

ASHLAND SCHOOL BOARD REGULAR MEETING
Ashland Elementary School – Heffernan Media Center
Tuesday, August 5, 2025
5:30 p.m. Policy Review Committee
6:00 p.m. Regular School Board Meeting

MINUTES

- I. CALL TO ORDER
Chair Heath called the meeting to order at 6:01 p.m.

- II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

- III. RECORD ROLL

Members Present:

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

Administrators Present:

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

Members Absent:

Others Present:

Mr. David Ruell, Press

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

- V. MINUTES

A. Regular School Board Meeting of June 3, 2025

Mrs. Coleman moved, seconded by Mrs. Foote, to approve the minute of the Regular School Board Meeting of June 3, 2025.

The motion carried 4 – 0 – 1. Mr. Farris abstained.

- VI. ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS

A. Enrollment/Principal's Report

Mr. Donnelly presented his Principal's Report to the School Board, highlighting the successes of the summer school program. He noted that the program began one week earlier than usual this year, which impacted first-week enrollment due to family vacations. Next year, the program will resume its traditional start date after July 4.

He shared that his annual back-to-school letter to parents will be sent soon and announced that the school is fully staffed, with everyone prepared for the upcoming year. The leadership team is meeting to review handbooks, schedules, and first-day plans. Staff will return in two weeks for three days of in-service to prepare for the school opening.

Mr. Donnelly also presented the enrollment report, noting the current enrollment of 145 students, which is ten less than last June. This fluctuation is typical, and the school anticipates approximately ten additional students enrolling in the coming weeks.

B. Facilities Assessment Update

Mr. Donnelly reported that he recently met with the Turner Group, who will be onsite later this week or early next week to conduct a walkthrough for the Ashland School assessment. He shared that the paving outside the gymnasium has been completed and thanked the Town of Ashland for their assistance and support. The basketball court paving is also finished, with hoop installation scheduled for early next week.

He noted that the chipped paint along the back wall beside the cafeteria, extending past Mr. Paquette's office, will be addressed next week. While not visible from the front of the building, he is pleased this improvement will be completed before students return. Preparations for the school opening are well underway. Floors have been waxed, daily cleaning continues, and the newly refinished gymnasium floor is a source of pride for the school.

VII. CURRENT BILLS PAYABLE

A. General Operating Expenses

Mrs. Dolloff presented to the School Board Manifest number 2001.

Mrs. Foote moved, seconded by Mr. Felton, to approve the payment of bills, manifest number 2001.

The motion carried 5 – 0.

VIII. OLD BUSINESS

A. New Hampshire School Board Association 2025 Call for Resolutions

Mrs. Moriarty informed the School Board of the New Hampshire School Boards Association's 2025 Call for Resolutions, noting that this is an opportunity for the Board to propose resolutions for consideration at the Delegate Assembly in October. She explained that, typically, the Board reviews proposed resolutions and reaches consensus on how the delegate should vote. While submitting a resolution is optional, examples might include initiatives such as providing free lunch to all New Hampshire students.

The School Board chose not to submit any resolutions this year. Mrs. Moriarty will notify Christina Barrett that the Ashland School Board has no resolutions to bring forward.

B. Ashland Meal Pricing

Mrs. Dolloff presented the meal pricing for the 2025/2026 school year, explaining that the pricing tool, normally available in June, was released a few days after the last

Board meeting. The Board had previously authorized Mrs. Moriarty to approve the prices if the tool became available over the summer. The only change for the upcoming year is a mandatory ten cent increase to the lunch price.

Mrs. Moriarty noted that, since the period during COVID-19 when breakfast and lunch were free nationwide, it has been more difficult to collect the required forms from families who qualify for meal assistance. This has contributed to rising unpaid meal balances across the state.

C. School Treasurer Update

Mrs. Dolloff would like to update the School Board that a candidate has been identified for the School Treasurer position. She spoke with Brian Chalmers today and is excited about the potential transition. Over the next few weeks, Mrs. Dolloff will meet with the candidate to answer any questions and to connect her with Brian, who will review the procedures he currently follows. She anticipates presenting a nomination for the Board's consideration in September.

IX. NEW BUSINESS

A. Federal Funds Update

Mrs. Moriarty provided the School Board with an update on Federal Funds. She reported that Title II and Title IV grants, approximately \$13,000 each, are being released, with 20% available initially and the remainder expected in the fall, helping to avoid funding gaps. Regarding IDEA special education funds, typically around \$40,000, only a small portion (about \$2,000) has been released so far. There is informal speculation that IDEA funding may be reduced to 70% of anticipated amounts, though no official communication has been received from the state or federal government. Mrs. Moriarty remains hopeful for full funding, and the district is currently in a strong position.

X. POLICY

A. Policy Committee Minutes

Mrs. Moriarty provided the School Board with a review of the Policy Committee minutes from June 3, 2025. The committee discussed the staff dress code policy, which had also been addressed at the previous Board meeting. In addition, Mrs. Moriarty presented a new policy for consideration, Policy AB, the New Hampshire Parental Bill of Rights. This policy, required by law, was reviewed by the committee and will need to be adopted and included in the student handbooks.

B. First and Final Reading

Mr. Farris moved, seconded by Mr. Felton, to approve the first and final reading of the following policies as presented:

➤ GBEBA – Staff Dress Code

➤ AB – New Hampshire Parental Bill of Rights

The motion carried 5 – 0.

C. Other

Mrs. Moriarty informed the School Board that Mr. Donnelly, herself, and other Inter-Lakes administrators have received legal training on the Parental Bill of Rights, conducted by attorney Meghan Glynn. Ms. Glynn will also present to staff to ensure they understand the expectations under this policy. Mrs. Moriarty noted another law requiring attention, related to a cell phone policy. She requested the Board's approval to draft a policy tailored to the district's needs, rather than using the NHSBA version, which is more complex. The proposed policy would require students to store cell phones in lockers or cubbies upon arrival and allow access at the end of the school day. Once drafted, Mrs. Moriarty will share it with the Board for a consensus vote, with formal approval at the next meeting, enabling inclusion in the student handbook.

NOTE: School Board members visited the newly paved basketball court while Mrs. Coleman remained in the meeting room to assist any members of the public who arrived.

XI. Public Comment – *Closed at 6:36 p.m.*

XII. ANNOUNCEMENTS

A. Tuesday, September 2, 2025

Ashland School Board @ Ashland Elementary School – Heffernan Media Center

- Policy Review Committee – **5:30 p.m.**
- Ashland School Board Regular Meeting – **6:00 p.m.**

XIII. ADJOURNMENT

Mrs. Foote moved, seconded by Mr. Felton, to adjourn meeting at 6:36 p.m.

The motion carried 5 – 0.

The meeting adjourned at 6:36 p.m.

*Respectfully submitted,
Sarah Briggs, Recording Secretary*