Ashland School Board Regular Meeting

Ashland Elementary School – Heffernan Media Center
Tuesday, October 6, 2026
School Board Meeting – 6:00 p.m.

MINUTES

I. CALL TO ORDER
Chair Farris called the meeting to order at 6:08 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

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

Members Absent with Notice:
Mr. Stephen Heath

Others Present:
Mr. Cole Mock, Technology Coordinator
Mr. Paul Bemis, Net Zero Project Manager/Advisor
Mr. Tim Lindberg, 3/4 Grade Teacher
Mr. David Ruell, Press
Michelle Roloff, Ashland Budget Committee

IV. PUBLIC COMMENT – *Opened at 6:09 p.m.*

Mr. Tim Lindberg, Grade 3 and 4 Teacher, addressed the School Board about soccer and wanted to encourage the School Board not to have multi-age classes.

V. PUBLIC HEARING

PUBLIC HEARING DONATION $100,000, CMF KIDS

Chair Farris will call the Public Hearing to Order Time: 6:15 p.m.

Public Input/Comment: There were no public comments.

Mrs. Moriarty noted that accepting the $100,000 in funding for the early childhood playground would result in future costs to the School District for ongoing playground maintenance.

Chair Farris will close the Public Hearing Time: 6:16 p.m.

VI. DONATION

A. Donation

Mrs. Moriarty provided an overview of the $100,000 donation from CMF Kids for the further development of the early childhood playground. She also reviewed the previous

$50,000 anonymous donation received through CMF Kids, which provided the initial funding for the early childhood playground project and other sensory supports within the school building.

Mrs. Coleman moved, seconded by Mrs. Foote, to accept donations as presented with gratitude. There are no conditions to the acceptance of funds and no obligations incurred.

The motion carried 4 – 0.

VII. OLD BUSINESS

A. Data Security and Governance Policy

The School Board reviewed the Data Security and Governance Policy. No questions were raised.

Mrs. Gillis moved, seconded by Mrs. Foote to approve the Data Security and Governance Policy.

The motion carried 4 – 0.

B. Net Zero Project Update

Mr. Paul Bemis, Net Zero Project Manager/Advisor, provided an extensive update on the $1.334 million in Congressionally Directed Spending funds designated to complete Phase 1 of the Net Zero Project at Ashland Elementary School. Phase 1 focuses on improving the building envelope to reduce energy loss, including replacing the existing exterior windows, which currently present thermal challenges for the building.

Mr. Bemis explained that receipt of the funds is in process. Once received, the funds will be considered at the SAU level, requiring a public hearing and a vote by the SAU Board. Although the project is for Ashland Elementary School, the funding will be administered through the SAU accounts.

Mr. Bemis also provided an update on the SEED Grant project, which funded the installation of heat pumps in the middle school classrooms. He explained that this work is part of Phase 2 of the Net Zero Project. If an opportunity arises to apply for additional SEED Grant funding to install heat pumps throughout the building, the District will pursue those funds. Phase 3 of the Net Zero Project will focus on solar energy and battery storage.

Mr. Bemis noted that the current funding is designated for Phase 1, and it remains uncertain how much of the $1.334 million will cover the costs of improving the building envelope throughout the entire school. Construction for Phase 1 is planned to begin next year.

Mr. Bemis commended Mr. Paquette, Facilities Manager, and the SAU for their responsiveness throughout the project. Mrs. Moriarty and the School Board also

commended Mr. Bemis and Mr. Ely, who served as the architect for the SEED project, for generously contributing their time to support Ashland Elementary School.

C. Legislative Update HB 1300

Mrs. Dolloff reported that the injunction regarding HB 1300 was unsuccessful; therefore, the school tax cap language will appear on the November ballot. She reviewed the ballot language and explained that the ballot is administered by the Town, which will be responsible for including the question on the ballot.

VIII. MINUTES

A. Regular School Board Meeting of September 14, 2026

Mrs. Foote moved, seconded by Mrs. Gillis, to approve the minutes of the regular School Board meeting of September 14, 2026.

The motion carried 4 – 0.

IX. ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS

A. Enrollment/Principals Report

Mrs. Sanborn, Principal, provided an update on enrollment, reporting a total of 136 students, and shared updates on school activities and upcoming events. The volleyball team had a record of 6–1, with one game remaining, while the soccer team had a record of 11–1, with one game remaining. Both teams had won the Pemi-Baker League Championship. The Robotics program was off to a strong start, with 23 students in grades 6–8 participating in FIRST LEGO League and VEX Robotics, as well as exploring 3D modeling and printing to learn about various aspects of computer science throughout the school year. National Junior Honor Society (NJHS) members were planning a school and community cleanup and exploring a creative art project involving the entire school. The first All-School Morning Meeting of the year was held on September 18th and hosted by the sixth grade. Student Council applicants received special pins in recognition of their willingness to serve as leaders within the school community. The eighth grade was scheduled to host the next All-School Morning Meeting on October 30th. On September 22nd, students in grades 3 and 4 welcomed staff from the White Mountain National Forest, who shared information about local animals and wildlife. Student Council organized Wacky Sock Day on October 1st to kick off "Socktober," a month-long collection of new socks to benefit a local homeless shelter. Mrs. Merrifield organized a new after-school Art Club, scheduled to meet weekly on Thursdays beginning October 29th. In recognition of Fire Prevention Week, students in grades K–2 were scheduled to take a walking field trip to the fire station on Friday, October 9th. Mrs. Sanborn also noted that October 9th was a half day for students, during which staff would participate in the annual suicide prevention training led by the Connor's Climb Foundation, a New Hampshire organization focused on suicide prevention education. The Common Man fundraiser, held on September 27th and led by local author and former Ashland Elementary School parent Ashley Crosbie, was a successful community event that raised funds for the Ashland student meal fund. Mrs. Sanborn expressed appreciation for the community's support. She also announced that

the Burger Bar at Owl's Nest Resort was scheduled to host a fundraiser for the Ashland Elementary School Student in Need Fund on November 10th from 4:30 to 7:30 p.m. The family-friendly event would include a buffet-style appetizer station available for a cash donation, family activity booths, face painting, an outdoor fire pit, and s'mores. Student artwork would also be auctioned, with additional information to be provided.

B. Facilities Committee Update

Mrs. Sanborn reviewed a detailed memo outlining facility projects. The next Facilities Committee meeting is scheduled for October 20th.

C. NH DOE and Year-End Report

Mrs. Dolloff shared that the 2025–2026 DOE-25 financial report has been submitted to and approved by the NHED. She commended Mrs. Allen for her efforts in completing this complex process. Mrs. Dolloff reviewed the end-of-year financial report for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2026, which is a summarized version of the DOE-25. The District ended the fiscal year with an unassigned fund balance of $37,783. This balance will be used to offset the amount needed to be raised by taxation in the 2026–2027 school year. Factors contributing to the unassigned fund balance included approximately $23,000 more in revenue than projected and about $15,000 of unexpended funds remaining in the general operating budget.

D. Department of Environmental Services Drinking Water Program

Mrs. Moriarty reviewed the certificate received by Ashland Elementary School on April 2, 2026, confirming that the school had successfully completed the requirements of the Get the Lead Out of Drinking Water Program under RSA 485:17-a by testing drinking water outlets for lead and taking appropriate action to remediate and reduce exposure. She explained that the school completed additional independent third-party lead testing in August and has since received the results, which are presented in a different format than those provided through the New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services (NHDES) program. To help compare and interpret the results, the school forwarded the independent testing results to Ian Atwell, Program Manager for Lead in Schools & Childcare Facilities within the Drinking Water and Groundwater Bureau. Mr. Atwell is scheduled to attend the October 20 Facilities Committee meeting to review the results and, if necessary, assist with developing a remediation plan. He will also provide information on potential grant programs that may be available if remediation is required.

X. CURRENT BILLS PAYABLE

A. General Operating Expenses

Mrs. Dolloff presented to the School Board Manifest numbers 2006 and 2006B.

Mrs. Coleman requested comparative information regarding electricity costs. Mrs. Dolloff will provide electricity comparisons at a future meeting.

Mrs. Foote moved, seconded by Mrs. Gillis, to approve the payment of bills, manifest numbers 2006 and 2006B.

The motion carried 4 – 0.

XI. NEW BUSINESS

A. 2027-2028 Budget Process Calendar

Mrs. Dolloff reviewed the proposed budget process calendar. Mrs. Moriarty will ask Ms. Briggs, SAU #2 Executive Administrative Assistant, to send calendar invitations for the proposed dates.

B. New Hampshire School Board Association – Resolutions – Board Consensus for Delegate Assembly

Chair Farris will attend the NHSBA Delegate Assembly. The Board will review the proposed and continuing resolutions and establish a consensus following the SAU #2 Board meeting on October 13th. Prior to the meeting, the SAU will send a Google Doc to School Board members to gather their input on the resolutions.

XII. PUBLIC COMMENT – *Closed at 7:06 p.m.*

XIII. 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 7:08 p.m. Mrs. Coleman called the roll.

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

The motion passed unanimously. The Board entered Non-Public Session at 7:08 p.m.

B. Public Session

Mrs. Gillis moved, seconded by Mrs. Foote, to re-enter Public Session at 7:18 p.m. Mrs. Coleman called the roll.

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

The motion passed unanimously. The Board re-entered Public Session at 7:18 p.m.

XIV. ANNOUNCEMENTS

A. Tuesday, November 3, 2026
Ashland School Board Regular Meeting @ Ashland Elementary School
Heffernan Media Center, **6:00 p.m.**

XV. ADJOURNMENT

Mrs. Foote moved, seconded by Mrs. Coleman, to adjourn meeting at 7:19 p.m.

The motion carried 4 – 0.

The meeting adjourned at 7:19 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,
Sarah Briggs, Recording Secretary

CONFIDENTIAL

NONPUBLIC SESSION

Tuesday, October 6, 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
Mrs. Jennifer Foote

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

Members Absent:
Mr. Stephen Heath (with notice)

Others Present:

I. NEW BUSINESS *(7:08 p.m. to 7:18 p.m.)*

A. Non-Resident Tuition Waived Request

Mrs. Foote moved, seconded by Mrs. Gillis, to approve the non-resident tuition waived admission for kindergarten for 2027–2028 consistent with the approval provided to a staff member for 2026–2027.

The motion carried 4 – 0.