

**Ashland School Board Regular Meeting**  
**Ashland Elementary School – Heffernan Media Center**  
**Tuesday, May 7, 2024 @ 6:00 p.m.**  
*Policy Review Committee – 5:30 p.m.*

**MINUTES**

I. CALL TO ORDER

II. RECORD ROLL

<b>Members Present:</b> Mr. Stephen Heath, Chair Mrs. Sandra Coleman, Vice-Chair Mr. Jesse Farris Mr. Stephen Felton Mrs. Jennifer Foote	<b>Administrators Present:</b> Mrs. Mary Moriarty, Superintendent Mrs. Ashley Dolloff, Business Administrator
<b>Members Absent:</b> None	<b>Others Present:</b> David Ruell

III. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

IV. PUBLIC COMMENT – *Opened at 6:04 p.m.*

V. MINUTES

**A. Monday, April 2, 2024 Regular School Board Meeting Minutes**

The Board made

Mr. Felton moved, seconded by Mrs. Coleman, to approve the minutes as amended of the April 2, 2024 Regular School Board Meeting.

The motion passed 4-0-1, with \_ abstaining.

VI. CURRENT BILLS PAYABLE

**A. General Operating Expenses**

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

The motion carried 5-0.

VII. ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS

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

Mr. Donnelly presented his Principal's Report to the Board. AES began SAS testing on May 7<sup>th</sup>. Recently, the school-wide read of Charlie and the Chocolate Factory ended with a movie night for students and their families. End of year activities are gearing up, including the National Honors Society induction ceremony, field trips, project night & eighth grade graduation. Spring sports have had a very successful start and both teams are undefeated going into today. AES hosted the SAU #48 dance on April 12<sup>th</sup>, which was very well-attended and the kids had fun. Robotics has been very well attended. The school had a lockdown drill and staff and students were outstanding in their responses.

Mrs. Foote expressed appreciation for the teachers who gave up time on a Friday night to chaperone the dance, and noted it is important for Ashland to be able to host a dance.

Mrs. Moriarty shared the Enrollment Report for the month of April. Enrollment has increased by 2 students.

**B. Year-to-Date Financial Report**

Mrs. Dolloff shared the financial report with the Board. The District is in a better position than originally anticipated.

**VIII. NEW BUSINESS**

**A. End of School Year Schedule**

The District had only one snow day. Mrs. Moriarty recommended the two facility days remain waived, the snow day be made up on Tuesday, June 11<sup>th</sup> which would be an early release day, and all staff be paid the full amount of their contract.

Mr. Farris moved, seconded by Mrs. Foote, to approve the 2023-2024 End of Year Schedule as presented.

The motion carried 5-0.

**B. Anticipated End-of-Year Fund Balance and Draft Encumbrances for Consideration**

Mrs. Moriarty recommended that the Board consider up to \$15,000 for facilities, particularly to put bollards in front of the school for safety as suggested by Mr. Donnelly; \$35,000 toward anticipated increased electricity costs as a result of the new ventilation system; and use end-of-year fund balance to assist with special education costs. The Board will vote on the draft encumbrances at the June meeting.

**C. Special Education Leadership Stipend & 10 Additional Days - Rural Education Achievement Program (REAP) Funded**

Mrs. Moriarty explained that the complexity of students in the area of special

education is becoming greater, and that is not unique to Ashland. Other districts are experiencing the same. Districts must lean on special educators to facilitate complex situations as well as organizing special education programming. Through grant funds, one being REAP as well as some Title II funds, the District would like to provide a stipend to each special educator, as well as ten extra days that are non-contracted days over the summer to work with Mr. Donnelly on different ways of structuring and organizing to meet the needs of students. Mrs. Moriarty recommended the Board approve using REAP fund the stipend and the additional ten days.

The Board reached consensus to approve the Special Education Leadership Stipend and 10 additional days, funded through REAP.

**D. School Schedule 2024 - 2025 Presentation**

Earlier this year, administration asked staff what their perfect schedule would look like, took their feedback and used the data to create a new school day schedule that would best serve students.

Mr. Donnelly presented the proposed new 2024-2025 school day schedule to the Board. With multi-age classrooms, there is a larger educational gap. The new plan would have single-age classrooms, with flexibility for teachers to be in a team setting.

Mrs. Foote moved, seconded by Mrs. Coleman, to approve the 2024-2025 School Schedule as presented.

The motion carried 5-0.

**E. 2024-2025 Lunch Prices**

Mrs. Dolloff presented the proposal for 2024-2025 lunch prices.

Mrs. Foote moved, seconded by Mrs. Coleman, to approve the 2024-2025 Lunch Prices as presented.

The motion carried 5-0.

**F. SEED Grant**

Mrs. Moriarty informed the Board that Ashland School District will be withdrawing its application for the SEED grant. The structural analysis of the gymnasium presented some areas of concern that will require more investigation, which will require more time and money. The short timeline of the SEED Grant did not afford the time necessary to properly look into structural questions.

**G. United States Department of Agriculture (USDA)**

Mrs. Moriarty informed the Board that the USDA may be able to fund what the SEED grant was not able to fund. She shared Our request for just over

\$1.3 million was approved. This would be phase one of a project to create an envelope around the building to reduce energy loss. There is a 20 percent match. Although the funds are approved, there is another application process; however, AES will not be competing with any other organization. Awardees have five years to spend the funds.

Mr. Donnelly expressed concern about construction during school. Mrs. Moriarty and Mrs. Dolloff both expressed concern about cash flow and spending. The Board agreed to revisit this item at the June 4<sup>th</sup> meeting.

**H. SAFE Grant Vendor Selection**

Mr. Farris moved, seconded by Mr. Felton, to approve Pro Technologies to complete the SAFE grant work to upgrade the camera system.

The motion carried 3-0-2, with \_ and \_ abstaining.

IX. PUBLIC COMMENT – *Closed at 6:46 p.m.*

X. NONPUBLIC SESSION

**A. Nonpublic 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 Mr. Felton, to enter nonpublic session at 6:47 p.m.

Chair Heath called the roll:

YES: Mr. Heath, Mrs. Coleman, Mr. Farris, Mr. Felton, Mrs. Foote  
NO: None

The motion passed 5-0.

**B. Public Session**

Mr. Felton moved, seconded by Mrs. Coleman, to reenter public session at 7:10 p.m.

Chair Heath called the roll:

YES: Mr. Heath, Mrs. Coleman, Mr. Farris, Mr. Felton, Mrs. Foote  
NO: None

The motion passed 5-0.

XI. ANNOUNCEMENTS

**A. Tuesday, June 4, 2024**

Ashland School Board @ Ashland Elementary School - Heffernan Media Center.

- Policy Committee - **5:30 p.m.**
- Ashland School Board Regular Meeting – **6:00 p.m.**

XII. ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Felton moved, seconded by Mrs. Foote, to adjourn the meeting at 7:12 p.m.

The motion passed unanimously.

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

*Respectfully Submitted,  
Heather Bullimore, Recording Secretary*