

**Ashland School Board Regular Meeting
Ashland Elementary School – Heffernan Media Center
Tuesday, October 15, 2024 @ 6:00 p.m.**

AGENDA

- I. CALL TO ORDER
Chair Heath called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

- II. RECORD ROLL

Members Present: Mr. Stephen Heath, Chair Mrs. Sandra Coleman, Vice-Chair Mr. Jesse Farris Mr. Stephen Felton	Administrators Present: Mrs. Mary Moriarty, Superintendent Mrs. Ashley Dolloff, Business Administrator Mr. Guy Donnelly, AES Principal
Members Absent: Jennifer Foote (with notice)	Others Present: David Ruell

- III. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

- IV. PUBLIC COMMENT – *Opened at 6:01 p.m.*

- V. MINUTES
 - A. **Tuesday, September 3, 2024 Regular School Board Meeting Minutes**
Mr. Felton moved, seconded by Mrs. Coleman, to approve the minutes of the September 3, 2024 Regular School Board Meeting.

The motion carried 4-0.

- VI. CURRENT BILLS PAYABLE
 - A. **General Operating Expenses**
Mrs. Coleman moved, seconded by Mr. Farris, to approve the payment of bills, manifest #2004.

The motion carried 4-0.

- VII. ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS
 - A. **Principal’s Report/Enrollment Report**
Mr. Donnelly shared that enrollment is at 161 students. Today, the Plymouth High School jazz band came to play for the students during their lunches. We’ve had a guest author from Vermont visiting to share stories with the students for several days; she will return next week. The younger graders participated in Fire Prevention Awareness Week by going to the fire department. There was a big focus on the importance of smoke detectors. Fall sports are wrapping up this week. Softball and volleyball have had successful seasons. Robotics are preparing for their Lego League competition in November; they have eighteen students involved. Third and fourth

graders are headed to the movies in Meredith on Friday to watch The Wild Robot, which the students read earlier this year. The Daughters of the American Revolution came and set up their display at AES for Constitution Week at the end of September. The local grange came in and handed out dictionaries to all third graders. Last week, the kindergarteners released their monarch butterflies, completing their whole life cycle. Finally, for "Socktober", the whole school is collecting socks for people in the local area.

B. Year-to-Date Financial Report

Mrs. Moriarty shared the year-to-date financial report with the Board, noting that between expenditures and incumbrances, almost 89% of the budget is either spent or encumbered, with about 11% (\$534,000) available.

C. Year-End Financial Report – June 30, 2024

Mrs. Moriarty shared the year-end report, summing up all of last year. She noted that the unassigned fund balance used to offset taxes is almost \$43,000. The report also includes an accounting of the areas that were high and low, as well as various revenues.

Mrs. Moriarty noted her appreciation for Mrs. Dolloff and Mrs. Allen's hard work to complete this report.

D. Learning Data Presentation

The Board reached consensus to postpone the presentation, to do Mrs. Guinan's absence with notice. Diana Paul will also attend the presentation.

E. Sewer Pipe Break

Mrs. Moriarty shared that between clean-up and repairs, the total cost of addressing the sewer pipe break is about \$19,700. Primex will cover about 9,700, so the District will have to make up the difference. She suggested that during the budget process, it may be useful to have a conversation about some of our systems that are more outdated. This was a clay pipe and was likely disrupted by the work that was being done onsite. It might be helpful to consider bringing in an engineering firm to plot out a replacement schedule. We have a Capital Improvement Plan, but sometimes things below the surface go unnoticed. This is something to be addressed during the budget process. Mr. Paquette will work to get quotes from a few vendors prior to this conversation.

Mr. Felton asked if the district knows when the different components of the system were installed. Mrs. Moriarty replied that the district does have records of this, the pipe is suspected to be from the 1930s or 1940s. She noted that the custodial staff, Heidi Niles, Tim Paquette, and Principal Donnelly did a great job pivoting and addressing this situation, and Lakes Region Service Pro did an outstanding job responding as well. Mr. Donnelly noted that the timing of the pipe break was luckily right at dismissal time, and there were many contractors onsite, so it was relatively easy to shut down the system.

VIII. OLD BUSINESS

A. United States Department of Agriculture

Mrs. Moriarty noted that one area of concern was whether we could turn bills around fast enough to the USDA so we would not have a cash flow

issue. This seems like it can be resolved by the district submitting invoices as soon as they arrive. The other thing was that the project would need to be complete to obtain funding. However, the scope of the project can be changed at any time to be scaled back, so our contact from the USDA felt that this would resolve a concern about liability to the school district. Concerns about the project include possible interruptions to the school or existing systems, and that the grant will take some time and attention, but it would be of great benefit to the school district, and no harm is expected to come to the district from the project. Mrs. Moriarty recommended moving forward with the grant.

Mr. Felton moved, seconded by Mr. Farris, to approve moving forward with USDA Grant Funded Ashland Net Zero Project.

The motion carried 4-0.

Mr. Felton asked about the different stages. Mrs. Moriarty explained that there is potential for additional funding to envelop more of the building. Mr. Felton asked what the initial plan would cost. He recalled that the Board wanted to have a realistic picture of cost. Mrs. Moriarty said that they will take the \$1.3 million as far as they can, and it will not necessarily go beyond that. The project will be completed within the parameters of the amount provided by USDA, which may mean that only a portion of the building is enveloped.

Mrs. Moriarty will work to create a one-page document that explains the project, the reasons for it, and the source of the funding, providing the Board and the public with a summary.

IX. NEW BUSINESS

A. **2025-2026 Budget Process Calendar**

Mrs. Moriarty shared the budget process calendar with the Board.

The meeting scheduled for November 19th was moved to November 18th, and the First Deliberative Session was moved to February 3rd.

B. **New Hampshire School Board Association (NHSBA) – Resolutions – Board Consensus for Delegate Assembly**

Mrs. Moriarty shared the proposed and continued resolutions.

The Board reached consensus to maintain NHSBA's Continued Resolution #2.

The Board reached a consensus to support the NHSBA's Alternative Resolution #13; to not support Proposed Resolution #14; to support the NHSBA's Alternative Resolution #17; to abstain from taking a position regarding #18 unless Mrs. Foote feels differently (Mr. Farris will connect with Mrs. Foote); to not support #19; to support NHSBA's Alternative Resolution #20; to support #21; to not support #23; and to support

NHSBA's Alternative Resolution #24.

X. POLICY

A. First Readings

Mrs. Coleman moved, seconded by Mr. Farris, to approve the first readings of the following policies:

- AC-2 – Prohibition of Discrimination/Harassment on the Basis of Race – Crown Act
- BBB – Term of Office
- BBB-1 – Number of Board Members
- BBBA – Qualifications
- EFAA – School Lunch Program Meal Charge – as amended, changing “elementary, middle and high” to “K-8.”

The motion carried 4-0.

B. Second Readings

Mr. Farris moved, seconded by Mrs. Coleman, to approve the second and final readings of the following policies:

- DH – Bonded Employees
- DN – Disposition of Books, Supplies and Equipment

The motion carried 4-0.

XI. PUBLIC COMMENT – *Closed at 7:18 p.m.*

XII. NONPUBLIC SESSION

A. Nonpublic Session

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.

Mrs. Coleman moved, seconded by Mr. Farris, to enter nonpublic session at 7:19 p.m. Mr. Heath called the roll.

YES: Mr. Felton, Mr. Farris, Mrs. Coleman, Mr. Heath
NO: --

The motion passed unanimously. The Board entered Nonpublic Session at 7:19 p.m.

B. Public Session

Mr. Farris moved, seconded by Mr. Felton, to reenter Public Session at 7:23 p.m. Mr. Heath called the roll

YES: Mr. Felton, Mr. Farris, Mrs. Coleman, Mr. Heath
NO: --

The motion passed unanimously. The Board reentered Nonpublic Session at 7:23 p.m.

XIII. ANNOUNCEMENTS

A. Tuesday, November 5, 2024

Ashland School Board @ Ashland Elementary School - Heffernan Media Center.

- Ashland School Board Regular Meeting – **5:00 p.m. PLEASE NOTE CHANGE OF TIME.**

XIV. ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Felton moved, seconded by Mr. Farris, to adjourn the meeting at 7:25 p.m.

The motion carried 4-0. The meeting was adjourned at 7:25 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Heather Bullimore, Recording Secretary