

**ASHLAND SCHOOL BOARD MEETING MINUTES
HEFFERNAN MEDIA CENTER, ASHLAND
March 2, 2010**

MEMBERS PRESENT

Mr. Burgess, Chair; Ms. Brown; Mr. Hughes; Mrs. Knowlton; Mr. Stack

MEMBERS ABSENT

None

ADMINISTRATORS PRESENT

Dr. McCormack, Ms. Temperino, Mr. Tirone

OTHERS PRESENT

Mr. Ruell
Mr. Bruce Parsons, Principal, Plymouth Regional High School
Ms. Catherine Hahn, Chair, Pemi-Baker School Board

CALL TO ORDER

Mr. Burgess called the meeting to order at 7:02 p.m.

MINUTES

**A. Regular Meeting,
February 2, 2010**

Ms. Brown moved, Mr. Stack seconded, that the minutes of the February 2, 2010 regular meeting be approved, as printed and distributed. The vote was unanimously in favor, with Mr. Hughes abstaining.

This being Mr. Burgess's last meeting, at this time, Mrs. Knowlton presented him with a card, gift certificate, and a plaque in appreciation of his 12 years of service on the school board. The plaque read as follows:

Rick Burgess

*In appreciation for 12 years of dedicated service
to the Ashland School Board, SAU 2, the children,
staff and administration of the Ashland Elementary School.
We sincerely thank you.*

Mr. Burgess received a round of applause. He expressed his thanks and noted that it has been an enjoyable experience.

**STUDENT/TEACHER
RECOGNITION**

Mr. Tirone reported on the following Students-of-the-Month: Cierra Moore, Kindergarten; Dani Marsh and Emily Wendelboe, Grade 1; Alycia Poitras, Grade 2; Keenan Morris, Grade 3; Dylan Davis-Lamson, Grade 4; Morgan Buyer, Grade 5; Zachary Crowley, Grade 6; Alannah LeBlanc and Lauren Paquette, Grade 7; and Allen Reynolds, Grade 8.

He also recognized Mr. Steve Heath and Ms. Sarah Davis as Staff-Members-of-the-Month in recognition of Mr. Heath's work on the winter carnival and recreation program, and Ms. Davis for her work on the "I Love to Read and Write" program, and the budget publication.

GUEST SPEAKER

Mr. Parsons addressed the Board regarding the performance of Ashland students at Plymouth Regional High School during the first semester of their freshman year. He distributed a handout, and thanked Mr. Price from PRHS for his work on putting the information together. Mr. Parsons spoke to the handout which showed the number of Ashland students and how they are doing in English, math, science, social studies and world language in the respective grades.

Mr. Parsons also spoke about the enrichment class which he helps teach and how well Ashland students are doing in the class. It speaks well of AES's teachers and their preparation of the students.

Mr. Parsons commented briefly on the NECAP results at PRHS. He noted a weakness in the math results, and explained how they are addressing it, including moving to an every day math program and scheduling changes.

Mrs. Knowlton commented favorably on how well Ashland students have done at PRHS.

Mr. Hughes inquired about whether PRHS has a drug and alcohol program. Mr. Parsons noted that they do not have a program, but they do have a no tolerance policy. Their preventative measures are handled by the guidance staff and social worker. They do not have a specific drug and alcohol counselor. Mr. Parsons spoke to the types of preventative strategies they use.

Mr. Stack spoke in favor of an every day math program.

Further discussion ensued. Mr. Parsons invited Board members to visit the school at any time.

COMMUNICATIONS

A. Superintendent of Schools None.

B. Secretary of the School Board None.

C. Members of the School Board None.

CURRENT BILLS PAYABLE

A. General Operating Expenses Mr. Stack moved, Ms. Brown seconded, that the Board approve the payment of bills, as presented, including manifest #2023 (checks #16775-#16817 in the amount of \$67,060.53) and manifest #2024 (checks #16667-#16718 in the amount of \$45,237.04). 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 \$17,031 since last month.
- Spending has been evenly distributed throughout the budget. We have finally received IDEA grant approval. We may begin requesting funds at the end of the quarter.
- Revenues remain stable. At this time, only \$2,500 has been received in Medicaid revenue. This will be watched.
- Fuel oil consumption is down 1,100 gallons from this time last year. Electricity usage is up, but holding stable.
- The food service program continues to make good progress in reducing its deficit.

PUBLIC INPUT

None.

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

Dr. McCormack noted an article from *The New York Times* regarding the latest update on NCLB. He stated that he had attended a session on ARRA funds at Carol Shea Porter's headquarters in Portsmouth, where there was also a status report on the reauthorization of NCLB by her staff. The biggest issue relates to a goal of 100% proficiency scores by a certain year. This will be changing, as well as the sanctions for schools which do not meet it. The federal government is working on doing away with the "negative" aspect of the legislation.

Dr. McCormack also referred Board members to the copy of the budget publication which was distributed earlier this evening. He complimented the work done on the report, and feels it will better prepare voters. He asked Board members to notify him of any feedback which would help with future publications.

Mr. Burgess and other Board members also complimented the job done on the publication.

Mr. Tirone noted that 900 copies were mailed out, and copies were also distributed to the town office and library.

B. Principal's Report

Mr. Tirone provided the following highlights:

- Sarah Davis' work on the publication was recognized, as well as staff members who helped put it together in preparation for mailing. They were mailed today.
- Basketball season has ended; spring sports have begun.
- Grade 8 will be going to PRHS next week for another visit during the school day to become more acclimated.
- Cultural Arts Night will be held March 17th at PRHS.
- This Friday, the Lakes Region Music Festival is being held at Kennett. Nine Ashland students will be attending.
- TIGER, a production put on by the Plymouth State University performing group, will be coming March 31st. The subject is "going green". Workshops will be conducted for the students, and the group will be putting on a one-hour play.
- Winter Carnival was held before vacation. There was lots of participation, good sportsmanship, and lots of fun.

B. Principal's Report *(cont'd.)*

- "I Love to Read and Write" week was held just prior to vacation. Many adults were invited to come read. Rick Charette was also invited to perform again.
- The staff is beginning to gear up for next year; they are currently looking at scheduling.
- Meetings on the language arts curriculum revision have been held. It is scheduled to be completed next year.
- Progress reports will be issued soon.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS**A. Third/Final Reading of Policy #5127, Admission of Homeless Students**

Mrs. Knowlton moved, Ms. Brown seconded, to approve a third and final reading of policy #5127, Admission of Homeless Students, as presented. The vote was unanimously in favor.

B. Third/Final Reading of Policy #6170.1, Determination of a Specific Learning Disability

Ms. Brown moved, Mrs. Knowlton seconded, to approve a third and final reading of policy #6170.1, Determination of a Specific Learning Disability, as presented. The vote was unanimously in favor.

C. Adoption of Music Curriculum

Mr. Stack moved, Ms. Brown seconded, to adopt the proposed music curriculum, as presented.

In response to Mr. Burgess's inquiry, Mr. Tirone spoke briefly to the revisions to the curriculum.

The vote was unanimously in favor.

D. Adoption of Health Curriculum

Mrs. Knowlton moved, Mr. Hughes seconded, to adopt the proposed health curriculum, as presented. The vote was unanimously in favor.

Mr. Burgess thanked the committees for their work.

NEW BUSINESS**A. First Reading of Policy #4134, Tutoring for Pay**

Mrs. Knowlton moved, Mr. Stack seconded, to approve a first reading of policy #4134, Tutoring for Pay, as presented.

In response to Mr. Hughes' inquiry, Mr. Tirone spoke to the hourly rate paid to tutors and for what purposes tutors are hired.

The vote was unanimously in favor.

B. NECAP Results

Mr. Tirone addressed the Board regarding the results of the fall NECAP testing. Information was distributed relative to the reading and math results. He noted that writing was not tested this year. Mr. Tirone reviewed the results, as indicated in the handout. He noted that the staff is in the process of analyzing the data, identifying strengths and weaknesses, with written documentation to be provided on how they will address improving the results through the curriculum. Mr. Tirone stated that he feels the Title I math position will help.

Regarding Grade 6 reading results, Mr. Tirone noted the significant above state average score achieved by AES students.

B. NECAP Results *(cont'd.)*

Mr. Burgess commented that, looking at the math scores, it looks like students are improving from previous years. Mr. Tirone confirmed this, as well as reiterating the plan to continue improving.

A school summary of the results was also distributed and reviewed.

Dr. McCormack noted that the AYP report will be issued next month; this is the "other half" of the test results.

ADDITIONAL BUSINESS

A. Members of the School

In response to Mr. Burgess' inquiry, Mr. Tirone noted that the issue regarding a request from a neighbor to tap into the school's sewer line has been resolved.

B. Members of the Administration

None.

C. Citizens at the Meeting

None.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

**A. Ashland School District Second (Voting) Session
Tuesday, March 9, 2010, 9:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m.
Ashland Elementary School Gymnasium, Ashland**

B. Ashland School Board, Special Meeting (to Elect Professional Staff)

The consensus of the Board was to hold a special meeting on March 11th beginning at 5:30 p.m. for the purpose of reorganizing the Board and electing professional staff for the 2010-2011 school year.

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

NON-PUBLIC SESSION

At 8:13 p.m., Ms. Brown moved, Mr. Stack seconded, that the Board move into non-public session under R.S.A. 91-A:3 IIc for the purpose of discussing staff personnel. A unanimous roll call vote was taken.

The Board returned to public session at 8:26 p.m. upon a motion made by Mr. Stack, seconded by Mrs. Knowlton, and unanimously approved.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the Board, at 8:26 p.m., upon a motion made by Mr. Stack, seconded by Mrs. Knowlton, 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; Mrs. Knowlton; Mr. Stack

MEMBERS ABSENT

None

ADMINISTRATORS PRESENT

Dr. McCormack, Ms. Temperino, Mr. Tirone

At 8:13 p.m., the Board discussed a proposed personnel policy. The consensus of the Board was to forward it for first reading at the next school board meeting.

NON-PUBLIC SESSION II

MEMBERS PRESENT

Mr. Burgess, Chair; Ms. Brown; Mr. Hughes; Mrs. Knowlton; Mr. Stack

MEMBERS ABSENT

None

ADMINISTRATORS PRESENT

Dr. McCormack, Ms. Temperino, Mr. Tirone

At 8:18 p.m., the Board discussed a concern from parents brought to the attention of a Board member.

NON-PUBLIC SESSION III

MEMBERS PRESENT

Mr. Burgess, Chair; Ms. Brown; Mr. Hughes; Mrs. Knowlton; Mr. Stack

MEMBERS ABSENT

None

ADMINISTRATORS PRESENT

Dr. McCormack, Ms. Temperino, Mr. Tirone

At 8:20 p.m., Dr. McCormack distributed copies of his self evaluation and progress on goals for 2009-2010.

At 8:26 p.m., Mr. Stack moved, Mrs. Knowlton seconded, that the Board return to public session. The vote was unanimously in favor.