

ASHLAND SCHOOL BOARD MEETING

Physical Location: Ashland Elementary School – Heffernan Media Center

Public Remote Access: <https://www.youtube.com/user/AshlandES/live>

May 4, 2021

MINUTES

CALL TO ORDER

Mr. Heath called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m.

REMOTE MEETING INFORMATION / ANNOUNCEMENT

Mrs. Moriarty read the following statement regarding electronic meetings of the Board:

As Superintendent of the Ashland School District I will announce that due to Covid-19/Coronavirus crisis and in accordance with Governor Sununu's Emergency Order #12 pursuant to Executive Order 2020-04, the Board is authorized to meet electronically. Please note all members of the school board are in attendance at the AES Library.

Please note there is no physical location for the meeting for the public remote access has been made available. Additionally, in accordance with the Emergency Order, this is to confirm that we are:

- a) Providing public access to the meeting by telephone, with additional access possibilities by video or other electronic means;
We are utilizing the YouTube link for this electronic meeting for public access. All School Board Members have the ability to communicate contemporaneously during this meeting through Google Meet platform, and the public has access to contemporaneously listen/participate to this meeting by contacting Marilyn Martell at 279-7947; email notification will be received and we will work to address issues.*
- b) Providing public notice of the necessary information for accessing the meeting;
We previously gave notice to the public of how to access the meeting through notice on the Ashland School District website.*
- c) Providing a mechanism for the public to alert the public body during the meeting if there are problems with access;
If anybody has a problem, please call Marilyn Martell at 279-7947; leave a message it will go directly to email for follow-up regarding your concern.*
- d) Adjourning the meeting if the public is unable to access the meeting.
In the event the public is unable to access the meeting, we will adjourn the meeting and have it rescheduled at that time.*

Please note that all votes that are taken during this meeting shall be done by a Roll Call vote.

RECORD ROLL

Members Present:

Mr. Stephen Heath, Chair
Ms. Sandra Coleman, Vice-Chair
Mr. Stephen Felton
Ms. Jennifer Foote
Ms. Leigh Sharps

Members Absent:

None

**Remote attendance*

Administrators Present:

Mrs. Mary Moriarty, Superintendent
Mrs. Trish Temperino, Assistant Superintendent
Mr. Steve Guyer, Interim Principal
Mrs. Kelly Avery, Associate Principal

Others Present:

Mr. Lester Brent, Technology Coordinator
Mr. Tim Paquette, Custodial Supervisor
Public , Guests & Press*

RECESS FOR NON-MEETING

Prior to recess Mr. Paquette provided an overview of AES ventilation system, access, and vent locations.

Chairman Heath moved to recess for a Non-Meeting; walking tour of Ashland Elementary School at 5:40 p.m.

The meeting was resumed at 6:08 p.m.

Mrs. Moriarty updated the Board regarding extending the deadline for ventilation proposals to May 14th. The plan will be once we have proposals are received, vendors that submit an RFP will be invited to June meeting to present overall proposal to the School Board in Non-Public Session. If additional time is needed to provide an opportunity for another vendor to look at system that is possible; having the deadline for submission before the June School Board meeting.

PUBLIC HEARING

Public Input on Acceptance of Unanticipated Grant Awards from Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief II (ESSER II)

Chairman Heath opened Public Hearing at 6:12 p.m.

Mrs. Temperino provided a spreadsheet outlining ESSER II Funding.

Mrs. Moriarty provided an overview of ESSER II funding for the public and School Board. The allocation for Ashland is \$270,983.95; 1.8% will be attributed to indirect costs. The balance of \$266,192.49 will be associated with different activities, proposals for consideration include administrative support at the SAU Office in conjunction with Inter-Lakes to alleviate some of the additional workload associated with the tracking and reporting requirements of grant funds and state reporting; funding for indoor air quality construction project; and air filtration system.

There being no public input the Chair closed the Public Hearing at 6:17 p.m.

Ms. Sharps moved, seconded by Mr. Felton, to approve acceptance of unanticipated grant awards from ESSER II to offset unanticipated expenses from the coronavirus pandemic. The Chair called for a roll call vote as follows:

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

The motion passed 5-0.

Mrs. Moriarty noted that additional funds, ESSER III, funds have not been released yet and calls are not being returned. She said that 20% of those funds will be allocated for learning loss. Discussion ensued regarding using carryover Title I funds with ESSER III funds to hire an additional Title I Teacher. Ashland is a Schoolwide Title I School which enables the Title I funded teacher to work with all students; the purpose of Title I is to close achievement gaps for students. "If the Board approves, we would like to advertise for this position now as an anticipated opening, for potential hire in June," Mrs. Moriarty said.

Mrs. Avery addressed how Title I Teacher services are provided and the benefit of having a person to provide direct or individual instruction for learners needing that additional support. She explained the testing used to measure where students are supposed to be with their learning. Discussion ensued regarding providing support for parents to work with students over the summer to help close learning gaps before September.

Consensus of the Board was to move forward with advertising for positions based on anticipated ESSER III funds.

Mrs. Moriarty advised the Board that receipt of ESSER III Grant funds requires a Public Hearing as well as an Opening Plan/Continuation Plan; this would be part of the June meeting.

STUDENT COUNCIL PRESENTATION – OUTDOOR CLASSROOM

Mrs. Avery introduced Mrs. Merrifield, Student Council Advisor and Alivia Foote, Grade 5 Student Council Representative virtually attending the School Board Meeting to present a project presentation for an Outdoor Classroom.

Mrs. Merrifield provided an update regarding the inclusion of grade 4 & 5 students this year on Student Council; the group came up with some great projects to include the Story Walk along the Nature Trail that everyone has had the opportunity to experience. The project presentation developed by Alivia is being brought before the School Board because this project will be looking for outside donations. Mrs. Merrifield turned the presentation over to Alivia.

Alivia provided a detailed presentation of the Grade 4 & 5 Student Council's project to develop an Outdoor Classroom for AES; with support from local businesses and people to donate different materials to build the classroom. The Outdoor Classroom would be a great benefit to the school, providing an opportunity for students to get outside more during school hours and still be able to learn and focus. The design, location and timeline were shared with the School Board; the goal is to have completion by Fall. The project will benefit our school for the greater good!

Discussion ensued regarding minimal costs associated with the project and potential support for tree stumps and lumber. School Board members thanked Alivia for her outstanding presentation and Mrs. Merrifield for her support.

Ms. Coleman moved, seconded by Ms. Sharps, to approve Student Council moving forward with the Outdoor Classroom project as presented. The Chair called for a roll call vote as follows:

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

The motion passed 5-0.

MINUTES

A. Regular Board Meeting of April 8, 2021

Mr. Felton moved, seconded by Ms. Sharps, to approve the minutes of the April 8, 2021 Regular Board Meeting as amended. The Chair called for a roll call vote as follows:

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

The motion passed 5-0.

PUBLIC COMMENT #1

Mr. Brent read the comment from Jacqui McGettigan, "awesome job Alivia, the Student Council is happy to have you."

COMMUNICATIONS

Mrs. Moriarty shared that she received an email late in the afternoon from Con-Val regarding the lawsuit previously discussed; indicating that the Court has given them another 30 days to get more Districts involved. Board members discussed that it is difficult to spend District money with times being tight; the Board is not interested in getting involved at this stage.

ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS

A. Enrollment/Principal's Report

Mrs. Avery, Associate Principal indicated that today is National Teacher Appreciation Day; she calls it National Staff Appreciation Day because she certainly appreciates all of the staff at AES. Enrollment is current at 172; 140 students in-person and 32 students are remote.

Staff members of the Month are Joanne Bickford and Diana Paul. Ms Bickford has done a remarkable job to bring in virtual authors, keeping literacy alive for our students; Ms. Paul is phenomenal, her students are enthusiastic she brings a lot to the team.

I Love to Read and Write Week brought in 2 virtual authors and a "Wish Tree" story walk sponsored by the Student Council with an activity using plantable paper in celebration of Earth Day. Evan O'leary, 6th Grade, came in 2nd of all schools in the state who participated in the Stock Market game sponsored by State of NH. Congratulations Evan!

Mrs. Avery provided an overview of ongoing and upcoming activities and events at AES. Thank you to the Ashland Women's Club for the refreshments and appreciation show for Teacher/Staff Appreciation Day today.

Mrs. Avery reviewed fundraising that has taken place over the past three years to support the 8th Grade Class Trip; details of the day for students was reviewed in detail, ensuring all protocols would be followed at each venue as well as those in place for school.

Ms. Sharps moved, seconded by Ms. Coleman to approve the 8th grade field trip as presented; to include stop at the trampoline park in Concord. The Chair called for a roll call vote as follows:

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

The motion passed 5-0.

B. Financial Report

Mrs. Temperino reported that has been \$40,689 spent or encumbered since the last report. On track to meet revenue estimates; will meet with administrators to review purchase orders to tighten up budget. Mrs. Temperino reviewed details of the budget report, explaining overages of specific line items as a follow-up to questions received at last month's meeting.

2021-2022 Adequacy Aid

Mrs. Temperino reviewed 2021-2022 Adequacy Aid (Agenda Attachment #4); the amount changes every year, based on a number of factors as outlined in the attachment.

C. Food Service Update

Mrs. Temperino provided handouts with update. She has recently met with Bill VanZandt, Café Services to review current performance. It was noted that across the country the number of meals served are down. At this time there is a loss of \$6,400; the schools anticipates being able to make-up some of this before the end of the school year. Food Service cannot go into the negative, the year was started with \$10,000. Funds were used to support equipment repair, funds may be needed to be used from the General Fund to make up any loss.

D. Facilities Update

Memorandum of Agreement w/Town of Ashland for Fireworks

Mrs. Temperino reviewed Memorandum noting that it goes through 2022. No action required.

Discussion form Tour of AES

Discussion was held immediately following the tour.

E. COVID-19 Committee Updates and Recommendations

Mrs. Avery reported that the Committee meets weekly, to assess what is going on in the area and making adjustments as needed. Mrs. Moriarty reminded the Board that at the last meeting the School Board approved following the DHHS guidelines; which has been very helpful with the changes made statewide by the Governor.

BUSINESS OF THE BOARD

Ms. Sharps stated that she has registered for the NHSBA Delegate Assembly scheduled for October.

BUSINESS OF THE SUPERINTENDENT

A. General Operating Expenses

Ms. Sharps moved, seconded by Ms. Foote to approve the payment of manifest #2016

The Chair called for a roll call vote as follows:

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

The motion passed 5-0.

OLD BUSINESS

A. 2021-2022 School Year Calendar

Ms. Foote moved, seconded by Ms Sharps, to approve the 2021-2022 School Year Calendar as presented. The Chair called for a roll call vote as follows:

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

The motion passed 5-0.

NEW BUSINESS

A. Field Trip Proposal – 8th Grade Class

Action taken under Administrative Reports.

B. Increase in School Lunch Prices for the 2021-2022 School Year

Mrs. Temperino provided an overview of the formula used to calculate school lunch prices. The memorandum outlining the reasoning for increase in lunch prices was reviewed. It is a requirement through DOE to review lunch prices every year utilizing the Lunch Equity Tool – the goal is to get prices to place where government is reimbursing us for free meals. Increases are: \$.10 increase lunch; \$.05 cent increase breakfast; and \$.15 increase for adult meals

Mr. Felton moved, seconded by Ms. Sharps, to approve an increase in school lunch prices for the 2021-2022 school year as presented. The Chair called for a roll call vote as follows:

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

The motion passed 5-0.

C. General Assurances

Mrs. Moriarty explained that the Assurances are associated with receipt of entitlement funds. The School Board is required to acknowledge the Assurance; ensuring awareness of requirements to receive funds.

Ms. Sharps moved, seconded by Mr. Felton, to authorize the School Board Chair and Superintendent to sign the FY 2022 General Assurances, Requirements and Definitions for the District's participation in Federal Programs. The Chair called for a roll call vote as follows:

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

The motion passed 5-0.

D. Elementary and Secondary School Emergency II (ESSER II) Fund Grant Program Assurances and Grant Application

Mrs. Moriarty reviewed ESSER II Assurances indicating that they are similar to General Assurances but only require the Superintendent's Signature.

Ms. Sharps moved, seconded by Ms. Foote, to authorize the Superintendent to sign the FY 2022 Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief (ESSER II) Fund Grant Program Assurances. The Chair called for a roll call vote as follows:

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

Motion carries 5-0

POLICY No Action Required

PUBLIC COMMENT None

ANNOUNCEMENTS

A. Tuesday, May 18, 2021

SAU #2 Board Meeting

(Public Participation via Remote Only)

B. Tuesday, June 1, 2021

Ashland School Board @ Ashland Elementary School – Heffernan Media Center

(Public Participation via Remote Only)

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

NON-PUBLIC - R.S.A. 91-A:3 II (a)(c)

Ms. Coleman moved, seconded by Ms. Sharps to enter Non-Public Session at 7:17 p.m. in accordance with RSA 91-A:3 II (d).

The Chair called for a roll call vote as follows:

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

Motion carries 5-0

Public Session

Ms. Coleman moved, seconded by Mr. Felton, to enter Public Session at 7:24 p.m. The Chair called for a roll call vote as follows:

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

Motion carries 5-0

Discussion ensued regarding wearing masks within schools. Mrs. Moriarty indicated that the Opening Plan for the 20-21 School Year provides the guidance; that everyone is expected to wear a mask. At the opening options will be considered. June is too soon to make any decisions regarding masks.

Ms. Avery confirmed that students wear masks outside unless they are at least 6 feet apart. Students have adapted well to wearing masks. The COVID-19 Team can monitor and evaluate mask wearing as we move forward; DHHS still recommends mask use at this stage.

ADJOURNMENT

Ms. Foote moved, seconded by Ms. Sharps to adjourn at 7:35 p.m.

The Chair called for a roll call vote on the motion on the floor, as follows:

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

The motion to adjourn carries 5-0

Respectfully Submitted,

Marilyn G. Martell
Recording Secretary