

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

MINUTES

CALL TO ORDER

Mrs. Moriarty called the meeting to order at 6:01 p.m.

RECORD ROLL

Members Present:

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

Administrators Present:

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

Members Absent:

None

Others Present:

Mr. David Ruell
Mr. Bruce Kneuer, Department of Revenue Administration
Mrs. Heather Bullimore, Recording Secretary

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

REORGANIZATION OF THE SCHOOL BOARD

Steve Felton moved, seconded by Sandra Coleman, to nominate Steve Heath for Chairman of the School Board. The motion carried 4-0.

Steve Heath took control of the meeting. Jesse Farris moved, seconded by Mr. Felton, to nominate Sandra Coleman for Vice-Chair. Steve Felton seconded. The motion carried 4-0.

DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE ADMINISTRATION PRESENTATION

Mr. Bruce Kneuer from Department of Revenue Administration provided a presentation regarding year-end unassigned fund balance and subsequent tax rate.

By law, unassigned fund balance must be returned toward the tax rate. The bigger the number on the MS-24, the more reduction of taxes, the lower the school rate. In 2013, the law changed to allow School Districts to retain a certain amount of fund balance. It is the School District's choice whether to retain any of the fund balance or have it all flow to the revenue estimate. Retaining fund balance means it may be applied it to the next school year. The retained fund balance is available beginning July 1st.

Discussion ensued. Mr. Felton asked how much of the remaining fund balance can be used and for what. Mr. Kneuer explained that the calculation is developed each year,

and is currently approximately 2.5% of 2.6 million. The exact numbers are available from the DRA.

Mr. Kneuer also explained to the Board that there is no cash exchange from the School District to the town or to anybody else. The Department of Revenue Administration worksheets are used for accounting purposes, and there is no cash flow occurring.

The Board thanked Mr. Kneuer for sharing his time and expertise.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Public Comment opened at 6:36 p.m.

REORGANIZATION OF THE SCHOOL BOARD

A. Committee Assignments and Representatives

Discussion ensued regarding new Committee and Board Representative assignments for 2023/2024. The assignments were decided as follows:

- Policy Review Committee – Mrs. Jennifer Foote and Mr. Stephen Felton
- Budget Committee Representative – Mrs. Sandra Coleman (alternate Mr. Jesse Farris)
- NHSBA School Board Representative – Mr. Jesse Farris (alternate TBD)
- Wellness Committee Representative – Mrs. Sandra Coleman
- Facilities/Building Committee Representative – Mr. Stephen Heath
- Safety Committee Representative – Mr. Stephen Heath

B. Meeting Schedule 2023-2024

Discussion ensued regarding the schedule. Meetings are scheduled for the first Tuesday of every month as usual, except July.

Mrs. Foote moved, seconded by Mrs. Coleman, to approve the Ashland School Board Meeting Schedule for 2023-2024 as presented. Motion carried 5-0.

MINUTES

A. Regular Meeting of March 7, 2023

Discussion ensued. Two typos were corrected.

Mrs. Foote moved, seconded by Mr. Felton, to approve the minutes of the Regular Meeting of March 7, 2023 as amended. Motion carried 4-0-1 (Mrs. Coleman abstaining).

COMMUNICATIONS

ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS

A. Enrollment / Principal's Report

Mrs. Kelly Avery, AES Principal, provided a report. See attached Principal's Report.

B. Financial Report

Mrs. Moriarty presented a financial report. Discussion ensued regarding specific items in the budget. No action was taken.

BUSINESS OF THE SUPERINTENDENT

A. General Operating Expenses

Discussion ensued regarding specific items on the manifest.

Ms. Coleman moved, seconded by Mr. Farris, to approve the payment of bills, manifest #2019. The motion carried 5-0.

OLD BUSINESS

A. Update on Request for Congressionally Directed Spending

Mrs. Moriarty shared an update from Mr. Bemis. Mr. Bemis was told that this request would fall better under a USDA rural facilities account. The request is moving within the federal government. No action is needed at this time.

B. Ventilation Project

Mrs. Moriarty shared that the breaker needed for this project will not be available until September, but Mr. Herbert, the electrician in charge of the project, has found an alternative supplier who would be able to provide a breaker sooner. The cost would be \$7,000 (up from \$3,500). Mrs. Moriarty recommends that the Board vote to allow for the purchase of the breaker that would arrive sooner.

Discussion ensued. Mr. Heath shared a concern that if the Board waits for the breaker to arrive after school is open, the project will inevitably move more slowly, because there will be testing and work that cannot be done when students are in the building. The Board reached a consensus to allow Mrs. Moriarty to work with Mr. Herbert and the broker to see what can be arranged to get a breaker sooner.

Mrs. Coleman moved, seconded by Mr. Felton, to authorize the Superintendent to spend up to \$7,000 for the purchase of a breaker for AES, so long as the breaker will arrive by July 1, 2023 to allow for the testing of the system before students arrive for the fall, and so long as the District would not be penalized on the previously ordered breaker. The motion carried 5-0.

C. AES – Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief III Requirement – Safe Return to In-Person Instruction and Continuity of Service

Mrs. Moriarty suggested two minor changes to the ESSER III Requirements document.

Mrs. Coleman moved, seconded by Mr. Farris, to maintain ESSER III Requirement – Safe Return to In-Person Instruction and Continuity of Service as amended. The motion carried 5-0.

NEW BUSINESS

A. Nomination of Professional Staff

Mrs. Moriarty presented the nominations for professional teaching staff and administrators. Mrs. Foote moved to enter non-public session, pursuant to RSA 91-A:3, II(c).

The Board reached consensus to table the Nomination of Professional Staff until the non-public session at the end of the meeting.

B. ESEA Program Assurances and Equitable Services Affirmation

Mr. Felton moved, seconded by Mrs. Foote, to sign ESEA Program Assurances and Equitable Services Affirmation as presented. The motion carried 5-0.

Motion carried 5-0.

C. 2023-2024 School Calendar

Mrs. Moriarty reviewed the proposed 2023-2024 School Year calendar. Mrs. Avery noted that early release days will be scheduled at a later time. Discussion ensued. One small typo was corrected.

Mrs. Foote moved, seconded by Mr. Farris, to approve 2023-2024 School Calendar as amended. The motion carried 5-0.

D. School District General Assurances

Mrs. Moriarty presented the School District General Assurances for 2023/2024.

Ms. Coleman moved, seconded by Mr. Felton, to sign the 2024 School District General assurances as presented.

The motion carried 5-0.

E. Proposal for End of Year Schedule

Mrs. Avery and Mrs. Moriarty presented a suggested end-of-year schedule to the School Board. Mrs. Foote suggested making June 14th a half day and the final day of school for students, and June 15th the final day for teachers. Mrs. Avery and Mrs. Moriarty approved these changes.

Mrs. Foote moved, seconded by Mrs. Coleman, to approved the end-of-year schedule as amended. The motion carried 5-0.

PUBLIC COMMENT – Closed at 7:26 p.m.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

A. Tuesday, May 2, 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.**

B. 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.**

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. Coleman moved seconded by Mrs. Foote, to enter Nonpublic Session.

Mr. Steve Heath called the roll.

YES: Mrs. Coleman, Mrs. Foote, Mr. Heath, Mr. Felton, Mr. Farris

NO: --

The motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Felton moved, seconded by Mrs. Coleman, to return to Public Session.

Mr. Steve Heath called the roll.

YES: Mrs. Coleman, Mrs. Foote, Mr. Heath, Mr. Felton, Mr. Farris

NO: --

The motion passed unanimously.

NEW BUSINESS

A. Nomination of Professional Staff

Mr. Felton moved, seconded by Mr. Farris, to approve nominations of professional staff for 2023/2024. The motion carried 5-0.

ADJOURNMENT

Mrs. Coleman moved, seconded by Mr. Farris, to adjourn the meeting at 7:50 p.m.

Motion carried 5-0.

Meeting adjourned at 7:50 p.m.