

ASHLAND SCHOOL BOARD REGULAR MEETING
Ashland Elementary School – Heffernan Media Center
Tuesday, June 2, 2026
School Board Meeting – 6:00 p.m.

MINUTES

I. CALL TO ORDER

Mrs. Coleman called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

III. RECORD ROLL

Members Present:

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

Administrators Present:

Mrs. Mary Moriarty, Superintendent
Mrs. Ashley Dolloff, Business Administrator
Mr. Guy Donnelly, Principal
Mrs. Carrie Sanborn, Incoming Principal
Lisa Holiday, Student Services Director

Members Absent:

Mr. Jesse Farris, Chair (with notice)

Others Present:

Mr. David Ruell, Press
Mrs. Joanne Bickford, School Librarian/
Speech Assistant

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

V. RECOGNITION

Mrs. Bickford, retiring School Librarian and Speech Assistant, was recognized by the School Board for her dedicated years of service and commitment to the students and staff of Ashland Elementary School.

Mr. Donnelly, Principal of Ashland Elementary School, was recognized by the School Board for his leadership, dedication, and service to the Ashland school community.

VI. 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.

Mrs. Foote moved, seconded by Mrs. Gillis, to enter Non-Public Session at 6:04 p.m.
Mrs. Coleman called the roll.

YES: Mrs. Coleman, Mrs. Foote, Mrs. Gillis, Mr. Heath

NO: --

The motion passed unanimously. The Board entered Non-Public Session at 6:04 p.m.

B. Public Session

Mrs. Foote moved, seconded by Mr. Heath, to re-enter Public Session at 6:36 p.m.
Mrs. Coleman called the roll.

YES: Mrs. Coleman, Mrs. Foote, Mrs. Gillis, Mr. Heath

NO: --

The motion passed unanimously. The Board re-entered Public Session at 6:36 p.m.

VII. MINUTES

A. Regular School Board Meeting of May 5, 2026

Mrs. Gillis moved, seconded by Mrs. Foote to approve the minutes of the regular School Board meeting of May 5, 2026

The motion carried 3 – 0 – 1. Mrs. Foote abstained.

VIII. ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS

A. Enrollment/Principals Report

Mr. Donnelly reported that current enrollment stands at 149 students. He then informed the School Board of several recent school activities and upcoming events. He shared that the 8th-grade class departed for its class trip to Boston, which will conclude with attendance at a Boston Red Sox game. He noted that the school has completed all NWEA and SAS testing and is currently finishing any necessary make-up assessments. Mr. Donnelly also reported that Mr. Steer is taking 32 students from the music department to Canobie Lake Park to participate in the statewide music field trip.

Mr. Donnelly advised the Board that the end of the school year is quickly approaching, with Graduation scheduled for June 11 at 6:00 p.m., the Warrior Awards ceremony on June 12 at 8:15 a.m., and Kindergarten Graduation on June 12 at 10:00 a.m. He further reported that the Robotics Team participated in a statewide competition at Merrimack Valley High School, placing 12th out of 17 teams.

Mr. Donnelly thanked the PTO and staff for organizing and hosting a successful "Muffins in the Morning" breakfast event for students and parents. He also shared scholarship news from the Plymouth Regional High School awards ceremony, where Ashland graduates received a total of \$7,000 in scholarships. McKenzie Melanson was awarded the \$4,000 Helen P. Knowlton Scholarship. The Ashland Teachers Association awarded two \$500 scholarships to Kady Smith and Jacob Kostelak. In addition, Jianna Jacheo and Karminde Ingle each received a \$1,000 Jamison Jacheo Memorial Scholarship.

B. Year-to-Date Financial Report

Mrs. Dolloff reviewed the year-to-date financial report with the School Board.

IX. CURRENT BILLS PAYABLE**A. General Operating Expenses**

Mrs. Dolloff presented to the School Board Manifest numbers 2017 and 2018.

Mrs. Foote moved, seconded by Mrs. Coleman, to approve the payment of bills, manifest numbers 2017 and 2018.

The motion carried 4 – 0.

X. OLD BUSINESS**A. Toileting Hourly Differential**

Discussion ensued regarding the toileting differential proposal. The School Board expressed recognition that all paraeducators will be contributing to the increased needs of students requiring special education services. Alternatives to the differential were discussed and ultimately, the proposal was reshaped to provide a \$1 increase to all paraeducators (including the ones who will be toileting) and a \$2 differential for the two paraeducators assuming the direct toileting responsibilities. The School Board encouraged that if needs should change that the matter should be revisited. The additional funds needed for this proposal will be through adjustments in the fund balance proposal later in the agenda.

Mrs. Gillis moved, seconded by Mrs. Foote, to approve the paraeducator toileting stipend as presented.

The motion carried 3 – 1.

XI. NEW BUSINESS**A. Ashland School District ESSA Consolidated Grant Application**

Mrs. Moriarty reviewed the ESEA Consolidated Grant Application and provided information regarding the upcoming stakeholder meeting. She also informed the School Board that Ashland's ESEA Consolidated Grant Application will be posted on the School District website later in June to solicit public input prior to its submission on July 1, 2026.

B. New Hampshire School Board Association 2026 Call for Resolutions

The School Board indicated that, rather than developing its own resolutions, it will continue to review, discuss, and vote on resolutions submitted by other school boards as they arise.

C. SEED Grant Acceptance of Funds

The School Board expressed its appreciation for Mr. Bemis' continued work and support of the Ashland School District and requested that their thanks be conveyed to him. The

Board was also informed that the \$80,000 SEED grant will be used to install heat pumps in designated areas of the school.

Mrs. Foote moved, seconded by Mrs. Gillis, to accept and authorize the New Hampshire Department of Energy to enter into a grant agreement with Ashlan School District, for the implementation of energy efficiency projects and upgrades in the amount of \$80,000 through a grant from the U.S. Department of Energy though the State Energy Program.

The motion carried 4 – 0.

D. Permission to Hire/Accept Resignations

Mrs. Moriarty explained that this authorization is intended to address unexpected personnel matters that may arise between School Board meetings. She noted that the District will continue to follow its standard practice of holding employees to their contractual obligations until a suitable replacement is secured, except in cases involving extraordinary circumstances.

Mrs. Foote moved, seconded by Mr. Heathe, to authorize the Superintendent of Schools to accept resignations and hire candidates prior to the August School Board Meeting.

The motion carried 4 – 0.

E. Anticipated End-of-Year Fund Balance and Proposed Encumbrances

Mrs. Dolloff reviewed the proposal for the End-of-Year Fund Balance. The proposal was revised to allocate \$28,200 for Special Education and \$21,000 for Salaries and Benefits. Mrs. Gillis inquired whether the Facilities allocation included salaries. Mrs. Moriarty and Mrs. Dolloff clarified that the Facilities allocation is designated for facility projects and maintenance, with the goal of addressing needs identified in the recent facilities assessment.

Discussion ensued regarding negative lunch balances. Mrs. Dolloff provided information requested at the previous meeting regarding outstanding negative balances from the 2022–2023 school year through June 1, 2026. The total outstanding balance is \$11,114. The proposed fund balance allocation for negative lunch balances is \$10,000. Mrs. Dolloff noted that the School has received a \$1,000 donation, which will be applied toward the outstanding balances. Mrs. Coleman indicated that she may have an alternative solution and requested the opportunity to explore it before the funds are accessed. Mrs. Dolloff explained that if additional donations are received, any encumbered funds designated for negative lunch balances could be applied to future negative balances.

Mrs. Foote moved, seconded by Mr. Heath, to approve the End-of-Year Fund Balance and Proposed Encumbrances with edits.

The motion carried 4 – 0.

XII. PUBLIC COMMENT – *Closed at 7:19 p.m.*

XIII. ANNOUNCEMENTS

A. Tuesday, August 4, 2026

- Ashland School Board Meeting – Ashland Elementary School
- Heffernan Media Center – **6:00 p.m.**

XIV. ADJOURNMENT

Mrs. Foote moved, seconded by Mrs. Gillis, to adjourn meeting at 7:20 p.m.

The motion carried 4 – 0.

The meeting adjourned at 7:20 p.m.

*Respectfully submitted,
Sarah Briggs, Recording Secretary*

CONFIDENTIAL
NONPUBLIC SESSION
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Mrs. Alicia Gillis
Mr. Stephen Heath
Mrs. Jennifer Foote

Members Absent:

Mr. Jesse Farris, Chair (with notice)

Administrators Present:

Mrs. Mary Moriarty, Superintendent
Mrs. Ashley Dolloff, Business Administrator
Mr. Guy Donnelly, Principal
Mrs. Carrie Sanborn, Incoming Principal
Mrs. Lisa Holiday, Student Services Director

Others Present:

I. NEW BUSINESS (6:04 p.m. to 6:36 p.m.)

A. Student Specific Matters

Mrs. Holiday and Mrs. Moriarty provide the School Board with information on student specific matters.

B. Personnel Matter

Mrs. Moriarty shared an update with the School Board in regard to a personnel matter.