

Ashland School Board Meeting
Remote Meeting via Google Meet @
meet.google.com/com/yfn-iukc-dyw

June 2, 2020

6:00 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*; Mrs. Elaine Dodge, Director of Student Services*; 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

Vice-Chair Coleman called the meeting to order at 6:02 p.m. Staff members in attendance were acknowledged. 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.

RECOGNITION

School Board members acknowledged Dr. Bartlett for all she has done for Ashland Elementary School in addition to her outstanding work within the academic arena. Dr. Bartlett brought an incredible amount of energy and excitement to the school community.

Mrs. Moriarty expressed her thanks and gratitude to Dr. Bartlett for the work she has done with the learners of Ashland Elementary School and beyond. An invitation was extended to Dr. Bartlett to receive an additional gift they would like to present in July.

MINUTES

A. Regular Meeting of April 7, 2020

Ms. Sharps moved, seconded by Mr. Heath, to approve the minutes of April 7, 202 Regular Meeting as written. The Chair called for a roll call vote as follows:

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

The motion carried 3-0-1.

B. Special Meetings of April 21, 2020; April 28, 2020; and May 6, 2020

Mr. Heath moved, seconded by Ms. Sharps, to approve the minutes of the April 21, 2020 Special Board Meeting, as amended. The Chair called for a roll call vote as follows:

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

The motion carried 3-0-1.

Ms. Sharps moved, seconded by Mr. Heath, to approve the minutes of the April 28, 2020 Special Board Meeting, as amended. The Chair called for a roll call vote as follows:

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

The motion carried 3-0-1.

Ms. Sharps moved, seconded by Mr. Felton, to approve the minutes of the May 6, 2020 Special Board Meeting. The Chair called for a roll call vote as follows:

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

The motion carried 4-0.

Ms. Sharps moved, seconded by Mr. Felton, to approve the Non-Public Minutes of the May 6, 2020 Special Board Meeting, as amended to reflect time in and out of each session. The Chair called for a roll call vote as follows:

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

The motion carried 4-0.

C. Regular Meeting of May 19, 2020

Ms. Sharps requested that approval of May 19, 2020 Minutes be postponed until the next meeting; edits need to be completed.

PRIVILEGE OF THE FLOOR #1 None

COMMUNICATIONS None

ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS

A. Enrollment

Dr. Bartlett reported that enrollment remains at 162.

B. Remote Learning/End of Year Update

Dr. Bartlett thanked the School Board for the flower arrangement that she received today at her home. She said, "Today was the last day of school, thanks for kind words; it has been a privilege working in this community."

Dr. Bartlett provided an overview of today's rigorous last day of school schedule; that included a special moment for K- students first thing this morning. The next six days are scheduled staff meetings and there is a lot of planning and work to be done with teachers. Re-entry protocols for teachers or staff coming into the building, following guidelines provided, separate entries and exits – great deal of planning scheduling who is in the building. Everything is being done to keep the building safe.

Kindergarten registration this year will be online through the student management system. Mr. Brent and Mrs. McGettigan have been designing, setting up and testing the process. Registration should be ready mid-June; families will be notified along with instructions on how to complete the process. The process for updating student information online by the parent will also be available soon; eliminating extra paperwork in the fall.

C. Financial Report

Mrs. Temperino reported that at this time there is an available balance of \$94,401; since the last report work is being done to refine financials. There were unexpected expenses, rough estimate of year end revenue anticipate what we should receive.

Ms. Sharps asked about federal funding earmarked for schools and the state – what is the status. Mrs. Moriarty indicated that funding has not yet been received through the CARES Act. The anticipated funding amount should be 70% of Title I allocation; the additional funds are to help support the impact of COVID-19. We have not had to spend additional funds at this point, but going forward the funds will be available for access. The Board will be updated as more information is received regarding the CARES Act funding.

BUSINESS OF THE BOARD

A. School Board Member Resignation – Renee Liebert

Ms. Coleman moved, seconded by Ms. Sharps, to accept the resignation with regret of School Board Member Renee Liebert, effective immediately. The Chair called for a roll call vote as follows:

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

The motion carried 4-0.

BUSINESS OF THE SUPERINTENDENT

A. Operating Expenses

Mrs. Temperino indicated that operating expenses is generally a manifest; since the Board met just two weeks ago we do not have a manifest at this time.

B. Summer Food Service Update

Mrs. Temperino reported that the Got Lunch Program is anticipated as a voucher program this year; final arrangements have not been made. Review of costs associated with food

service continuing through June 30th would be \$2,056.41; the Board supports continuing food service through June 30th.

Summer Food Program through Café Services is not sustainable; there is an opportunity for a community partnership developed through the Associate Principal and Ashland/Holderness Got Lunch.

Ms. Coleman moved, seconded by Ms. Sharps, to continue food service through June 30th, for an approximate cost of \$2,400. The Chair called for a roll call vote as follows:

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

The motion carried 4-0.

C. End of Year Encumbrances

Mrs. Temperino reviewed the request for year-end encumbrance to replace the walk-in freezer. The Facilities Committee discussed repair of the freezer, but with the age and need for repairs a total replacement is the best option. There is a purchase order in the amount of \$5,500 designated for the control system, the total cost of the unit is approximately \$19,000 leaving a balance of \$13,500. Mrs. Temperino is recommending that year end funds not be used for this purchase, waiting until July to purchase the unit with 2020-2021 funds instead.

Discussion was had regarding returning as much as possible to the Town to help reduce the tax assessment; given the current economic conditions we should do whatever we can to reduce the tax burden. The Board supported not encumbering funds, July 1 funds would be used to purchase the walk-in- unit. If additional funds are required during 2020-21, funds could be withdrawn from the Expendable Trust by the Board taking action through a Public Hearing.

D. Summer School – In-Person Program Discussion

Mrs. Moriarty reported that plans have been worked on with Dr. Bartlett, Ms. Rubbe, School Nurse, and Mrs. Dodge, Director of Student Services regarding summer school. Before moving forward with Summer School discussion Mrs. Moriarty asked Dr. Bartlett to provide an outline and overview of a special event scheduled for Thursday evening to celebrate the 8th Grade Class Graduation.

Dr. Bartlett spoke with parents near the end of the school year about being able to watch the graduation video together, not knowing what circumstances may allow or if it would even be possible to get everyone together. They have worked through a plan to mark up the field behind the school, to ensure safe social distancing, using sound system and inflatable projection screen the class will gather for this celebration. Entry and exit to the event will be guided to ensure safety for everyone.

The consensus of the Board was to support the 8th Grade Class Celebration planned for Thursday evening as presented; with all of the safeguards in place to ensure social distancing protocols are followed.

Summer School – Dr. Bartlett provided a detailed overview of the guidelines and very specific protocols that would be followed to ensure all established requirements for social distancing would be followed; following the plan and parameters that have been issued.

The importance of in-person classroom instruction for some students who need support with academic recovery was discussed. Providing direct instruction is very important to fill the gaps.

Mrs. Moriarty briefly reviewed the start of next school year; we are still awaiting guidance moving forward but have begun to start thinking about the components that should be in place to follow established protocols. The summer program in the building will help to review the process on a smaller scale than at the start of the school year.

Mrs. Dodge confirmed that guidance from the Department of Education has been encouraging bringing in small numbers of students whenever possible for in-person instruction. There are students with health concerns that will need to remain in the remote learning environment.

Mrs. Moriarty plans to invite parents to a listening session to collect feedback about the start of the school year. Feedback will be brought to the School Board in July from the listening sessions and guidance from the State.

The consensus of the Board supports moving forward with in-person classroom instruction for summer school as presented.

E. Additional Teacher to Support Class Size Due to COVID-19 for the 2020-2021 School Year

Mr. Felton moved, seconded by Ms. Sharps, to approve an additional teacher to support class size due to COVID-19 for the 2020-2021 school year. The Chair called for a roll call vote as follows:

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

The motion carried 4-0.

F. Permission to Hire

Ms. Coleman moved, seconded by Ms. Sharps, to authorize the Superintendent of Schools to hire candidate(s) prior to the August School Board Meeting. The Chair called for a roll call vote as follows:

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

The motion carried 4-0.

OLD BUSINESS

A. Withdrawal from the Health Insurance Expendable Trust

No action required, Mrs. Temperino provided an update to the School Board at the May 19, 2020 meeting to withdraw money.

B. Administrative Support 2020-2021

Mrs. Moriarty provided an update: the P/T Interim Principal position was advertised, we did receive a few applications. Candidates will be interviewed as discussed by herself, Ms. Avery and the Leadership Team next week. Due to time constraints meet and greet opportunities will not be possible; candidate(s) moving forward will meet with the School Board.

NEW BUSINESS

A. General Assurances

Mr. Heath moved, seconded by Ms. Sharps, to authorize the School Board Acting Chair and Superintendent to sign the FY 2021 Program and General Assurances, Requirements and Definitions for the District's participation in Federal Programs. The Chair called for a roll call vote as follows:

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

The motion carried 4-0.

POLICY – No action required

PRIVILEGE OF THE FLOOR #2 - None

ANNOUNCEMENTS

A. Monday, July 13, 2020

Ashland School Board @ Remote from Ashland Elementary School – Conference Room
(Public Participation via Remote Only)
Policy Review Committee – **6:00 p.m.**

B. 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 – **6:00 p.m.**

It was noted that a Special School Board meeting may be called in June to meet/interview potential Interim Principal Candidates, the date to be determined.

ADJOURNMENT

Ms. Sharps moved, seconded by Mr. Felton to adjourn at 7:42 p.m. The motion to adjourn carried unanimously; roll call vote as follows:

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

The motion carried 4-0.

Respectfully Submitted,

Marilyn G. Martell
Recording Secretary

Amended July 14, 2020