

Ashland School Board Regular Meeting

Ashland Elementary School – Heffernan Media Center

Tuesday, August 4, 2026

School Board Meeting – 6:00 p.m.

MINUTES

I. CALL TO ORDER
Chair Farris called the meeting to order at 6:07 p.m.

II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

III. RECORD ROLL

Members Present:

Mr. Jesse Farris, Chair
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
Mrs. Carrie Sanborn, Principal

Members Absent:

Others Present:

Mr. David Ruell, Press
Michelle from budget.com

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

V. 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. Coleman, to enter Non-Public Session at 6:08 p.m. Mrs. Coleman called the roll.

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

NO: --

The motion passed unanimously. The Board entered Non-Public Session at 6:08 p.m.

B. Public Session

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

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

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

VI. MINUTES

A. Regular School Board Meeting of June 2, 2026

Mr. Heath moved, seconded by Mrs. Gillis, to approve the minutes of the regular School Board meeting of June 2, 2026

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

VII. ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS

A. Enrollment/Principals Report

Mrs. Sanborn, Principal of Ashland Elementary School, presented her report to the School Board. She reported that enrollment as of August 4th is currently 149 students. Two fifth-grade students have unenrolled, and three new students have registered, including two third-grade students and one first-grade student. Kindergarten Registration took place on June 16th and was well attended, with 11 families attending out of the 14 expected. Kindergarten Orientation is scheduled for August 27th beginning at 2:00 p.m. Mrs. Sanborn reported that Summer Blast was a success and concluded on July 30th, with daily attendance ranging from 14 to 17 students. She welcomed two new staff members to Ashland Elementary School, Jocelyn Chase, School Counselor, and Jolene Werning, Library Media Specialist. Both Ms. Chase and Ms. Werning have been working in the building over the summer as they begin settling into their new roles at AES. Mrs. Sanborn also reported that the maintenance crew is working diligently to prepare the building and grounds for the upcoming school year and expressed her appreciation to Tim, Heidi, and Kiki for their work. Teacher Workshop days have been planned, with training to include Crisis Intervention and CPR certification/recertification. The Leadership Team met on August 3rd and is actively planning events and exciting new learning opportunities for students for the upcoming school year. Mrs. Sanborn also reported that the Open House is currently in the planning stages and is scheduled for September 9th from 5:00–6:00 p.m.

VIII. CURRENT BILLS PAYABLE

A. General Operating Expenses

Mrs. Dolloff presented to the School Board Manifest number 2001. Mrs. Foote asked about an invoice for signage. She also inquired about the last time the School District solicited bids for waste management services. Mrs. Dolloff shared that Mr. Paquette, Facilities Manager, recently contacted several vendors and determined that the District's current pricing is lower than that of other vendors in the area. Mrs. Dolloff indicated that she would follow up with the School Board regarding the information obtained by Mr. Paquette.

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

The motion carried 5 – 0.

IX. OLD BUSINESS

A. Facilities Update

Mrs. Sanborn reviewed her comprehensive memo regarding facilities projects. Mrs. Gillis asked whether the summer projects were expected to be completed by the start of the school year. Mrs. Sanborn indicated that this was the expectation. Mrs. Moriarty reviewed staffing levels, noting that during the 2024–2025 school year, the Facilities/Custodial Department had three full-time staff members, in addition to 533 supplemental hours. Currently, as a result of budget reductions, the department has two full-time staff members, in addition to 800 supplemental hours. Mrs. Moriarty noted that one full-time custodian represents 2,080 hours annually. Chair Farris asked what the reduction in staffing means operationally. Mrs. Moriarty provided the example that lawn mowing may occur less frequently and explained that the department is managing more projects with fewer staff members. She also noted that the School Board could consider adding additional Facilities staff during the budget process, if desired.

X. NEW BUSINESS

A. Request to Reallocate End-of-Year Funds

Mrs. Moriarty reviewed a staffing request for the School Board to reallocate \$25,000 from the Special Education End-of-Year Encumbrance to the Staffing Salaries Encumbrance. The reallocation would provide AES funds to hire a teacher for the full school year to address a staff leave, as well as provide additional support for students and instruction beyond the duration of the leave. Mrs. Coleman asked how much would remain available for carry-forward funds. Mrs. Dolloff indicated that approximately \$15,000 would remain. Discussion followed regarding the Special Education Expendable Trust. Mrs. Dolloff indicated that she would follow up with the School Board regarding the current balance of the Trust.

Mrs. Foote moved, seconded by Mrs. Gillis, to approve reallocating \$25,000 end-of-year funds from the special education encumbrance to the staffing encumbrance.

The motion carried 5 – 0.

B. Teacher Nomination

Mrs. Moriarty shared that, should there be an opportunity to utilize the position beyond the staff leave, Mrs. Sanborn will determine the most appropriate use of the additional support for students and instruction. She noted that the multi-age Grade 3/4 classroom would certainly be considered. Mrs. Moriarty shared that, at present, Mrs. Paul is scheduled to provide literacy and mathematics instruction alongside the Grade 3/4 teacher as part of the current level of support. Mrs. Moriarty further reviewed that funding for the full-time position would come from the approved reallocation of the end-of-year encumbrance, along with one of the three budgeted Kindergarten Special

Education Paraprofessional positions. Due to changes in the needs of the Kindergarten program, only one of the three budgeted positions is currently needed.

Mrs. Foote moved, seconded by Mr. Heath, to approve the nomination as presented for a one-year position.

The motion carried 5 – 0.

C. Congressionally Directed Spending Update

Mrs. Moriarty shared that, as a technicality, SAU #2 was listed on certain federal paperwork. As a result, the finances associated with the Ashland Net Zero Project, funded through Congressionally Directed Spending from the United States Department of Agriculture, will need to be accounted for through the SAU #2 finances. This will require approval by the SAU #2 Board at a future SAU #2 Board meeting.

D. Legislative Update

Mrs. Moriarty and Mrs. Dolloff reviewed two recently enacted laws, HB 564, regarding School Administrative Unit (SAU) budgets, and HB 1300, regarding School District local tax cap questions. They shared that the legislation will have implications for future budget development and may require changes to existing processes.

E. Staffing Plan

Mrs. Moriarty reviewed a request to reallocate the funds from one of the three budgeted Kindergarten Special Education Paraprofessional positions to restore the Student Support position, which was eliminated during the budget process as part of an effort to address increasing special education costs. Mrs. Sanborn reviewed the responsibilities of the Student Support position and explained how the position assists with addressing student behavior throughout the school. Mrs. Moriarty further explained that, if an additional Special Education Paraprofessional is needed, the District would shift the Student Support position/person back to a Special Education Paraprofessional role. This flexibility is possible because, due to changes in the needs of the Kindergarten program, only one of the three budgeted Kindergarten Special Education Paraprofessional positions is currently needed.

XI. POLICY

A. Policy JICJ- Unauthorized Communication Devices

Mrs. Moriarty reviewed the requirement that Policy JICJ – Unauthorized Communication Devices be reviewed annually. Mrs. Sanborn shared that the policy had been reviewed by various stakeholders and that no changes to the policy were recommended. Mrs. Sanborn noted that the review was beneficial and provided an opportunity for discussion regarding how the policy is implemented in practice. Discussion followed regarding current practices related to the policy.

Mr. Heath moved, seconded by Mrs. Foote, to approve policy JICJ – Unauthorized Communication Devices as presented.

The motion carried 4 – 1. Mrs. Coleman opposed.

XII. PUBLIC COMMENT – *Closed at 6:52 p.m.*

XIII. ANNOUNCEMENTS

A. Tuesday, September 1, 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 6:55 p.m.

The motion carried 5 – 0.

The meeting adjourned at 6:55 p.m.

Note: Mrs. Gillis indicated that she would not be at the September meeting.

*Respectfully Submitted,
Sarah Briggs, Recording Secretary*

CONFIDENTIAL
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Members Present:

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

Members Absent:

Administrators Present:

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

Others Present:

I. NEW BUSINESS (6:08 p.m. to 6:24 p.m.)

A. Long Term Leave

Mrs. Moriarty provided the School Board with information about a personnel leave and associated staffing impact.

B. Student Update

Mrs. Moriarty provided student updates.