

ASHLAND SCHOOL BOARD REGULAR MEETING
Ashland Elementary School - Heffernan Media Center
January 3, 2023

MINUTES

CALL TO ORDER

Chair Heath called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

RECORD ROLL

Members Present:

Mr. Stephen Heath, Chair
Ms. Sandra Coleman, Vice-Chair
Mr. Jesse Farris
Mr. Stephen Felton
Ms. Jennifer Foote

Members Absent:

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Administrators Present:

Mrs. Mary Moriarty, Superintendent
Mrs. Kelly Avery, Principal

Others Present:

Mr. David Ruell
Attorney Chris Boldt, Representing the Library
Trustees
Members of the Public
Heather Bullimore, Recording Secretary

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

PUBLIC COMMENT

Public Comment was open at 6:00 p.m. – no comments.

BUSINESS OF THE BOARD

A. Library Request Regarding Library Warrant Article

Attorney Chris Boldt, representing the Library Trustees, presented for the Board's consideration a proposed Warrant Article concerning the right of first refusal on 41 School Street property. The Trustees ask that the School Board allow the article on the School District Warrant and not recommend the presented Warrant Article. The Ashland Selectmen were not persuaded that the Board's initial decision to refuse to exercise the right of first refusal was good enough. Attorney Bolt expects the voters to vote "no" on the article if the School Board does not recommend it. Discussion ensued.

Mr. Farris expressed concern that a vote to put the article on the warrant may act as waiver or estoppel of the School Board's understanding and corresponding position that a vote of the School Board is unnecessary and/or that the School Board need not exercise any right of first refusal in order for the Library to assume the 41 School Street Property. Attorney Boldt indicated that he hopes a vote by the School Board to not recommend the article, as well as explaining the situation at the deliberative session, will resolve this conflict.

Members of the School Board agreed that explaining to the community the need for the article and a desire for the article to not be approved by voters will be necessary. Members of the Library Trustees indicated they will assist with communication.

Mr. Farris moved, seconded by Mr. Felton, to approve the Warrant Article – Right of First Refusal on 41 School Street, Ashland NH as presented.

YES: Mr. Farris, Mr. Felton, Ms. Foote, Mr. Heath NO: Ms. Coleman

The motion carried 4-1.

Ms. Foote moved, seconded by Ms. Coleman, to vote if the Board should not recommend the Warrant Article as presented.

YES: Mr. Farris, Mr. Felton, Ms. Coleman, Ms. Foote, Mr. Heath NO: --

The motion carried 5-0.

MINUTES

A. Special Meeting of December 16, 2022

Ms. Coleman moved, seconded by Mrs. Foote, to approve the minutes of the Special Meeting of December 16, 2022.

YES: Mr. Farris, Mr. Felton, Ms. Coleman, Ms. Foote, Mr. Heath NO: --

The motion carried 5-0.

COMMUNICATIONS

A. Energy Grants – “Invest in More Efficient, Energy-Saving School Buildings”

Mrs. Moriarty presented correspondence from Paul Bemis regarding investing in energy-efficient school buildings. Mr. Heath noted that if the money is available and people are willing to work with Mr. Bemis, the long-term savings would be worth at least applying. Mr. Felton noted that it is unlikely we would see an opportunity like this coming along again anytime soon.

The Board reached consensus to move forward with a proposal.

ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS

A. Principal’s Report

Mrs. Avery reported that as of January 2nd enrollment is at 160 students.

Staff members of the month are Jo Bickford and Nick Gagnon. Mrs. Bickford is a champion for literacy and reading, and is always one of the first to step in to volunteer whenever needed. Mr. Gagnon’s enthusiasm for his subject area, science, is evident whenever you step into his classroom, and he always goes above and beyond.

See the attached Principal’s Report for detailed information regarding events and activities at Ashland Elementary School.

BUSINESS OF THE SUPERINTENDENT

A. General Operating Expenses

Mrs. Foote moved, seconded by Ms. Coleman, to approve the payment of bills, manifest #2014.

YES: Mr. Farris, Mr. Felton, Ms. Coleman, Ms. Foote, Mr. Heath NO: --

The motion carried 5-0.

OLD BUSINESS**A. Ashland Extraordinary Needs Grant Accountability Plan**

Mrs. Moriarty and Mrs. Avery presented an accountability plan with focus on improving the current fourth graders' mean score in mathematics on the New Hampshire SAS by 20 points by the time they are in 5th grade and by 50 points by the time they are in 8th grade. The plan has been submitted to the Department of Education and is awaiting final approval.

B. 2023-2024 Default Budget

Mrs. Moriarty explained the Default Budget requires further review.

Mrs. Foote moved, seconded by Mr. Felton, to table action on the 2023-2024 Default Budget until Friday, January 6th at 5:30.

YES: Mr. Farris, Mr. Felton, Ms. Coleman, Ms. Foote, Mr. Heath NO: --

The motion carried 5-0.

C. Warrant Articles

Ms. Coleman moved, seconded by Mr. Farris, to table discussion on the Warrant Articles until Friday, January 6th at 5:30.

YES: Mr. Farris, Mr. Felton, Ms. Coleman, Ms. Foote, Mr. Heath NO: --

The motion carried 5-0.

POLICY – No action required**PUBLIC COMMENT**

Public Comment was closed at 6:50 PM – No comments

ANNOUNCEMENTS**A. Friday, January 6, 2023**

Ashland Elementary School – Library

- Budget Committee Meeting - **6:00 p.m.**

B. Tuesday, February 7, 2023

Ashland Elementary School – Cafeteria

- First Deliberative Session – **6:00 p.m.**
- **Special** School Board Meeting– *Immediately Following the Deliberative*

C. Tuesday, March 7, 2023 – Town Elections / Voting

Ashland School Board @ Ashland Elementary School – Heffernan Media Center

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

D. Tuesday, March 14, 2023 – Town Elections / Voting**ADJOURNMENT**

Mrs. Foote moved, seconded by Mr. Felton, to adjourn the meeting at 6:50 p.m.

YES: Mr. Farris, Mr. Felton, Ms. Coleman, Ms. Foote, Mr. Heath NO: --

The motion carried 5-0.

Respectfully submitted,

Heather Bullimore
Recording Secretary