

**Ashland School Committee Minutes
May 28, 2025**

Ashland Town Hall
101 Main Street
Select Board Meeting Room

Hybrid meeting: recorded on Zoom

Present: Laurie Tosti, Chair
Marc Terry, Vice Chair
Paul Kendall, Member
Tina Fitanides, Secretary
James Adams, Superintendent
Michael Caira, Assistant Superintendent
Chris Mathieu, Director of Finance
Abhishek Karthik, student representative, Ashland High School

Absent: Marcy Culverwell, Member

Agenda Review and adoption

Mr. Adams opened the meeting before the School Committee re-organized after the most recent Town meeting. He took attendance and reviewed the agenda with School Committee members.

Vote:

Ms. Fitanides: Present and AYE

Mr. Kendall: Present and AYE

Mr. Terry: Present and AYE

Ms. Tosti: Present and AYE

Reorganization of the School Committee

Mr. Terry nominated Ms. Tosti to be Chair of the School Committee. Mr. Kendall seconded the motion. Vote: All AYE.

Mr. Kendall nominated Mr. Terry to be the Vice-Chair of the School Committee. Ms. Fitanides seconded the motion. All AYE.

Mr. Terry nominated Ms. Fitanides to be the Secretary of the School Committee. Mr. Kendall seconded the motion. All AYE.

Public Comment

There was none.

Superintendent's Report

As part of the Superintendent's Report, Mr. Adams called the Principal of Ashland Middle School to report. Ms. Lachapelle introduced the topic of the Playbook Workshops. Eighth grade students came in to present. As an initiative for Project 351 they collected 25 bags of gently used clothing for donation. Sammy Levenson, a High School senior, came back to help lead some of the leadership workshops. The Playbook Workshops are designed to train kids for real life scenarios and how to be a leader in their community. Understanding and respecting diverse viewpoints. Race, religion and gender. Ms. Micucci led this program as a teacher advisor. This is the third year AMS has run this program.

Warren School - School Improvement Update

Peter Regan presented. S3 - Year 2. Exceeded expectations, 40 participants presented to the state on this program.

Community service projects are in transition. Students have been writing cards and letters to senior citizens. Second graders have been tasked with cleaning up the playground daily – making sure any lost and found items are picked and returned to the office.

A big push from the Warren Site Council is to improve our level of parent volunteerism. Bring people back into our school, more often.

ST Math Champions - 80% of the journey was completed by the end of year, 100% in Kindergarten, 88% in Grade 1, and 83% in Grade 2.

Unified Champion School - Special Olympics. Erica Zipse responsible for this success.

Future goals – to revamp the Warren School report card. Make it more parent friendly, better written for the audience. Report cards after the first trimester do not currently offer a lot of insight to parents. Another goal is to make it consistent with the Mindess School report card. Next year the Warren Site Council is looking to make a report card proposal to the School Committee with a goal for implementation for the 2026-2027 School Year.

Ms. Fitanides commented that she would like to see more community service opportunities for students at Warren in the future. Children can see the positive impact of their actions.

Dr. Caira noted that Warren School is a model of how we are using student data in the District. MTSS strategies. School leaders have developed processes and procedures on how to run Data Team meetings. Erica Linares, Assistant Principal, leads these meetings especially well.

Warrant Approvals

Between May 15, 2025 and May 28, 2025, Paul Kendall, authorized by his signature payables in the amount of \$ 1,300,194.56 . This includes General Fund expenses of \$ 905,775.29, Revolving expenses of \$ 384,557.36, Grants expenses of \$ 9,785.87, and Meals Tax expenses of \$ 76.04.

Assistant Superintendent's Report

Dr. Caira reported that the high school seniors had their last day of classes recently. Senior Week activities are scheduled for next week.

Out of State Travel Proposal - Cross-Country Team is proposing to go to Vermont as a team building trip over Labor Day weekend. Emily Reilly, assistant Cross-Country coach is hosting a trip from Friday through Monday on her parents property in Vermont. The trip will include camping, a movie night, a "Talent-Less Show", running, and hiking. The cost will be \$150 per student. The trip is optional for athletes. The Clocker Club has funds available to subsidize the cost for some students, if necessary. The purpose of the trip is to work together toward a common goal. Last year, the students participated in meal prep, cleanup. Every kid had a chance to shine. They broke the group up into three teams, mixed grades, mixed gender. They are hoping to make the trip more inviting and inclusive for new students to the team and for incoming freshmen. Chaperone ratio will be 5:1. For running and hiking there is one adult at the front, one in the middle of the group, and one at the rear.

Mr. Terry moves to approve the trip as proposed. Mr. Kendall seconded the motion. Vote:

Ms. Fitanides: AYE

Mr. Kendall: AYE

Mr. Terry: AYE

Ms. Tosti: AYE

WACA Request

The local cable television station, WACA, has requested from the School Committee that a member report to WACA after every meeting a summary of the meeting's agenda. They would also like to feature students and showcase them on TV. Recently, WACA hosted the AHS Chorus group to perform live in their studio. Ms. Tosti, School Committee chair, is willing to do this task.

Summer Retreat Dates for School Committee Retreat

The focus of the retreat will be financial for Fiscal Year 2027. The group is having trouble scheduling dates where everyone is available in July and August. Alternatively, the group may schedule a Retreat in September. Mr. Adams will send out potential dates in September. Mr. Kendall requested to avoid the last week in September, as he is not available. Ms. Fitanides requested to have a data update for each school, as a future agenda item for the retreat.

Superintendent's Evaluation Process - Summative Evaluation Form

School Committee members need to evaluate Mr. Adams by June 8, 2025 on the seven goals set forth at the beginning of the school year. Long-term goals, short-term goals. Send notes to Laurie Tosti for collating. Formative/Summative Evaluations. 1-year cycle, 2-year cycle. A possible retreat agenda item to further discuss.

School Committee Policies

Minor changes in some, minor clean up. Jen King, our District's attorney, has reviewed to make sure they are compliant with MASC policies. Discipline and Anti-Hazing policies have been reviewed by our attorney. Student Absence and Excuse policy has not substantive changes. It was last updated in 2021. Changes are to align to MASC policies.

Consent Agenda

Ms. Fitanides moves to approve the Consent Agenda. Mr. Kendall seconds the motion. Vote:

Ms. Culverwell: AYE

Ms. Fitanides: AYE

Mr. Kendall: AYE

Ms. Tosti: AYE

School Committee Member Reports

The School Committee members are invited to a reception at 5:30pm before their next meeting to recognize the teachers and staff that are retiring at the end of the school year.

Abishek Karthik, student representative, reported that AP Exams finished last week, and seniors finished classes. Senior events are coming up to Class Day and Graduation. Final Exams are coming up, and student council elections are happening for the next school year.

Ms. Fitanides reported that the high school junior prom took place recently, and was a success. She attended the last Band Concert at the high school recently, where the Seniors were honored. She will attend the Reality Fair for the senior students at the high school this week.

Mr. Kendall attended the Grand March before the Prom. Mr. Terry plans to attend the Reality Fair at the high school, too. Ms. Tosti noted that both Graduation and Class Day ceremonies are coming up. Dr. Cairra reported that the recent Art Show at the High School was terrific. The Art Department has much to be proud of.

Mr. Kendall moved to adjourn the meeting. Ms. Fitanides seconded the motion. Meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,
Gretchen King
Executive Administrative Assistant to the Superintendent

Documents used during the meeting

5.28.25 School Committee G&D.docx
2025-2026 Warren School Improvement Plan
Ashland XC Camp - Overnight and Out of State Travel1 (2) (1)
Copy of 2024-25 Superintendent's Self Summative Evaluation
Copy of IJL - MEDIA SELECTION
Copy of JIH - SEARCHES AND INTERROGATIONS
Copy of Redline JG - PLACEMENT METHODS FOR STUDENT OPTION
Copy of Redline JH - STUDENT ABSENCES AND EXCUSES
Copy of Redline JICFA-E - HAZING
Copy of Redline JICFB - BULLYING PREVENTION
Copy of Redline JII - STUDENT COMPLAINTS AND GRIEVANCES
Copy of Redline of JICFA - PROHIBITION OF HAZING
Copy of Redline of JK - STUDENT CONDUCT
Copy of Redline Version JIC - STUDENT DISCIPLINE
JHD - EXCLUSIONS AND EXEMPTIONS FROM SCHOOL ATTENDANCE
Minutes - May 14, 2025
School Committee Agenda May 28, 2025
Warrant Approvals - MAY 28, 2025