

**ASHLAND SCHOOL BOARD REGULAR MEETING**  
**Ashland Elementary School – Heffernan Media Center**  
**Thursday, August 17, 2023 @ 6:00 p.m.**

**MINUTES**

CALL TO ORDER

RECORD ROLL

**Members Present:**

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

**Administrators Present:**

Mrs. Mary Moriarty, Superintendent  
Mrs. Ashley Dolloff, Business Administrator  
Mr. Guy Donnelly, AES Principal

**Members Absent:**

None

**Others Present:**

David Ruell

PUBLIC COMMENT – Opened at 6:01 p.m.

MINUTES

**A. Special Meeting of July 19, 2023**

Mrs. Foote moved, seconded by Mr. Farris, to approve the minutes of the Special Meeting of July 19, 2023. The motion carried 4-0-1. Mr. Felton abstained.

COMMUNICATIONS

None.

BUSINESS OF THE SUPERINTENDENT

**A. General Operating Expenses**

Mr. Farris moved, seconded by Mrs. Foote, to approve the payment of bills, manifests #2001 and #2002. The motion carried 5-0.

ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS

**A. Principal's Report and Enrollment Report**

Mr. Donnelly shared an update regarding enrollment. Nine additional students are expected to register. AES is preparing to open for the year. The PTO on Monday was well-attended by parents. The PTO will be participating in community yards ale as a fundraising measure, as well as a family cookout/open house on September 20<sup>th</sup>. They are also discussing having a movie night around Halloween.

Mr. Donnelly has met with the Ashland Police Chief and had a productive conversation around school safety. He extended kudos to Diana Johnson who has worked extra to support Mr. Donnelly and Katie Jones, the new office administrator. Staffing is coming along, with several interviews for open positions this week.

Mr. Donnelly met with some members of the Pemigewasset Valley chapter of American Revolution, and they would like to do a constitution week display at AES. They would take care of the cost of setting it up and maintaining it.

Mr. Donnelly extended thanks to Mr. Paquette and his staff for their hard work to get the school up and running for the year. He also noted that the Ashland community has been very welcoming. He looks forward to opening school and welcoming the students back.

## OLD BUSINESS

### **A. Ventilation Project Update**

The startup by CaptiveAir is scheduled for August 24. Paul Bemis will be here to ensure that airflow is correct. The hope is to get ready to close this project at that point.

### **B. Hiring Update**

The school is well-positioned with some interviews coming up for open positions. Mrs. Moriarty is hopeful that the open positions will be filled soon.

### **C. Edward Doggett Scholarship – Trustees of the Trust**

Mrs. Moriarty and Mr. Donnelly are working on getting a list of scholarships from Plymouth Regional High School that are Ashland-specific. It is up to the Board how to pursue this. Mr. Farris expressed inclination to provide the scholarship as a one-time benefit, rather than splitting the money up. Mr. Heath and Mrs. Coleman concurred.

Mr. Farris moved, seconded by Mrs. Coleman, to establish the Edward Doggett Scholarship to be awarded as a one-time scholarship to a former Ashland Elementary School student graduating from Plymouth Regional High School. The motion carried 5-0.

### **D. Congressional Discretionary Spending Proposal and School Energy Efficiency Development Grant Program**

Ashland Elementary School is moving forward in the process for Congressional Discretionary Spending, meaning the school is in the running for receiving funding. Mr. Bemis felt we would be a good candidate for the SEED grant, and he estimates it would cost \$2,500 to put the grant together. The grant application requires letters of community support, including the majority of the School Board, the majority of the local Select Board, and a state official. These funds would hopefully be used to insulate the gymnasium. Mrs. Moriarty recommended that the Board make a motion to support the application for the SEED grant. Mrs. Moriarty will speak to the town manager regarding the Select Board.

Mr. Felton moved, seconded by Mr. Farris, to support Ashland Elementary School's SEED grant application as presented. The motion carried 5-0.

## NEW BUSINESS

### **A. ARPA ESSER III Required Ashland School District Safe Return to In-Person Instruction and Continuity of Service Plan for 2023-2024 School Year**

Mrs. Moriarty presented the ARPA ESSER III Safe Return to In-Person Instruction and Continuity of Service Plan for the 2023-2024 school year. She noted that this is a requirement for receiving ESSER funds. Discussion ensued. Mrs. Foote noted one type on the plan.

Mr. Farris moved, seconded by Mr. Felton, to approve the Ashland School District Safe Return to In-Person Instruction and Continuity of Service Plan for 2023-2024 School Year, with edits. The motion carried 5-0.

PUBLIC COMMENT – Closed at 6:31 p.m.

NONPUBLIC SESSION – RSA 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.

Mrs. Foote moved, seconded by Mr. Farris, to enter Nonpublic Session. Mr. Heath called the roll:

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

The Board entered Nonpublic Session at 6:32 p.m.

PUBLIC SESSION

Mr. Felton moved, seconded by Mrs. Foote, to return to Public Session. Mr. Heath called the roll:

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

The motion carried 5-0. The Board re-entered Public Session at 7:10 p.m.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

**A. Tuesday, September 5, 2023**

Ashland School Board @ Ashland Elementary School – Heffernan Media Center

- Policy Review Committee – **5:00 p.m.**
- School Board Meeting – **6:00 p.m.**

ADJOURNMENT

Mrs. Foote moved, seconded by Mr. Felton, to adjourn the meeting at 7:12 p.m. The motion carried 5-0.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:12 p.m.

*Respectfully Submitted,*

*Heather Bullimore, Recording Secretary*