

ASHLAND SCHOOL BOARD MEETING

Remote Access only via Google Meet

<https://meet.google.com/pcz-bcbd-rwt>

Phone: 1 219-250-4724 PIN: 777 843 644#

February 2, 2021

MINUTES

CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Heath called the meeting to order at 6:47 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 there is a physical location for the meeting for the public as well as remote access. 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 Google Meet platform for this electronic meeting. All School Board Members have the ability to communicate contemporaneously during this meeting through the Google Meet platform, and the public has access to contemporaneously listen/participate to this meeting by contacting Marilyn Martell at 279-7947 for details

- 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.

- 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
Public & Press*

Due to technical difficulties Chair Heath called for a brief recess at 6:52 p.m. with consensus of a majority of School Board members.

The meeting reconvened at 7:00 p.m. with all members present.

MINUTES

A. Regular Board Meeting of January 5, 2021

Ms. Foote moved, seconded by Ms. Coleman, to approve the Minutes of the January 5, 2021 Regular Board Meeting as written.

Ms. Sharps moved, seconded by Ms. Coleman, to approve the Minutes of the January 5, 2021 as amended; adding Principal Avery said and quotation marks within Administrative Reports.

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

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

Motion carries 5-0.

B. Special Board Meeting of January 7, 2021

Ms. Sharps moved, seconded by Ms. Coleman, to approve the Minutes of the January 7, 2021 Special Board meeting as amended; 2nd page - mask should be plural.

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

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

Motion carries 4-0-1.

C. Special Board Meeting of January 14, 2021

Ms. Foote moved, seconded by Ms. Coleman, to approve the Minutes of the January 14, 2021 Special Board meeting as written.

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

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

Motion carries 4-0-1.

PRIVILEGE OF THE FLOOR #1

Mr. Felton wanted to be sure that a discussion of the school's ventilation issues would be discussed this evening. Mrs. Moriarty responded that it would be reviewed during the Facilities Committee Report.

COMMUNICATIONS None

ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS

A. Enrollment/Principal's Report

Mrs. Avery, Associate Principal reported enrollment is at Day 92. Currently 170 students enrolled; 131 in person 39 remote. Today was 1st all school remote day, good practice for everyone. Staff members of the month are Jim Weinhart and Rob Burr, AES Basketball Coaches made an awesome season out a difficult decision. Students were kept engaged, and very enthusiastic about playing.

The Winter Rec Program has successfully completed its second week; there are many creative learning opportunities available for students to include a story walk on the Nature Trail put

together by a 5th grade student. Mrs. Avery reviewed upcoming activities throughout the month to include a virtual art show (Ms. Merrifield) and preparing for the 100th Day Celebration.

B. Financial Report

Mrs. Temperino reported that available balance has decreased by \$29,589. The total encumbered is \$1.8 million; the current available balance is \$222,990. 94.3 % expended or encumbered. We are in a good position to fund warrant articles if they pass with an available fund balance.

C. Facilities Update

Mrs. Temperino reported that Honeywell has completed a walkthrough of the building, and there is a preliminary report that will be brought to the March meeting; Honeywell representatives will be invited to review the report with the School Board. Mr. Felton raised the question regarding the process if the District would look at other potential fixes beyond Honeywell's recommendations. Mrs. Moriarty responded that the Board could make the decision to go out to bid for the ventilation project, noting that this may slow the process but a bid could be developed. Assumptions regarding ventilations were made that were not correct; there is no ventilation in the building; air purification devices have been ordered for all rooms. The School Board will be making decisions regarding moving forward with updates and renovation to ventilation system; there are many factors to consider by the School Board.

Discussion ensued regarding the significant investment the ventilation system would be for the facility. There are many options for the School Board to consider moving forward.

Mr. Felton said, "there may be multiple ways to solve a situation, generally a good idea to get another opinion to see if there are other options to consider."

D. COVID-19 Committee Updates and Recommendations

Mrs. Moriarty reviewed the updated motions regarding quarantine time for travel and those fully vaccinated.

Mr. Felton moved, seconded by Ms. Sharps, to approve a fourteen (14) day quarantine period for anyone who travels outside of New England; including individuals who have been vaccinated for COVID-19 and/or have had COVID-19.

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 NO: --

Motion carries 5-0.

Ms. Sharps moved, seconded by Ms. Coleman, to approve no need to quarantine for people who are fourteen (14) days beyond the second dose of their COVID-19 vaccine.

Discussion ensued regarding CDC and DHHS recommendations, the unknown response of the variance to the COVID-19 vaccination. Confirmation was given that the exception would apply to adults in the building only, as children are currently not being vaccinated.

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

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

Motion carries 5-1.

BUSINESS OF THE BOARD

A. NHSBA Delegate Assembly Update – January 23, 2021

Mr. Heath thanked colleagues for reviewing the Resolutions and arriving at a consensus. Resolutions went as the Board had voted/supported. Resolutions will be sent out to all School Board members. At the end of assembly lengthy discussion was had; the consensus was to direct the Executive Director to write a letter to Governor Sununu requesting that teachers, and staff at schools be moved up higher on list for receiving vaccinations, critical to keep schools going. A copy of the letter will be shared via email.

BUSINESS OF THE SUPERINTENDENT

A. General Operating Expenses

Ms. Sharps moved, seconded by Ms. Coleman, to approve the payment of manifest #2012.

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 NO: --

Motion carries 5-0

Mr. Felton asked if the Sweet Water purchase was for microphones and cables that are being used for meetings? Mrs. Temperino confirmed.

OLD BUSINESS None

NEW BUSINESS

Ms. Sharps wants to be sure that the public knows that the default budget is higher than the proposed budget; need to spread the word to the community if possible. Mrs. Moriarty offered to do a press release in addition to Mr. Ruell's article about the Deliberative Session to inform the community.

POLICY No Action Required

PRIVILEGE OF THE FLOOR #2

Ms. Foote wanted to be sure that it is recognized what everyone is doing from putting together the Winter Rec Program, so many extra things going into what is happening right now instead of just not doing things for the students – that could easily be an option. Important that everyone takes a break

The Board could provide coffee and donuts for staff to show appreciation. Mrs. Avery will let us know what day of the week would be best. Board members noted that the efforts of the staff are reflected in the student's behavior and the overall environment; everyone is going above and beyond for the students and one another.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

A. Tuesday, March 2, 2021

Ashland School Board @ Remote from Ashland Elementary School – Heffernan Media Center (Public Participation via Remote Only)

- School Board Meeting – 6:00 p.m.

B. Tuesday, March 9, 2021 – Town Elections / Voting

C. Tuesday, April 6, 2020

Ashland School Board @ Remote from Ashland Elementary School – Heffernan Media Center (Public Participation via Remote Only)

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

Ms. Sharps indicated the Town’s website did not clearly state that there are two, 2-year terms for School Board for the upcoming elections. Thanks, were extended to Ms. Foote and Mr. Felton for running for election. Mrs. Moriarty will contact Town Hall tomorrow to clarify.

NON-PUBLIC SESSION

Ms. Sharps moved, seconded by Ms. Foote, to enter Non-Public Session in accordance with RSA 91-A:3 II (c) at 7:46 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 NO: --

Motion carries 5-0.

Public Session

Ms. Sharps moved, seconded by Ms. Coleman, to return to Public Session at 7:57 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 NO: --

Motion carries 5-0.

ADJOURNMENT

Ms. Sharps moved, seconded by Ms. Foote, to adjourn at 7:58 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

Corrections from April 8, 2021 School Board Meeting completed. MgM