

ASHLAND SCHOOL BOARD REGULAR MEETING
Ashland Elementary School – Heffernan Media Center
Tuesday, May 2, 2023 @ 6:00 PM
**Policy Review Committee Meeting – 5:00 p.m.*

MINUTES

CALL TO ORDER

Mr. Steven Heath being absent, Vice-Chair Sandra Coleman called the meeting to order at 6:05 p.m.

RECORD ROLL

Members Present:

Mrs. Sandra Coleman, Vice-Chair
Mr. Jesse Farris
Mr. Stephen Felton
Mrs. Jennifer Foote

Administrators Present:

Mrs. Mary Moriarty, Superintendent
Mrs. Kelly Avery, Principal

Members Absent:

Mr. Stephen Heath, Chair (with notice)

Others Present:

Mr. David Ruell
Mrs. Heather Bullimore, Recording Secretary

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIENCE

PUBLIC COMMENT – Opened at 6:06 p.m.

MINUTES

A. Regular Meeting of April 6, 2023

Mrs. Foote noted three minor corrections to the minutes.

Mrs. Foote moved, seconded by Mr. Felton, to approve the minutes of the Regular Meeting of April 6, 2023, as amended. The motion carried 4-0.

COMMUNICATIONS

None.

ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS

A. Enrollment / Principal's Report

Mrs. Avery reported that enrollment as of May 1st, 2023 is 159 students. Recycled Percussion performed for the student body on April 14th, 2023 spreading their message of kindness. Author Marty Kelley was here on Friday, April 14th, sponsored by the CLiF grant. Storyteller Simon Brooks was here on April 19th. Entertaining the different tiers with his craft. Sports Writer Josh Spaulding was also here on April 19th, talking with Middle Tier students about his craft. AES staff practiced the evacuation and reunification process on April 21st as part of their Professional Development. Baseball and Softball ball season is underway. The Season Opener against Plymouth was April 20th, with both of our teams victorious. NHSAS Testing is taking place on May 9th-11th for Grades 3-5 & May 16th-18th for Middle Tier.

The Scholastic Book Fair is May 15th-May 28th, in-person and online. Donuts with Your Grown-Ups is scheduled on Friday, May 19th starting at 7:30 a.m. The Literacy Committee is holding a Family Book Club on May 24th. Money from the CLiF grant and Title I is supporting this activity. The Spring Concert date is set for Thursday, May 25th at 6:00 p.m. in the gymnasium. The school-wide Science Fair is scheduled for June 8th. Each year, the school alternates between the Science Fair and Project Week. Jacqui McGettigan has collaborated with the SEE Science Center of Manchester to kick off our Science Fair with free activity kits for grades K-5.

Upcoming field trips include:

- May 5th - Team Honesty to Science Center
- May 24th - Team Respect to Rock Estate
- May 26th - Team Integrity to Prescott Farm
- May 31st - 8th grade class trip to Boston-Fenway Experience
- June 9th - Middle Tier to Boston Museum of Science

The school will be practicing a lockdown drill soon. Parents will be informed of the date, and staff will be talking to students about what to expect. Mrs. Coleman asked what takes place during a lockdown. Mrs. Avery gave an overview of the lockdown procedure. Town officers are aware of the date of the drill.

Mrs. Kelly also explained the Meredith Village Savings Bank banking program for students. Mrs. Coleman and Mrs. Moriarty commended Mrs. Avery and the school staff for this effort.

Mr. Farris asked if the District's safety plan is available to the public. Mrs. Moriarty explained that the safety plan is not public, but it is on file with the Department of Education and Homeland Security. Mr. Farris requested to see the plan, and Mrs. Moriarty confirmed that he can do so, as can any other Board Members.

B. Financial Report

At the June Board meeting, Mrs. Moriarty will be talking about end-of-year fund balance, which is about \$185,000 at this stage.

Mrs. Moriarty noted that the Policy Review Committee looked into water quality, and hopes that the Board would be considering using some of the end-of-year funds to add two additional water fountains with bottle filling stations. The school must add two more stations to comply with the law. Mrs. Moriarty said that Mr. Paquette also thought the District should see if they can put a filter at the source where water enters the building and find out what that might cost. Mrs. Moriarty intends to bring an estimated cost and more information about this to the June Board meeting.

Mrs. Coleman said that the Budget Committee had a meeting the other night and someone asked if the School Board could provide the Budget Committee with a financial report each month. Mrs. Moriarty noted that all agendas and attachments are published on the School Board website each month, so the Budget Committee has access to the financial report via the website. The Board members agreed that

that satisfies the request. Mrs. Moriarty noted that Budget Committee members are also welcome to call the SAU office and someone will walk them through the process of accessing the agendas.

BUSINESS OF THE SUPERINTENDENT

A. General Operating Expenses

Discussion ensued regarding manifest #2021. Regarding checks #30994 and #30995, Mrs. Foote inquired about the difference between the two. Mrs. Moriarty noted that she will look into it. Regarding check #31005, Mrs. Foote asked what the duration is for that amount. Mrs. Moriarty said that it is multiple months and noted that sometimes the vendor sends multiple bills at once. Regarding check #31012, Mrs. Moriarty explained that this was a mileage reimbursement for a shared position within the SAU and Ashland. Regarding check #31036, Mrs. Foote asked if this is a monthly cost, and Mrs. Moriarty confirmed it is. Mrs. Moriarty will ask the business office to start including notes about the period of time covered by bills.

Mrs. Moriarty noted that a Board member had a question last month about Spear Memorial Hospital, and she confirmed that the previous manifest accurately reflected the District's contract with the hospital.

Mrs. Foote moved, seconded by Mr. Felton, to approve the payment of bills, manifest #2021. The motion carried 4-0.

OLD BUSINESS

A. Ventilation Project Update

Mrs. Moriarty reported that she has yet to get an answer on the breaker and that she will keep working on this. As soon as school is out, the project will get going. Mr. Bemis is an external evaluator to ensure that the new system is meeting the standards. Mrs. Coleman asked for a date when this would be completed. Mrs. Moriarty said it was supposed to be done in October, so the project is behind schedule but not hugely. Mrs. Coleman asked if it is costing an additional money. Mrs. Moriarty said no, the cost from Laconia Refrigeration hasn't changed. Mary will keep the Board posted on the breaker.

NEW BUSINESS

A. Food Service Proposal

Mrs. Moriarty reported that the Ashland School District received one proposal for food service from Fresh Picks Café Services. With the rising cost of food and goods, food service is going to cost an extra \$10,000 for the 2023-2024 school year. Mrs. Moriarty recommends accepting this proposal, and further recommends that the Board consider using funds from the end-of-year balance to cover this expense.

Mrs. Foote moved, seconded by Mr. Farris, to approve the Food Service Proposal as presented. The motion carried 4-0.

B. Breakfast and Lunch Prices 2023/2024

Mrs. Moriarty presented a recommendation to increase the price of school meals by \$0.25 for meal for students and adults. Mr. Felton asked the approximate percentage of families in the District that qualify for Free & Reduced meals. Mrs. Moriarty said that around 40% of families qualify. There are also families "on the cusp" that do not quite meet the Free & Reduced numbers, but struggle to pay for school meals. An anonymous \$5,000 donation just came in to help offset families whose lunch accounts are struggling.

Mr. Felton asked what the revenue is from school lunches, and how much it would cost if all meals were free. Mrs. Moriarty said she can find out the answers and bring that information to the June School Board meeting. The Board reached consensus to table this action until then.

POLICY**A. Policy Review Committee Minutes**

The Board reviewed the minutes. No action needed.

B. Policies for First Reading

The Board reached consensus to table this action until the June school board meeting. Mrs. Moriarty suggested having a second meeting in June to catch up on second readings.

PUBLIC COMMENT – Closed at 6:47 p.m.

NEW BUSINESS, CONTINUED**A. Anonymous donation in the amount of \$5,000 to support offsetting school lunch bills for families with Reduced lunch and families "on the cusp."**

Mr. Felton moved, seconded by Mrs. Coleman, to accept the donation, with gratitude. The motion carried 4-0.

OLD BUSINESS, CONTINUED**B. Support Staff – 3 Waived Snow Days (Action Item) Mrs. Moriarty**

Mrs. Moriarty recommended that the Board approve paying support staff for the three waived snow days. She noted that this would not cost any additional money as those three days are already in the budget. This would apply to twelve people. Mrs. Foote noted that in past years, she has always been surprised by how low the cost is for this.

Mrs. Coleman moved, seconded by Mr. Farris, to approve paying support staff for the three (3) waived snow days. The motion carried 4-0.

NEW BUSINESS, CONTINUED

C. Staff Appreciation

The Board reach consensus to provide a catered lunch for the AES staff during Staff Appreciation Week. Mrs. Bullimore and Mrs. Avery will coordinate to make that happen.

NONPUBLIC SESSION – RSA 91-A:3, II(c) This includes matters which, if discussed in public, would likely affect adversely the reputation of any person, other than a member of this Board.

Mrs. Foote moved, seconded by Mr. Farris, to enter Nonpublic Session. Mrs. Coleman called the roll.

YES: Jennifer Foote, Stephen Felton, Jesse Farris, Sandra Coleman

NO: --

Motion passed unanimously.

Mrs. Foote moved, seconded by Mr. Farris, to return to Public Session. Mrs. Coleman called the roll.

YES: Jennifer Foote, Stephen Felton, Jesse Farris, Sandra Coleman

NO: --

Motion passed unanimously.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Tuesday, June 6, 2023

Ashland School Board @ Ashland Elementary School – Heffernan Media Center

- Policy Review Committee Meeting – **5:00 p.m.**
- School Board Meeting – **6:00 p.m.**

Monday, June 19, 2023 – tentative

Ashland School Board @ Ashland Elementary School – Heffernan Media Center

- School Board Meeting – **5:30 p.m.**

ADJOURNMENT

Mrs. Foote moved, seconded by Mr. Farris, to adjourn meeting at 7:20 p.m. The motion carried 4-0.

Meeting adjourned at 7:20 p.m.

CONFIDENTIAL

NON-PUBLIC SESSION I

May 2, 2023

R.S.A. 91-A:3 II(c): This includes matters which, if discussed in public, would likely affect adversely the reputation of any person, other than a member of this Board, unless such a person requests an open meeting.

I. Personnel Matter

Discussion ensued regarding a personnel matter. Personal information and names have been left out of these minutes to protect the privacy of the individual(s) discussed.

Given Mr. Heath's absence, the Board reached consensus to table this conversation.

II. Residency Matter

Discussion ensued regarding a request for non-resident admission and tuition waiver at Ashland Elementary School. Personal information and names have been left out of these minutes to protect the privacy of the individual(s) discussed.

Mrs. Foote moved, seconded by Mr. Felton, to approve the request for non-resident admission and tuition waiver, with parents responsible for transportation. The motion carried 4-0.