Ashland School Board Regular Meeting

Ashland Elementary School – Heffernan Media Center
Tuesday, November 3, 2026
5:00 p.m. School Board Budget Presentation
Regular School Board Meeting

MINUTES

I. CALL TO ORDER
Chair Farris called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m.

II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

III. RECORD ROLL

Members Present:	**Administrators Present:**
Mr. Jesse Farris, Chair	Mrs. Mary Moriarty, Superintendent
Mrs. Sandra Coleman, Vice-Chair	Mrs. Ashley Dolloff, Business Administrator
Mrs. Alicia Gillis	Mrs. Carrie Sanborn, Principal
Mr. Stephen Heath	
Mrs. Jennifer Foote	
Members Absent with Notice:	**Others Present:**

IV. PUBLIC COMMENT – *Opened at 5:00 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 5:01 p.m. Mrs. Coleman called the roll.

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

The motion passed unanimously. The Board entered Non-Public Session at 5:01 p.m.

B. Public Session

Mrs. Gillis moved, seconded by Mr. Heath, to re-enter Public Session at 5:39 p.m. Mrs. Coleman called the roll.

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

VI. MINUTES

A. Regular School Meeting of October 6, 2026

Mrs. Coleman moved, seconded by Mrs. Gillis, to approve the Regular School Board Meeting Minutes of October 6, 2026.

The motion carried 4 – 0 – 1. Mr. Heath abstained.

B. Budget Work Session of October 6, 2026

Mrs. Foote moved, seconded by Mrs. Gillis, to approve the minutes of the Budget Work Session of October 6, 2026.

The motion carried 4 – 0 – 1. Mr. Heath abstained.

VII. ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS

A. Enrollment/Principals Reports

Mrs. Sanborn, Principal, provided an update to the School Board and reported that current enrollment is 138 students. She shared that Book Buddies was held on October 16th, organized by the Literacy Committee. The event pairs younger students with older students to share stories, build relationships, and foster a love of reading across grade levels.

Mrs. Sanborn reported that October was a busy month for educational opportunities outside the classroom. On October 9th, students in grades K–2 visited the Ashland Fire Station in recognition of Fire Prevention Week. On October 21st, students in grades 3 and 4 traveled to the New Hampshire State House for an educational visit. On October 23rd, students in grades K–2 attended a performance of Pinocchio at the Winnipesaukee Playhouse. On October 29th, middle school students enjoyed an outdoor adventure, choosing between hiking Mount Morgan or Rattlesnake Mountain. The beautiful fall weather provided students with an opportunity to challenge themselves, enjoy nature, and spend time together outside the classroom.

On October 23rd, Holderness Central School hosted its annual Halloween Dance for middle school students, providing an opportunity for students to socialize and connect with peers from neighboring schools. Mrs. Sanborn also reported that ten students have joined the Art Club. Members will assist with creating the set for the school play and are hopeful to contribute to the Ashland community through additional art projects.

The October All-School Morning Meeting was held on October 30th and hosted by the eighth-grade students. The school community enjoyed dancing to the "Monster Mash" and hearing from the eighth-grade students about appropriate behavior and safety expectations while trick-or-treating. That afternoon, the school continued its longstanding tradition of hosting a Halloween parade and trick-or-treating throughout town. Mrs.

Sanborn expressed appreciation to the local businesses for welcoming students and providing treats.

Mrs. Sanborn shared that the Student Council has been actively involved in community service initiatives. Through its annual Socktober campaign, students collected an impressive 153 pairs of socks to support individuals in need. The Student Council has also organized a food drive to benefit the Ashland community, with donations being collected from November 2nd through November 30th.

Looking ahead, the Scholastic Book Fair will take place November 16–20 at Ashland Elementary School. Mrs. Sanborn also shared information regarding an upcoming fundraiser at the Burger Bar at Owl's Nest Resort on November 10th, from 4:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m., benefiting the Ashland Elementary School Warrior in Need Fund. The family-friendly event will feature a buffet-style appetizer station available for cash donations, family activity booths, face painting, an outdoor fire pit, and s'mores. Student artwork will also be auctioned to raise funds for the cause. Event flyers have been shared with the school community, and the school looks forward to a successful evening of community support.

B. Year-to-Date Financial Report

Mrs. Dolloff shared with the School Board the Year-to-Date Financial Report.

VIII. CURRENT BILLS PAYABLE

A. General Operating Expenses

Mrs. Dolloff presented to the School Board Manifest number 2007.

Mr. Heath moved, seconded by Mrs. Gillis, to approve the payment of bills, manifest number 2007.

The motion carried 5 – 0.

IX. OLD BUSINESS

A. Multi-Age Classroom Update

Mrs. Moriarty shared that after the last School Board meeting, schedules were adjusted to provide additional support from Mrs. Paul in Mr. Lindberg's Multi-Age Classroom (Grades 3 & 4) Mrs. Sanborn and she met with Mr. Lindberg to assess if the changes were beneficial. Mr. Lindberg indicated that the adjustments have helped. Mrs. Sanborn shared that the changes to the schedule have afforded common planning time with Mr. Lindberg and Mrs. Paul. Mrs. Moriarty thanked Mrs. Sanborn for visiting Sandwich Central School (SCS) to observe the multi-age classrooms and engaging in conversation with the SCS Principal about supporting multi-age classrooms. Mrs. Sanborn shared that additional steps are being taken to provide additional support during math instruction. Mrs. Moriarty indicated that she would continue to check in with Mr. Lindberg and Mrs. Sanborn about the multi-age classroom.

B. Ashland Electricity Payment History

Mrs. Dolloff provided an overview of electricity payment history.

C. Water Testing Follow Up

Mrs. Moriarty shared that Ian Atwell from the Department of Environmental Services Drinking Water - Get the Lead Out Program attended the recent Facilities meeting. Mr. Atwell reviewed the recent additional water testing conducted by AES and he indicated that AES was in the "top tier" related to the Get the Lead Out Program. Additionally, that we had met or exceeded expectations related to any remediation. Mr. Atwell will be providing a letter to the School outlining this information; this will be shared with the School Board at the December meeting.

D. Open Enrollment

The School Board reviewed the Open Enrollment information provided in the agenda materials. Discussion ensued about potential financial liability if the School District did not designated zero students out for Open Enrollment. Additionally, further discussions ensued about the potential revenue source of allowing students to attend AES due to Open Enrollment. The School Board asked that this item continue to be on future agenda for further discussion.

E. Organizational Chart

As requested at the prior School Board meeting, an organizational chart of the school was provided and reviewed.

X. NEW BUSINESS

A. 2026-2027 Tuition Rates

Mrs. Dolloff provided an overview of the tuition rates information provided in the agenda materials.

Mrs. Foote moved, seconded by Mrs. Gillis, to approve the 2026-2027 Tuition Rates.

The motion carried 5 – 0.

B. Budget Presentation 2027-2028

Mrs. Moriarty provided an overview of the proposed 2027-2028 budget. Discussion ensued about the potential of a tax cap and next steps for the budget. As a next step in the budget process, if the tax cap passes, the Administration will bring forward to the next budget work session a proposal to meet the tax cap. If the tax cap does not pass, the Administration will bring forward to the next budget work session a proposal with the total amount for the areas outside of the identified special education and related budget lines level funded.

XI. DONATIONS

A. Donation

- From Great American Dining in the amount of $950, to be used towards the Student Meal Fund for Ashland Elementary School.

Mr. Heath moved, seconded by Mrs. Gillis to accept donation as presented with gratitude. There are no condition to the acceptance of the funds and no obligation incurred.

The motion carried 5 – 0.

XII. PUBLIC COMMENT – *Closed at 6:32 p.m.*

XIII. ANNOUNCEMENTS

A. Thursday, November 19, 2026

- SAU #2 Budget Work Session/Board Meeting – **5:00 p.m**.
  Ashland Elementary School – Heffernan Media Center
- Ashland School Board Budget Work Session Immediately following SAU #2 Budget Work Session/Board Meeting

B. Tuesday, December 1, 2026

- Ashland School Board Meeting @ Ashland Elementary School – Heffernan Media Center
- Ashland School Board Budget Work Session/Regular School Board Meeting – **5:00 p.m.**

C. Tuesday, December 8, 2026

- SAU #2 Budget Work Session/Board Meeting – **5:00 p.m.**
  Humiston Building – Conference Room, Meredith
- Inter-Lakes School Board Regular School Board Meeting – **Immediately following SAU #2 Board Meeting.**
- Ashland School Board Special Meeting – Budget – **Immediately following SAU #2 Board Meeting.**

XIV. ADJOURNMENT

Mrs. Foote moved, seconded by Mrs. Gillis, to adjourn meeting at 6:33 p.m.

The motion carried 5 – 0.

The meeting adjourned at 6:33 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,
Sarah Briggs, Recording Secretary

CONFIDENTIAL

NON-PUBLIC 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
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 *(5:01 p.m. to 5:39 p.m.)*

A. Retirement Request

Mrs. Foote moved, seconded by Mrs. Coleman, to approve with gratitude the retirement request as presented and effective November 30, 2026, with the recognition of service benefit as outlined in the Collective Bargaining Agreement and to provide the non-precedent setting of health insurance through December 21, 2026.

The motion carried 5 – 0.

B. Student Updates

Mrs. Moriarty provided an update regarding a recent student behavior matter.

C. Special Education Update

Mrs. Moriarty provided an update regarding the potential increase for special education needs and associated costs. Mrs. Moriarty indicated that there would be a clearer sense in December of needs and the financial impact.

D. Personnel Matter

Mrs. Moriarty provided information on a contracted service provider.

E. Personnel Matter

Discussion ensued regarding job responsibilities and compensation associated with athletics. Additional information will be provided in December.