

Ashland School Board Meeting
Remote Meeting via Google Meet @
meet.google.com/wgm-yhuq-dbj
May 19, 2020
6:00 PM

MINUTES

Members Present: Ms. Renee Liebert*, Chair; Ms. Sandra Coleman; Mr. Stephen Felton*; Mr. Stephen Heath*; Ms. Leigh Sharps*

Members Absent: None

Administrators Present: Mrs. Mary Moriarty, Superintendent; Mrs. Trish Temperino, Assistant Superintendent*; Mrs. Ashley Dolloff, Human Resources Director*; Dr. Shannon Bartlett, Ashland Elementary School Principal*

Others Present: Mr. David Ruell*; AES Staff Members*; Public

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

CALL TO ORDER

Ms. Liebert called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. Members and guest participated in the pledge of allegiance.

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.

MINUTES

Ms. Sharps request that approval of Minutes be held until the end of the meeting after Non-Public Session; several corrections are recommended for the April 7 and April 21 minutes. A discussion regarding the process of minute taking is needed to ensure they are meet legal standards if needed. Consensus of the Board was to table all School Board Meeting Minutes until the June 2, 2020 meeting. Ms. Liebert suggested Ms. Sharps contact Marilyn Martell, Recording Secretary for discussion.

PRIVILEGE OF THE FLOOR #1 None

COMMUNICATIONS None

ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS

A. Enrollment

Dr. Bartlett reported that enrollment is at 162; with the re-enrollment of one student.

B. Remote Learning/End of Year Update

Dr. Bartlett shared the K-8 Virtual Learning Schedule for AES; it provides a great overview of what is happening at AES with virtual sessions teachers are holding with students (attached).

Dr. Bartlett said, "that participation has started to drop, due to screen fatigue by students and parents, and the warm weather that has finally come about. Parents have been extremely helpful and supportive with remote learning. Team Respect Teachers recently had a meeting to plan how to ensure kids finish the school year strong – 28 of 30 students have been participating in virtual session. There is constant contact with students in Grades K-2 with virtual meetings and sending home practice work they can do; as well as the adaptive learning programs that all students do in grades K-5 in literacy and math.

If you can, take time to check out the 5 Team sites connected to AES website, each team has been adding new resources, videos, messages of hope and inspiration, activities, etc. Also visit Nurse Rubbe's Site for health updates and information; and Fun Things to do With Your Family site developed by Ms. McGettigan. Many thanks to parents for sharing pictures and videos and also to students that are sending pictures and videos in on their own and especially Jacqui for the work she is doing to capture this time."

Dr. Bartlett is grateful to an anonymous donor who has a home in Ashland who donated \$2,000 in Hannaford gift cards that have been shared with families in two rounds based on the number of students in the home. Ashland Common Man has supplied two different family style meals that were either picked up or delivered to families; thankful for the support they have provided to AES families.

Individual graduation ceremonies are set up; a local company will produce a compilation video of the ceremonies. A viewing party is scheduled for June 4th for 8th Grades and families, anyone is invited to participate. At this time the Party is planned virtually, unless the rules change and there is another way to get together.

EOY Calendar was reviewed with June 2 being the last day of school for students. Staff meetings, classroom clean-out and virtual trainings will be ongoing for staff through the tenth. Summer School planning is under way, hoping the first session will be virtual and the second session will be in person (following social guidelines).

C. Financial Report

Mrs. Temperino reported that at this time there is an available balance of \$85,835 an improvement since the April report of approximately \$14,000. Revenue position has improved from shortfall last month to a little over anticipated, due in part of Medicaid checks finally coming in and catching up – we are slightly ahead at this time.

D. June Food Service

Mrs. Temperino provided an update regarding meals delivered to families through Café Services and Durham Transportation with Jen Lyford, Para-Educator helping with deliveries. The contract with Durham Transportation ends last day of school (June 2); the State has approved meals until the last day of June. The cost to continue delivering would be approximately \$2,400; she did not want to move forward with this expense without consensus of the Board. Mrs. Moriarty reviewed other options for meal delivery that would reduce costs. There are 57 families receiving student meals through the Grab and Go Meal Program.

Ms. Liebert indicated if Got Lunch cannot deliver meals, it is worth \$2,400 to ensure meals are delivered to families. Mr. Heath suggest looking at other options, without obligating those funds at this time if a decision does not have to be made at this time. Mrs. Temperino will look into options and report back to the Board at the June meeting.

BUSINESS OF THE BOARD

A. Proposed Structure for 2020-2021 School Year Part-Time Interim Principal and Associate Principal

Ms. Liebert request moving this item until after non-public session; all Board members approved.

BUSINESS OF THE SUPERINTENDENT

A. Operating Expenses

Ms. Sharps moved, second by Mr. Heath, to approve payment of bills, manifests #2016 and #2107. The Chair called for a roll call vote as follows:

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

The motion carried unanimously.

Mrs. Temperino noted Café Services reduced their administrative fee by 50%; the reduction will be reflected in next month's billing.

OLD BUSINESS

A. Withdrawal from the Health Insurance Expendable Trust

Mrs. Temperino reported the current Trust balance is approximately \$16,866. The booked receivable is \$15,000 from the Trust against Health Insurance cost for this year based on prior Board recommendation. This will be the last withdrawal over a series of three years, the amount was included in the budget process. This year the amount is slightly higher for the final withdrawal.

Ms. Liebert called for consensus of the Board; all were in favor of withdrawing funds as presented.

NEW BUSINESS

A. Exit Interview Process

Ms. Dolloff, Human Resources Director shared with the Board the process developed around exit interviews from various resources and input. She noted that currently exit interviews

are not an adopted practice in Ashland, but is beneficial to gain information from outgoing employees to enhance processes for the future. This process can be used with all positions to collect information from staff.

Discussion ensued regarding the actual interview process, Board participation being one member, and providing feedback with a written document presented to School Board members from the staff member.

Ms. Sharps recommended Mr. Felton be the Board member participating with the exit interview for Dr. Bartlett. Ms. Coleman suggest having a Board member who has been on the Board and worked with Dr. Bartlett may be more beneficial. Mr. Heath was recommended by members and accepted participation in the process, and all members agreed.

Mr. Felton thought it would be beneficial for the exit interview to take place sooner than later with Dr. Bartlett to help make decisions moving forward with hiring.

B. Increase in School Lunch Prices for the 2020-2021 School Year

Mrs. Temperino reviewed the increase in Breakfast and Lunch prices; each year meal prices are evaluated as required by USDA. The recommendation is a ten cent increase for both breakfast and lunch.

Ms. Sharps moved, seconded by Mr. Heath, to approve an increase in school lunch prices for the 2020-2021 school year as presented.

Ms. Coleman expressed concerns with increase due to the current circumstances; asking if there was any way to forego and increase. Mrs. Temperino responded that increases are mandated by the Federal Government; she is not aware of a way around it without potentially losing USDA reimbursement.

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

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

The motion carried unanimously.

C. Ashland School District Support Staff Benefits Overview

Mrs. Moriarty reported the only changes are on page two, related to Health Insurance. The insurance benefits are in alignment with what was negotiated with teachers. Mrs. Dolloff was recognized for developing the Benefits Overview since assuming her role as Human Resources Director.

Mr. Heath moved, seconded by Ms. Sharps to approve the Ashland School District Support Staff Benefits Overview as presented.

The Chair called for a roll call vote as follows:

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

The motion carried unanimously.

POLICY – No action required

PRIVILEGE OF THE FLOOR #2

Mrs. McGettigan indicated that a lot of people signed on to the meeting with an interest in the Proposed Structure for the 2020-2021 school year. She asked if members of the public will have an opportunity to ask questions after Non-Public or hear what decisions have been made. Many have shared that they would like to know what direction the Board is heading for next school

year. Ms. Liebert indicated that discussion was needed in Non-Public before the direction moving forward could be shared.

In order to provide an opportunity for input and share comments Ms. Liebert opened the meeting for public comment regarding the Proposed Structure for the 2020-2021 school year. No members of the public brought forward any questions or comments.

A link will be sent to all attendees for a return to Public Session at 7:30 p.m. at which time decisions will be shared.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

A. Tuesday, June 2, 2020

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

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

NON-PUBLIC

Ms. Coleman moved, second by Ms. Sharps, to enter Non-Public Session at 6:57 p.m. in accordance with RSA 91-A:3 II (b)(c). The Board Secretary polled the Board as follows:

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

The motion to enter Non-Public Session was unanimous.

Public Session

The Board returned to Public Session at 8:11 p.m.

Ms. Liebert thanked members of the public for waiting for the Board to return to Public Session. She announced that by decision of the Board, Kelley Avery has been hired as Associate Principal for the 2020-2021 school year at her current salary, with the Board supporting her Certification Program up to \$16,000. As a matter of process the Board has decided to advertise for the Interim Part-Time Principal position. The Board will be considering options on the position at the meeting scheduled on June 2, 2020.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Heath moved, second by Ms. Sharps to adjourn at 8:15 p.m. The motion to adjourn carried unanimously; roll call vote as follows:

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

Respectfully Submitted,

Marilyn G. Martell
Recording Secretary

Approved with amendments: 7/14/2020.