for the playground. Touchless faucets and paper dispensers have been installed throughout the building; Student Council is sponsoring Cancer Awareness Week; and January 18 is scheduled to be the first day of the Winter Rec Program. The team is still developing activities for Winter Rec, to include a hot chocolate break. All activities will take place locally; information will be sent out to families next week after the schedule is finalized.

B. Financial Report

Mrs. Temperino reported that the available balance has increased by \$31,154; the current available balance is \$252,579 – 93.53% of the budget has been expended or encumbered. Seem to be on track with support from the CARES and SPSF grants.

C. Facilities Update

Mr. Guyer and Mr. Paquette were in the building when the Honeywell Engineers conducted the HVAC assessment on the 22nd; the report should be available by the end of the week. Mr. Guyer provided an overview of the thoroughness of the work done by the team of engineers.

D. COVID-19 Committee Updates and Recommendations

Mrs. Avery reported that the Committee meets regularly to review data. The Committee is looking for the School Board to support maintaining the 14-day quarantine period vs. adopting the 10-day quarantine as established by DHHS.

Ms. Coleman moved, seconded by Mr. Felton, to approve maintaining a 14 day quarantine period for close contacts versus adopting the 10 day quarantine now allowed by the Department of Health and Human Services.

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

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

Motion carries 5-0

BUSINESS OF THE BOARD

A. Budget Hearing, Deliberative Session – Procedures and Options During the COVID-19 Pandemic

Mrs. Moriarty indicated that Budget Committee has proposed January 13th for the Budget Public Hearing with the 14th set as the snow date; with Deliberative Sessions scheduled in February. Typically meetings were held in the Cafeteria; this year consideration by the Board may be to move these meetings to the Gymnasium. The gym would provide better separation from students and public and is large enough to ensure social distancing. Meetings can also be live streamed.

Mr. Felton asked what the ground rules would be in regards to wearing mask and social distancing with use of the school facility. Mrs. Moriarty responded that masks would be required, if a mask could not be worn an alternative space could be offered for those individuals with a legitimate reason for not being able to wear a mask.

Lengthy discussion ensued regarding the need to establish parameters for use of school facilities by outside organizations; posting of the meeting and remote options. Mrs. Moriarty will follow-up with Atty. Loughman; a Special School Board Meeting was suggested to review legal feedback and opinion.

B. Town of Ashland Request for Use of the William J. Tirone Gymnasium for Deliberative Sessions (2/6/21) and Town Vote (3/9/21)

Mr. Felton raised questions in regards to ground rules for the requested use of space by the Town; 40-60 people in a closed room for multiple hours is of concern. Mr. Heath indicated that cleaning the facility thoroughly after public use is not a concern with support by the town; was a positive experience with voting in November.

Ms. Coleman moved, seconded by Mr. Heath, to approve the request for use of the William J. Tirone Gymnasium by the Town of Ashland for the Deliberative Session on February 6, 2021 and the Town vote on March 9, 2021.

Discussion ensued regarding ground rules for approving use of the gym by the Town being part of the motion.

The motion on the floor was rescinded by Ms. Coleman.

Ms. Coleman moved, seconded by Mr. Heath, to approve the request for use of the William J. Tirone Gymnasium by the Town of Ashland for the Deliberative Session on February 6, 2021; requiring mitigation expectations as recommend by the Division of Health and Human Services be followed regarding wearing mask and social distancing; and cleaning of the gym in conjunction with the Town.

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

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

Motion carries 4-1

Ms. Coleman moved, seconded by Mr. Heath, to approve the request for use of the William J. Tirone Gymnasium by the Town of Ashland for the Town vote on March 9, 2021; requiring mitigation expectations as recommend by the Division of Health and Human Services be followed regarding wearing mask and social distancing; and cleaning of the gym in conjunction with the Town.

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

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

Motion carries 5-0

C. 2021-2022 Default Budget

Mrs. Moriarty reviewed the changes that occurred a few years ago with regard to the presentation of the Default Budget to the community. Mrs. Temperino was commended for the work she has done to develop this budget.

Mrs. Temperino reported that the Default Budget is \$59,758 more than the proposed Operating Budget. No questions were brought forward by Board members.

Mr. Felton moved, seconded by Ms. Foote, to approve the proposed 2021-2022 Default Budget as presented.

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

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

Motion carries 5-0

D. 2021-2022 Draft Warrant Articles *(Agenda Attachment #7)*

Mrs. Moriarty indicated that the first three warrants are standard articles; Article 4 was designed as a place holder for the HVAC project. It would be difficult to present Article 4 to the taxpayers at this time as the level of funding is not known; the project may be a future Warrant Article for phases of the anticipated project. Discussion ensued regarding unreserved Fund Balance and the impact to Articles 5 & 6.

Ms. Coleman moved, second by Ms. Sharps, the Board approve Warrant Article 2 as presented.

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

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

Motion carries 5-0

Mr. Felton moved, seconded by Ms. Foote, the Board approve Warrant Article 3 as presented.

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

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

Motion carries 5-0

Ms. Coleman moved, seconded by Ms. Sharps, the Board approve Warrant Article 4 as presented.

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

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

Motion carries 5-0

Ms. Sharps moved, seconded by Mr. Felton, the Board approve Warrant Article 5 as presented.

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

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

Motion carries 5-0

Discussion ensued regarding the process for withdrawing funds from the Expendable Trust Funds, requiring School Board approval for purposes specific to the Fund.

E. NHSBA Delegate Assembly – January 23, 2021

Mr. Heath asked if anyone was interested in attending the Delegate Assembly, virtual meeting. Mr. Heath offered to represent the Board. The recommendation was to hold a Special School Board Meeting after the Budget Committee Public Hearing to review the NHSBA Resolutions; to provide input and give direction to bring forward to the Delegate Assembly.

Ms. Sharps moved, seconded by Ms. Coleman, to table NHSBA Resolution discussion until review on January 13, 2021.

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

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

Motion carries 5-0

BUSINESS OF THE SUPERINTENDENT

A. General Operating Expenses

Ms. Coleman moved, seconded by Ms. Sharps, to approve the payment of manifest #2010 and #2011.

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

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

Motion carries 5-0

OLD BUSINESS

A. Winter Athletics

Mr. Guyer reported that the Committee voted to continue with Intramural Games; it was a very hard decision to make but it is not worth the risk to students.

Ms. Coleman moved, seconded by Ms. Foote, to support the Covid-19 Committee's decision to continue winter basketball as an intramural program for the remainder of the season.

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

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

Motion carries 5-0

B. Solar Lighting for Ashland Elementary School Driveway Entrance

Ms. Sharps reviewed the research and discussion that has been done regarding the design plan for the solar lighting. Logistics of placement and securing lights is still ongoing. The School Board gave verbal consensus to move forward with lighting design and plans; with thanks.

NEW BUSINESS

A. New Hampshire Charitable Foundation Grant Award

Ms. Coleman moved, seconded by Ms. Sharps, to accept the \$600.00 grant award from the New Hampshire Charitable Foundation to support the Music Department.

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

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

Motion carries 5-0

POLICY No Action Required

PRIVILEGE OF THE FLOOR #2

Ms. Coleman suggested scheduling School Board meetings at 5:30 p.m. if there was no meeting of the Policy Review Committee scheduled. Board members supported beginning meetings at 6:00 p.m. when there is not Policy Review Committee meeting.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

A. January 13, 2021(Snow Date January 14, 2021 - Location TBD (by 3rd Tuesday in January)

- **Budget Committee Public Budget Hearing**

B. Tuesday, February 2, 2021

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

- First Deliberative Session – **6:30 p.m.**
- School Board Meeting – **Immediately following the Deliberative Session**

NON-PUBLIC SESSION

Ms. Coleman moved, seconded by Ms. Foote to enter Non-Public Session in accordance with RSA 91-A:3 II (c) at 8:30 p.m.

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

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

Motion carries 5-0

Public Session

Ms. Coleman moved, seconded by Ms. Sharps, to return to Public Session at 8:41 p.m.

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

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

Motion carries 5-0

Mrs. Moriarty confirmed that Board members would be available for a Special School Board Meeting Thursday morning at 11:00 a.m. to possibly make a decision about the Budget Committee Public Hearing. Ms. Foote was unable to attend, all other members were able to meet.

ADJOURNMENT

Ms. Sharps moved, seconded by Ms. Coleman, to adjourn at 8:47 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

Amended February 2, 2021