

ASHLAND SCHOOL BOARD MEETING MINUTES
HEFFERNAN MEDIA CENTER, ASHLAND
January 5, 2010

MEMBERS PRESENT

Mr. Burgess, Chair; Ms. Brown; Mr. Hughes

MEMBERS ABSENT

Mrs. Knowlton, with notice
Mr. Stack, with notice

ADMINISTRATORS PRESENT

Dr. McCormack, Ms. Temperino, Mr. Tirone

OTHERS PRESENT

Mr. Ruell

CALL TO ORDER

Mr. Burgess called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

MINUTES

**A. Regular Meeting,
December 1, 2009**

Ms. Brown moved, Mr. Hughes seconded, that the minutes of the December 1, 2009 regular meeting be approved, as printed and distributed. The vote was unanimously in favor.

**STUDENT/TEACHER
RECOGNITION**

Mr. Tirone reported on the following Students-of-the-Month: John Perry, Kindergarten; Eden Fuller, Grade 1; Kolby Lamson and Ruth Merrill, Grade 2; Ryan Hardy, Grade 3; Tessa Thompson, Grade 4; Lyndsy Stevens, Grade 5; and Abigail Downing, Grade 7.

He also recognized Mr. Brendan Dowd and Ms. Teresa Merrifield as Staff-Members-of-the-Month for their work on the holiday concert, including the presentation of artwork, and their work on the technology grant.

COMMUNICATIONS

A. Superintendent of Schools

None.

**B. Secretary of the School
Board**

None.

**C. Members of the School
Board**

On behalf of the Board, Mr. Burgess expressed condolences to the Samson family, who recently lost Steven Sampson, father of a current Ashland School student and PRHS student.

CURRENT BILLS PAYABLE

**A. General Operating
Expenses**

Mr. Hughes moved, Ms. Brown seconded, that the Board approve the payment of bills, as presented, including manifest #2018 (checks #16496-#16498 in the amount of \$3,370.18), manifest #2019 (checks #16552-#16606 in the amount of \$99,585.48), and an additional manifest, which was distributed by Ms. Temperino, #2020 (checks #16607-#16612 in the amount of \$36,626.62). The vote was unanimously in favor.

FINANCIAL REPORT

Ms. Temperino referred to the budget report in the agenda packet, and noted the following:

FINANCIAL REPORT *(cont'd.)*

- The district has spent down or encumbered \$20,000 since last month throughout the budget, with the largest amount in regular education of \$4,452.
- Based on the tax rate set by the Department of Revenue Administration, the school portion of the tax rate decreased by 0.2143 cents.

Mr. Burgess questioned the unemployment compensation payment. Ms. Temperino explained that the district is billed bi-annually. Mr. Burgess also inquired as to the reason for the increase in the electricity bill. Ms. Temperino explained that the increase occurred just this past month. She will be monitoring it since the district has actually spent less on electricity compared to last year at this time.

PUBLIC INPUT

None.

ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS**A. Superintendent/
Assistant Superintendent**

None.

B. Principal's Report

Mr. Tirone provided the following highlights:

- The school's winter recreation program begins this week.
- The holiday dinner went very well, with high participation. Mr. Tirone noted that the SAU office staff came and helped serve the meal.
- The holiday concert was exceptional and art displays excellent. Attendance was high.
- Basketball season is in full swing.
- The study skills curriculum update has been completed and was distributed by Mr. Tirone in anticipation of the Board's consideration/approval at its next meeting. The music and health curriculum reviews are close to being completed.
- Pending budget approval for 2010-2011, a group of teachers will be attending Responsive Classroom sessions this coming summer.
- The schedule for next year is in the first stages of review and organization.
- There will be a parent conference day in two weeks. Assuming that parents have been in periodic contact with their child(ren)'s teachers, not all parents elect to schedule a conference.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS**A. Second Reading of Policy
#4114.1, Physical
Examinations for School
Employees**

Ms. Brown moved, Mr. Hughes seconded, to approve the second reading of policy #4114.1, Physical Examinations for School Employees, as presented. The vote was unanimously in favor.

**B. Second Reading of Policy
#4117.3, Complaints
and Grievances**

Ms. Brown moved, Mr. Hughes seconded, to approve the second reading of policy #4117.3, Complaints and Grievances, as presented. The vote was unanimously in favor.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS *(cont'd.)*

- C. Second Reading of Policy #4210, Paraprofessionals, Secretaries, Custodians, & Food Service Employees** Ms. Brown moved, Mr. Hughes seconded, to approve the second reading of policy #4210, Paraprofessionals, Secretaries, Custodians, and Food Service Employees, as presented. The vote was unanimously in favor.
- D. 2010-2011 School Budget** Dr. McCormack reported that the meeting with the Budget Committee went well. The information provided by Ms. Temperino on the proposed budget was well received, with all function areas approved unanimously by the committee. Mr. Burgess also commented on the meeting, and thanked Ms. Temperino for her detailed preparation. Ms. Brown also commended the presentation.
- E. SB 2 Preparations** Dr. McCormack noted that the Board had previously discussed the strategies around “getting the word out” about the new process for the district meeting, but it was not brought to closure. He stated the need to discuss this issue further and obtain final direction from the Board.
- Mr. Burgess spoke in support of informal telephone calls to voters, and strongly urged Board members to contact people they know to encourage their attendance at the first session. He also offered to write something for the newspaper for publication before the first and second sessions. Mr. Burgess also supported having a written document either mailed or distributed to parents through students. Discussion ensued.
- Mr. Hughes suggested “holding” a mailing pending the results of the first session. He stated that he has heard some negative comments. It was noted that it will cost approximately \$400 to \$500 to mail a publication.
- Dr. McCormack commented that, if the Board thinks it will be criticized for spending money to mail a publication, perhaps it could choose to only do one mailing. With the passage of SB 2, it is now the responsibility of the Board to make efforts to inform voters. The budget can change at the first session. A publication would fill the “void” for people who do not attend the first session. Dr. McCormack encouraged sending home a reminder with students of the date/time of the first session.
- Ms. Brown suggested putting up informative posters around town with the date, time and purpose of the first session.
- Mr. Burgess asked if phone blasts are effective/well received. Mr. Tirone stated yes. Mr. Burgess suggested one could be done on the day before the meeting.
- The consensus of the Board was to have Mr. Tirone send a reminder notice home with students on January 29th and February 3rd. He will also do up posters (in consultation with the SAU office regarding the wording), and Ms. Brown will deliver the posters to town businesses for posting (including the school, town hall, post office, parks and recreation, library).

E. SB 2 Preparations (*cont'd.*) Discussion ensued regarding the type of budget publication that could be done. A sample of a larger school district's publication was shown. It was noted that developing such a publication would be time consuming. Also discussed was what information should be included and the format of the publication. Dr. McCormack recommended that a publication be sent out prior to the vote – after first session results are known.

The consensus of the Board was to make the above efforts to encourage attendance at the first session. It is important for voters to be present for the Board's explanation of the budget.

Mr. Hughes spoke in favor of an overhead presentation of the budget at the first session. Ms. Temperino suggested that some of the information in the budget handout which is annually prepared could be used for a power point presentation.

Some discussion ensued regarding what the voters can do at the first session, i.e., amending the budget up or down. It was noted that the default budget set by the Board cannot be amended by the voters.

In response to Mr. Burgess's inquiry, Dr. McCormack briefly explained the process for the first session with regard to the warrant, i.e., articles are discussed and can be amended by the voters, but are then "forwarded" for inclusion on the ballot for voting.

Mr. Hughes suggested contacting the New Hampton town administrator regarding what that town does to advertise its first session. Mr. Hughes also suggested inviting Mr. Ruell and members of the budget committee to "sit in on" the administrative meeting at which a power point presentation is discussed.

In response to Dr. McCormack's suggestion, the Board directed him to contact the school district's attorney to have her present at the first session.

Mr. Ruell suggested that the Board be prepared to discuss the district's cost per student at the first session.

Ms. Temperino noted that the 2007-2008 cost per student for Ashland is "in the middle". This could be included in the power point presentation.

NEW BUSINESS

A. First Reading of Policy #5127, Admission of Homeless Students

Ms. Brown moved, Mr. Hughes seconded, to approve a first reading of policy #5127, Admission of Homeless Students, as presented.

Dr. McCormack noted that the proposed revisions to the policy include an appeal procedure.

Mr. Burgess noted the following: on page 1, #6, *accommodations* should be single. Also, on page 3, "... appeal may be made to *the* New Hampshire Department ...".

NEW BUSINESS**A. First Reading of Policy #5127, Admission of Homeless Students**
(cont'd.)

On page 2, under enrollment, third paragraph, Mr. Burgess asked what occurs if a child does not have an immunization record. Dr. McCormack stated that they would be admitted and then it would be pursued. Some discussion ensued regarding scenarios in this case.

Under the enrollment appeal, Mr. Burgess asked if it was intentional to have all appeals “skip” the principal. Dr. McCormack stated yes.

Some discussion ensued regarding the definitions listed of “homeless”.

The vote on the motion was unanimously in favor.

B. First Reading of Policy #6170.1, Determination of a Specific Learning Disability

Mr. Hughes moved, Ms. Brown seconded, to approve a first reading of policy #6170.1, Determination of a Specific Learning Disability, as presented. The vote was unanimously in favor.

Dr. McCormack noted that this policy is a requirement of the Department of Education.

C. 2010-2011 School Year Calendar

Ms. Brown moved, Mr. Hughes seconded, to approve the 2010-2011 school year calendar, as proposed.

Dr. McCormack noted that the proposed calendar was distributed to staff over a month ago. It was also discussed with the Superintendent of SAU 48 who indicated that it was his intent to propose a similar calendar, especially with respect to vacations. Two comments on the calendar from Ashland staff included taking a half or full day on December 23, and a half day on the last day of school. Dr. McCormack stated that he did not change the proposed calendar to reflect these suggestions. Some discussion ensued.

Dr. McCormack stated that he will fax a copy of the proposed calendar to the PRHS principal tomorrow to ensure coordination with the week-long vacations, in particular.

The vote on the motion was 2 in favor; Mr. Hughes was opposed. The motion passed.

D. NHSBA Resolutions

Copies of the proposed resolutions for the January 16th Delegate Assembly were distributed. Mr. Burgess noted that, in the past, the Board has neither taken a stand on the proposals nor attended the Delegate Assembly. If any Board member wishes to attend the assembly, the district would reimburse him/her for expenses. Board members were encouraged to review the information distributed and direct questions to the central office administration. Based upon the schedule and what is being offered under the “hot topics” discussion this year, Dr. McCormack stated that he does not intend to attend the session this year.

E. Approval of Default Budget

Ms. Temperino distributed copies of a revised default budget from what was included with the agenda packet previously mailed to the Board. The one change is reflected under support services, instructional staff services, by taking out the \$10,000 for computers. This was done to be consistent with the way the default budget was developed, i.e., not including those things which have been ongoing/on cycle as a one-time expenditure. The total of the default budget is \$2,979,634, which is greater than the Board's proposed budget.

Ms. Temperino explained how the default budget is developed, using legal obligations as a guide, and cited examples of such.

Mr. Hughes moved, Ms. Brown seconded, to approve the default budget for the 2010 warrant, as presented. The vote was unanimously in favor.

Copies of the default budget were distributed for Board members' signatures.

ADDITIONAL BUSINESS**A. Members of the School**

Mr. Hughes inquired as to the status of the gym renovations, which were discussed at last year's district meeting. Dr. McCormack explained that it was discussed during a time when stimulus money was being developed. Some discussion ensued regarding the ability of the gym roof to hold snow. The engineer indicated that there is no safety issue. Also, the addition of storage space, new lighting, windows, won't be done due to economic times.

Mr. Hughes asked if it would be possible to change the Board's meeting night. Dr. McCormack suggested that it wait until after the elections to poll all Board members. Mr. Hughes stated that he will not be able to continue to attend the meetings if they are held on the first Tuesday of the month. If the night cannot be changed, he will need to resign. Mr. Burgess spoke in support of waiting until after elections. Some discussion ensued. It was suggested that this be brought up under the reorganization of the Board at its next meeting following the elections.

B. Members of the Administration

None.

C. Citizens at the Meeting

None.

Mr. Ruell responded to a question raised by Ms. Temperino regarding the format of the budget packet for the public hearing.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

**A. Ashland School District Budget Committee Public Hearing
Thursday, January 14, 2010, 7:00 p.m.
Ashland Elementary School Cafeteria, Ashland**

**B. Ashland School Board Meeting
Tuesday, February 2, 2010, 7:00 p.m.
(Policy Review Committee to meet at 6:00 p.m.)
Heffernan Media Center, Ashland**

ANNOUNCEMENTS *(cont'd.)*

**C. Ashland School District First (Deliberative) Session
Thursday, February 4, 2010, 7:00 p.m.
Ashland Elementary School Gymnasium, Ashland**

NON-PUBLIC SESSION

At 8:22 p.m., Ms. Brown moved, Mr. Hughes seconded, that the Board move into non-public session under R.S.A. 91-A:3 11c for the purpose of discussing student personnel. A unanimous roll call vote was taken.

The Board returned to public session at 8:35 p.m. upon a motion made by Ms. Brown, seconded by Mr. Hughes, and unanimously approved.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the Board, at 8:35 p.m., upon a motion made by Mr. Hughes, seconded by Ms. Brown, the meeting was adjourned by a unanimous vote in favor.

Respectfully Submitted,

Jodi Lamoureux
Recording Secretary

NON-PUBLIC SESSION I

MEMBERS PRESENT

Mr. Burgess, Chair; Ms. Brown; Mr. Hughes

MEMBERS ABSENT

Mrs. Knowlton, with notice
Mr. Stack, with notice

ADMINISTRATORS PRESENT

Dr. McCormack, Ms. Temperino, Mr. Tirone

At 8:22 p.m., Dr. McCormack updated the Board relative to a student personnel issue.

Mr. Hughes moved, Ms. Brown seconded, that the Board authorize the administration to hire a paraeducator for four hours per day for the kindergarten class through the remainder of the 2009-2010 school year. The vote was unanimously in favor.

At 8:35 p.m., Mr. Hughes moved, Ms. Brown seconded, that the Board return to public session. The vote was unanimously in favor.