

Ashland School Board Regular Meeting
Ashland Elementary School – Heffernan Media Center
Tuesday, September 3, 2024 @ 6:00 p.m.
Policy Review Committee – 5:30 p.m.

MINUTES

I. CALL TO ORDER

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

II. RECORD ROLL

Members Present

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

Members Absent:

None

Administrators Present:

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

Others Present:

David Ruell

III. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

IV. PUBLIC COMMENT – *Opened at 6:01 p.m.*

V. MINUTES

A. Tuesday, August 6, 2024 Regular School Board Meeting Minutes

The Board reviewed the minutes of the meeting.

Mrs. Coleman moved, seconded by Mr. Felton, to approve the minutes of the August 6, 2024 Regular School Board Meeting as presented.

The motion carried 5-0.

VI. CURRENT BILLS PAYABLE

A. General Operating Expenses

The Board reviewed manifest #2002. Mr. Farris asked for clarification on #32178. Mrs. Moriarty said that was to purchase some equipment for food services, but she was unsure of what the equipment was, and she would find out and send the information as soon as possible.

Mrs. Foote asked for clarification on #32172. Mrs. Moriarty explained that the district would like to pay Tim Paquette a stipend for mileage instead of having him fill out mileage forms, because he does so many short trips and the forms can be cumbersome. Mrs. Dolloff noted that the stipend amount would be comparable to what the district was previously paying him for mileage.

Mr. Farris moved, seconded by Mr. Felton, to approve the payment of bills, manifest #2002.

The motion carried 5-0.

VII. ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS

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

Mr. Donnelly shared his principal's report with the Board. The first week went well. The school's open house is on the 19th. New staff are settling in and have expressed that they feel comfortable already. Sports teams are starting up this week with soccer and volleyball. NWEA testing will be beginning later this week. A few parents noticed the new bollards and they have been helpful. Overall, it has been a successful first couple of weeks of school.

VIII. OLD BUSINESS

A. **United States Department of Agriculture**

Mrs. Moriarty explained that she heard back from the USDA regarding the grant funds for the envelope around the building. Previously, the issues of cashflow and the definition of "complete project" were discussed. Regarding cashflow, the USDA representative explained that although they would not be able to provide a lump sum to the district, they would be able to allow the district to send them an invoice before the invoice has been paid. This would require all vendors to agree to a delay in payment (typically around two weeks), which would need to be included in the contract language for any vendors. Mrs. Moriarty noted that they are seeking a firm answer before moving forward, and that she hopes to have another meeting with the USDA soon.

IX. NEW BUSINESS

A. **Durham Transportation Contract Extension**

Mrs. Moriarty and Mrs. Dolloff requested that the Board consider allowing them to negotiate extending the current contract with Durham Transportation. The district is currently on a three-year extension of a previous contract. Durham also serves SAU #48. The district has had good service from them. There is not a lot of competition in the school bus industry, and going out for bids may not work in the district's favor as well as working with the current vendor to negotiate a reasonable price. The contract ends this year.

The Board discussed amending the language to the suggested motion to read as follows: Motion to approve the Superintendent and the Business Administrator negotiating an extension of the current contract with Durham Transportation through June 30, 2028.

Mr. Felton moved, seconded by Mrs. Coleman, to approve the amendment to the original motion.

The motion carried 5-0.

Mrs. Coleman moved, seconded by Mr. Felton, to approve the Superintendent and the Business Administrator negotiating an extension of the current contract with Durham Transportation through June 30, 2028.

The motion carried 5-0.

B. Class Size

Mrs. Moriarty presented a memo to the Board regarding the addition of a new Class Size policy for Ashland School District.

Discussion ensued. Mrs. Moriarty noted that if the Board wants to create a more restrictive class size policy, that will affect the budget.

Mr. Farris noted that the benefit could be that a policy would protect teachers from having classrooms packed with too many students in the future.

No action was taken.

X. POLICY

A. Procedures

The Board reviewed the following new procedures, which are a result of legislative changes to recent Title IX.

- ACAA-R1 - Procedure for Student Discrimination and Harassment Complaint
- ACAA-R2 - Procedure for Student Sex Discrimination and Harassment Complaint
- ACAB-R1 - Procedure for Employee Discrimination and Harassment Complaint
- ACAB-R2 - Procedure for Employee Sex Discrimination and Harassment Complaint

B. First and Final Readings

Mr. Felton moved, seconded by Mrs. Foote, to approve first and final reading of the following policies:

- ACAA/JBAA – Harassment of Students
- ACAB/GBAA – Harassment of Employees
- AC – Nondiscrimination/Equal Opportunity and Affirmative Action
- JIE – Pregnant Students

The motion carried 5-0.

C. First Readings

Mrs. Foote moved, seconded by Mr. Felton, to approve the first reading of the following policies:

- DH – Bonded Employees
- DN – Disposition of Books, Supplies and Equipment

The motion carried 5-0.

D. Second Readings

Mrs. Coleman requested removing Policy ADB/GBEC – Drug-Free Workplace and Drug-Free Schools to provide time for her to meet with Mrs. Moriarty regarding the policy before voting on it. The Board reached consensus to pull this policy out and bring it back in October.

Mr. Farris moved, seconded by Mrs. Foote, to approve second reading of the following policies:

- ACE – Procedural Safeguards: Non-Discrimination on the Basis of Handicap/Disability
- ACF – Food and Nutrition Services: Anti-Discrimination and Civil Rights Complaints
- IHBA – Programs for Pupils with Disabilities
- IHBA-R – Programs for Pupils with Disabilities – Section 504 – Notice of Parent and Student Rights
- JI – Student Rights and Responsibilities

The motion carried 5-0.

E. Rescind

Mrs. Coleman moved, seconded by Mr. Farris, to rescind the following policies:

- AC-R – Nondiscrimination Plan (rescind as policy; retain as procedure)
- GBAA-R - Employee Discrimination/Harassment & Title IX Sexual Harassment Complaint Procedures (replaced by ACAB-R1 and ACAB - R2)
- JBAA-R – Student Discrimination/Harassment & Title IX Sexual Harassment Complaint Procedures (replaced by ACAA-R1 and ACAA-R2)

The motion carried 5-0.

XI. PUBLIC COMMENT – Closed at 6:39 p.m.

XII. 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.

Mr. Farris moved, seconded by Mrs. Foote, to enter nonpublic session at 6:40 p.m. Mr. Heath called the roll.

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

The motion passed unanimously.

Public Session

Mrs. Coleman moved, seconded by Mr. Farris, to enter nonpublic session at 6:52 p.m. Mr. Heath called the roll.

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

The motion passed unanimously.

XIII. ANNOUNCEMENTS

A. Tuesday, October 15, 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.**

XIV. ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Felton moved, seconded by Mr. Farris to adjourn the meeting at 6:54 p.m.

The motion carried 5-0.