

**ASHLAND SCHOOL BOARD REGULAR MEETING**  
**Ashland Elementary School – Heffernan Media Center**  
**Wednesday, March 11, 2026**  
**School Board Meeting – 6:00 p.m.**

**MINUTES**

I. CALL TO ORDER  
Mrs. Moriarty called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

III. RECORD ROLL

**Members Present:**

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

**Administrators Present:**

Mrs. Mary Moriarty, Superintendent  
Mrs. Ashley Dolloff, Business Administrator  
Mrs. Carrie Sanborn

**Members Absent:**

**Others Present:**

Mr. David Ruell, Press

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

V. REORGANIZATION OF THE SCHOOL BOARD

**A. School Board Chair**

Mrs. Moriarty opened nominations for the position of School Board Chair. Mr. Farris was nominated.

Mr. Heath moved, seconded by Mrs. Foote, to elect Mr. Farris as School Board Chair.

The motion carried 5 – 0.

**B. Vice-Chair**

Chair Farris opened nominations for the position of School Board Vice-Chair. Mrs. Coleman was nominated.

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

The motion carried 5 – 0.

**C. School Board Committees and Representatives**

Chair Farris reviewed the committees and representatives with the School Board and opened it up for nominations for the committees.

Chair Farris nominated Mrs. Foote for the Policy Review Committee.

Chair Farris moved, seconded by Mr. Heath, to appoint Mrs. Foote to be on the Policy Review Committee.

The motion carried 5 – 0.

Chair Farris nominated Mrs. Gillis for the second member of the Policy Review Committee.

Chair Farris asked for an overview of the Policy Review Committee's role for Mrs. Gillis, and Mrs. Foote explained when the committee meets, what its responsibilities are, and the types of policies it reviews.

Chair Farris moved, seconded by Mrs. Foote, to appoint Mrs. Gillis to be on the Policy Review Committee.

The motion carried 5 – 0.

Chair Farris then moved on to the Budget Committee and requested nominations. Mrs. Foote nominated Mrs. Coleman to serve on the Budget Committee.

Mrs. Foote moved, seconded by Chair Farris, to appoint Mrs. Coleman to be a member of the Budget Committee.

The motion carried 5 – 0.

Chair Farris nominated himself to serve as the alternate on the Budget Committee.

Chair Farris moved, seconded by Mrs. Foote, to appoint Chair Farris as the alternate member on the Budget Committee.

The motion carried 5 – 0.

Chair Farris then moved on to the Wellness Committee and opened the floor for nominations.

Mrs. Coleman stated she would like to remain on the Wellness Committee and would attend meetings as long as she is informed of them. Mrs. Moriarty asked that Mrs. Sanborn notify the Wellness Committee to include Mrs. Coleman on all upcoming meeting communications.

Chair Farris moved, seconded by Mrs. Foote, to appoint Mrs. Coleman as a School Board representative of the Wellness Committee.

The motion carried 5 – 0.

Chair Farris then moved on to the Facilities/Building Committee and opened the floor for nominations.

Mrs. Foote nominated Mr. Heath.

Mrs. Foote moved, seconded by Chair Farris, to appoint Mr. Heath as a School Board representative of the Facilities/Building Committee.

The motion carried 5 – 0.

Chair Farris moved onto the Safety Committee and opened the floor to any nominations.

Mrs. Foote nominated Mr. Heath for the Safety Committee.

Mrs. Foote moved, seconded by Chair Farris, to appoint Mr. Heath to the Safety Committee as School Board representative.

The motion carried 5 – 0.

Chair Farris reviewed the NHSBA Delegate and nominated himself to be the School Board representative.

Chair Farris moved, seconded by Mrs. Foote, to appoint Chair Farris as the School Board representative for NHSBA.

The motion carried 5 – 0.

#### **D. 2026/2027 School Board Meeting Schedule**

Mrs. Moriarty presented the proposed 2026/2027 School Board meeting schedule, noting that meetings are typically held on the first Tuesday of each month. She explained that the February meeting will take place immediately following the Deliberative Session, and the March meeting will be held after voting in order to review teacher nominations.

Mr. Heath moved, seconded by Mrs. Coleman, to approve the 2026/2027 School Board meeting schedule.

The motion carried 5 – 0.

### VI. MINUTES

#### **A. Deliberative Session Minutes, February 2, 2026**

Mrs. Moriarty informed the School Board that this is an informational item, as the school clerk is responsible for signing off on the deliberative session minutes.

#### **B. Regular School Board Meeting of February 2, 2026**

Mrs. Coleman moved, seconded by Mrs. Foote, to approve the minutes of the Regular School Board meeting of February 2, 2026.

The motion carried 5 – 0.

### VII. ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS

#### **A. Enrollment/Principals Report**

Mrs. Sanborn, standing in for Mr. Donnelly, reviewed the enrollment report with the School Board, noting that current enrollment is 152 students. She also provided updates

on recent and upcoming activities. The drama production is scheduled for March 17th and includes strong student participation. The math team recently competed at Inter-Lakes Middle High School, placing 6th out of 12 schools. Cultural Arts Night will be held at Plymouth Regional High School on March 19th, offering an opportunity to view student artwork and enjoy performances by the band and chorus. Middle school students also participated in a statewide concert at the Kingswood Arts Center, where the music department was well represented. Additionally, the National Honor Society has begun its application process with five potential candidates, and an induction ceremony is scheduled for May 15th. School report cards will be available on March 20th.

## **B. Year-to-Date Financial Report**

Mrs. Dolloff reviewed the year-to-date financial report with the School Board and provided a revenue update to give an overview of the district's current financial position. She then opened the floor for any questions from the Board.

Mrs. Coleman asked about the annual cost per student for special education. Mrs. Moriarty responded that the cost varies depending on the individual student and stated she would provide an update at next month's meeting. Mr. Farris then asked if that information could also be compared to the statewide average, and Mrs. Moriarty replied that she would include that comparison if the data is available. Mrs. Coleman further requested comparisons with nearby school districts as well.

## **VIII. CURRENT BILLS PAYABLE**

### **A. General Operating Expenses**

Mrs. Dolloff presented to the School Board Manifest number 2013.

Mrs. Foote asked when we purchase things like the snowblower for the tractor how do we decide where we are purchasing that from?

Mrs. Dolloff informed Mrs. Foote that Mr. Paquette had researched options to find the best price and that attempts were made to repair the existing unit; however, repairs were not successful, and the replacement was a costly item. Mrs. Foote also inquired about charges related to faucets and plumbing services, noting that plumbing services appeared more than once with different providers, and asked for clarification on how that is handled.

Mrs. Dolloff responded that the work was scheduled based on vendor availability, noting that it had been pending for some time. She explained that the two providers were the only vendors available during February break to complete the work.

Mrs. Foote inquired about the district's trash removal services and whether the contract is periodically put out to bid.

Mrs. Dolloff responded that the district has maintained a long-standing relationship with its current provider and, as a result, has not recently sought competitive bids. She noted that the district could explore that option if the Board is interested.

Mrs. Foote explained that she has observed multiple trash service providers in the area

and wanted to ensure the district is utilizing the most cost-effective option.

Mrs. Dolloff informed Mrs. Foote that the district will put the trash removal services out to bid for the next school year.

Mrs. Coleman moved, seconded by Mr. Heath, to approve the payment of bills, manifest number 2013.

The motion carried 5 – 0.

## IX. OLD BUSINESS

### **A. Seed Grant**

Mrs. Moriarty reminded the School Board that the district has been awarded a Seed Grant, thanks to Mr. Paul Bemis for his assistance. She explained that the grant must go before the State Executive Council, and a motion is required by the Board to authorize her to enter into a contract with the state.

The grant, in an amount of up to \$150,000, will support the installation of heat pumps in the older wing of the building to improve energy efficiency. A required match will be met through in-kind services provided by Mr. Bemis, who is assisting with coordination, including efforts related to congressionally directed spending funds.

Approval of this motion will allow Mrs. Moriarty to sign the contract with the state, receive the funds, and begin the project.

Mrs. Moriarty reported that work related to congressionally directed spending began over February break, including diagramming portions of the building. She noted that a drone will be used to assess heat loss from the roof, indicating that progress is being made.

Chair Farris, in regard to finances for this, asked if we had potential for out-of-pocket costs?

Mrs. Moriarty stated that Mr. Bemis has offered to cover the required match through in-kind services. She noted that the match is estimated to be between 5% and 15% of the award; however, if the school is deemed economically disadvantaged, the required match would be capped at 5%. If we do need to put funds towards it then we can look at the facilities expendable trust.

Mr. Heath moved, seconded by Mrs. Foote to authorize the Superintendent of Schools to enter into the said contract with the State, and to execute any and all documents, agreements, and other instruments, and any amendments, revisions, or modifications thereto, as she may deem necessary, desirable, or appropriate.

The motion carried 5 – 0.

**B. New Hampshire Department of Revenue Administration Upcoming Presentation in April on the Equalization Process.**

Mrs. Moriarty reminded the School Board that a few months ago they received a presentation from the Department of Education regarding adequacy aid. She explained that part of what is impacting the district is the equalization process, and it was recommended that they reach out to the Department of Revenue for greater insight.

She shared that the Director from the Department of Revenue will attend the April meeting to provide a presentation. Mrs. Moriarty noted this could be a valuable opportunity to invite the Budget Committee and suggested that, if the Board is receptive, outreach could be made following the meeting. She also suggested that someone connect with the Selectboard, as they may be interested in attending as well. She emphasized that the presentation will be informational and will help provide a better understanding of how the formula is impacting the district.

**X. NEW BUSINESS****A. 2026/2027 School Year Calendar**

The School Board reached a consensus to have the 2026/2027 school year calendar return next month for a vote, as there are concerns with the dates presented for December and the final week of school.

**B. 2026/2027 Teacher Nominations**

Mr. Heath moved, seconded by Mrs. Foote, to approve 2026/2027 Teacher Nominations as presented.

The motion carried 5 – 0.

**C. Nomination for Assistant Principal**

Mr. Heath moved, seconded by Mrs. Foote, to approve the nomination for Assistant Principal as presented.

The motion carried 5 – 0.

**XI. NON-PUBLIC SESSION****A. Non-Public 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.

Mr. Felton moved, seconded by Mrs. Foote, to enter Non-Public Session at 6:37 p.m. Mrs. Coleman called the roll.

YES: Mrs. Coleman, Mr. Farris, Mrs. Foote, Mrs. Gillis, Mr. Heath  
NO: --

The motion passed unanimously. The Board entered Non-Public Session at 6:37 p.m.

**B. Public Session**

Mr. Heath moved, seconded by Mrs. Coleman, to re-enter Public Session at 7:12 p.m.  
Mrs. Coleman called the roll.

YES: Mrs. Coleman, Mr. Farris, Mrs. Foote, Mrs. Gillis, Mr. Heath  
NO: --

The motion passed unanimously. The Board re-entered Public Session at 7:12 p.m.

XII. PUBLIC COMMENT – *Closed at 7:14 p.m.*

XIII. ANNOUNCEMENTS

**A. Tuesday, April 7, 2026**

Ashland School Board @ Ashland Elementary School – Heffernan Media Center

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

XIV. ADJOURNMENT

Mrs. Gillis moved, seconded by Mrs. Coleman, to adjourn meeting at 7:14 p.m.

The motion carried 5 – 0.

The meeting adjourned at 7:14 p.m.

*Respectfully submitted,  
Sarah Briggs, Recording Secretary*

**CONFIDENTIAL**  
**NONPUBLIC SESSION**  
**Wednesday, March 11, 2026**

**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.

**Members Present:**

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

**Administrators Present:**

Mrs. Mary Moriarty, Superintendent  
Mrs. Ashley Dolloff, Business Administrator

**Members Absent:**

**Others Present:**

I. NEW BUSINESS *(6:37 p.m. to 7:12 p.m.)*

**A. Retirement**

Mrs. Coleman moved, seconded by Mrs. Foote, to approve the retirement request and funds as written on handout.

The motion carried 5 – 0.

**B. Update on New Hampshire Department of Education Complaint**

Mrs. Moriarty shared with the School Board that the complaint made to the New Hampshire Department of Education was removed by the complainant. No action required.

**C. Student Best Interest**

Mrs. Moriarty provided an update regarding a student matter and Best Interest. No action required.

**D. Nomination for Assistant Principal**

Mrs. Moriarty provided background information for the nomination for the stipend position of Assistant Principal. Action was taken in public session.

**E. 2026/2027 Teacher Nominations**

Mrs. Moriarty and Mrs. Dolloff read the names of the 2026/2027 Teacher nominations. Action was taken in public session.

