

ASHLAND SCHOOL BOARD REGULAR MEETING
Ashland Elementary School – Heffernan Media Center
Tuesday, April 1, 2025 @ 6:00 p.m.

MINUTES

I. CALL TO ORDER

Superintendent Moriarty called the meeting to order at 5:44 p.m.

II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

III. RECORD ROLL

Members Present:

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

Members Absent:

Administrators Present:

Mrs. Mary Moriarty, Superintendent
Mrs. Ashley Dolloff, Business Administrator
Mr. Guy Donnelly, AES Principal

Others Present:

Mr. David Ruell, Press
Mrs. Teresa Merrifield, AES Teacher
Mrs. Erin Guinan, AES Teacher

IV. 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.

RSA 91-A:3, II(I): Consideration of legal advice provided by legal counsel, either in writing or orally, to one or more members of the public body, even where legal counsel is not present.

Mrs. Coleman moved, seconded by Mrs. Foote, to enter Non-Public Session at 5:45 p.m. Mr. Heath called the roll.

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

NO: --

The motion passed unanimously. The Board entered Non-Public Session at 5:45 p.m.

B. Public Session

Mrs. Coleman moved, seconded by Mrs. Foote, to re-enter Public Session at 6:06 p.m. Mr. Heath called the roll.

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

NO: --

The motion passed unanimously. The Board re-entered Public Session at 6:06 p.m.

V. PUBLIC COMMENT – *Opened at 6:08 p.m.*

VI. REORGANIZATION OF THE SCHOOL BOARD

A. School Board Chair

Mr. Farris moved, seconded by Mrs. Coleman, to elect Mr. Heath as Chair of the School Board.

The motion carried 5 – 0.

B. Vice-Chair

Mr. Farris moved, seconded by Mr. Felton, to elect Mrs. Coleman as Vice-Chair.

The motion carried 4 – 0 – 1.

C. School Board Committees and Representatives

Chair Heath reviewed the School Board Committees and Representatives with the School Board. The following committee assignments were established:

- Policy and Review Committee – Mr. Felton and Mrs. Foote
- Budget Committee – Mrs. Coleman with Mr. Farris as Alternate.
- Wellness Committee – Mrs. Coleman
- Facilities/Building – Mr. Heath
- Safety Committee – Mr. Heath

D. School Board Meeting Schedule

Chair Heath reviewed the School Board meeting schedule with the School Board.

No action was taken.

VII. OLD BUSINESS

A. Presentation of AES Student Academic Progress

Mr. Donnelly and Mrs. Guinan presented to the School Board the AES Student Academic Progress.

Mr. Felton asked if there were any particular processes or activities that have contributed to improvement.

Ms. Guinan responded that the district has implemented targeted interventions, including assigning three teachers specifically dedicated to intervention efforts.

Mr. Felton then inquired about how Ashland compares to other communities within the state.

Mrs. Moriarty explained that making comparisons can be challenging due to Ashland's small size. She noted that when reviewing NH SAS data, outcomes can vary significantly depending on the specific cohort of students. Because the student population is small, the performance of even one or two students can have a noticeable impact on the data.

Mr. Donnelly stated that Ashland recently transitioned from multi-grade classrooms to single-grade classrooms. The intent behind this shift is to reduce learning gaps within each classroom. While it is still early—approximately six months into implementation, the goal is to create a more consistent and focused learning environment.

Mrs. Guinan added that through the NWEA program, she is able to access detailed back-end data that identifies specific areas each student needs to improve based on their scores. This information is used not only to pinpoint academic standards requiring attention but also to facilitate collaborative discussions with classroom teachers and special education staff to support student progress.

VIII. MINUTES

A. Regular School Board Meeting of March 10, 2025

Mrs. Foote moved, seconded by Mr. Felton, to approve the minutes of the Regular School Board meeting March 10, 2025.

The motion carried 5 – 0.

B. Amend School Board minutes from August 6, 2024 to reflect correction as well as the inclusion of the attachment as presented.

Mrs. Coleman moved, seconded by Mr. Felton, to amend August 6, 2024 minutes to reflect correction as well as the inclusion of the attachment as presented.

The motion carried 5 – 0.

IX. CURRENT BILLS PAYABLE

A. General Operating Expenses

Mrs. Dolloff presented the manifest #2012 to the School Board for discussion. Mrs. Coleman requested a copy of the electricity summary to be brought to the May meeting.

Mrs. Foote moved, seconded by Mr. Farris, to approve the payment of bills, manifest #2012.

X. ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS

A. Enrollment/Principal's Report

Mr. Donnelly shared with the School Board the enrollment report. Stating Ashland

had one student transfer resulting in 156 students, we had very little movement since January. Mr. Donnelly reported that Ashland is preparing for upcoming SAS testing, with parent letters outlining the April and May schedules sent home earlier today. He expressed appreciation to Mrs. Merrifield for her efforts organizing Cultural Arts Night, noting strong representation from the K–8 music and arts programs.

Ashland will celebrate "I Love to Read and Write Week" at the end of the month, during which each student will receive a free book. Additionally, Ashland will co-host a dance event with SAU #48.

Parent-teacher conferences had a strong turnout, especially among fifth-grade families, and Mr. Donnelly shared how valuable it is to see parents engaged in the school community.

Spring sports have begun indoors and will move outdoors as weather permits.

He also noted ongoing work on the preschool feasibility study, with surveys sent to families. Early feedback has been positive, and findings will be shared with the School Board in the near future.

B. Year-to-Date Financial Report

Mrs. Dolloff presented the updated year-to-date financial report, noting that the available balance is approximately \$8,000 higher than the previous month. She explained that through a review of purchase orders, some funds were liquidated, but utility costs have exceeded projections, requiring close monitoring of the budget. Additionally, the snow plowing budget line is expected to be over due to recent weather events.

Mrs. Coleman inquired about the anticipated year-end balance.

Mrs. Dolloff responded that while they hope to carry forward some funds as encumbrances, the amount is expected to be minimal.

Mrs. Moriarty confirmed it would be significantly less than in previous years.

Mrs. Coleman suggested the Board discuss potential encumbrances at a future meeting to consider retaining any remaining funds within the school.

Mrs. Moriarty agreed, stating the topic will be revisited in May as part of year-end projections, with decisions to follow in June.

Chair Heath noted that rising costs across many areas have made this a particularly challenging budget year.

XI. NEW BUSINESS

A. Voting Results

Mrs. Moriarty presented the voting results to the School Board.

B. Teacher Nominations

Mrs. Moriarty presented to the School Board Teacher Nominations for the 2025-2026 school year.

Mrs. Coleman moved, seconded by Mr. Felton, to approve the Teacher Nominations as presented for the 2025-2026 school year.

The motion carried 5 – 0.

C. Administrator Nomination

Mrs. Moriarty presented to the School Board the Administrator Nomination for the 2025-2026 school year.

Mr. Felton moved, seconded by Mrs. Foote, to approve of the Administrator Nomination as presented for the 2025-2026 school year.

The motion carried 5 – 0.

D. Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) Between the Participating School Districts in the Lakes Region Consortium - Intensive Special Education Needs & Contracted Related Service Providers.

Mr. Farris moved, seconded by Mrs. Coleman, to approve the signing of the memorandum agreement as presented.

The motion carried 5 – 0.

XII. Public Comment – *Closed 6:41 at p.m.*

XIII. ANNOUNCEMENTS**A. Tuesday, May 6, 2025**

Ashland School Board @ Ashland Elementary School – Heffernan Media Center

- Ashland School Board Regular Meeting – **6:00 p.m.**

B. Tuesday, May 20, 2025

SAU # Board Meeting @ Ashland Elementary School – Hefferman Media Center

- Regular Board Meeting – **6:00 p.m.**

XIV. OTHER BUSINESS**A. Update to End of Year Schedule**

Mrs. Moriarty reviewed the proposed adjustments to the end-of-year calendar. The original plan had students finishing on June 10 and staff on June 11. However, due to five emergency closures—two caused by a sewer issue, one by a power outage, and two due to snow—she proposed extending the school year. Instead of students finishing on Tuesday, June 10, she suggested moving the last day to

Thursday, June 12, with a half day for students. Staff would then complete their year on Friday, June 13, also with a half day. She added that paraeducators and other support staff would be paid in full for the half-day schedule.

Mr. Felton moved, seconded by Mrs. Foote, to approve the end of year scheduled as presented.

The motion carried 5 – 0.

XV. ADJOURNMENT

Mrs. Coleman moved, seconded by Mr. Farris, to adjourn meeting at 6:47 p.m.

The motion carried unanimously.

The meeting adjourned at 6:47 p.m.

*Respectfully submitted,
Sarah Briggs, Recording Secretary*