

ASHLAND SCHOOL BOARD REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
HEFFERNAN MEDIA CENTER, ASHLAND
April 6, 2010

MEMBERS PRESENT

Mrs. Knowlton, Ms. D'Ambruoso, Mr. Hughes, Ms. Lamson

MEMBERS ABSENT

Mr. Stack, without notice

ADMINISTRATORS PRESENT

Dr. McCormack, Ms. Temperino, Mr. Tirone

OTHERS PRESENT

Mr. Ruell

CALL TO ORDER

Mrs. Knowlton, acting chair, called the meeting to order at 7:03 p.m.

INTRODUCTION OF BOARD MEMBERS

Board member and administrator introductions were made for the benefit of new Board members.

PUBLIC INPUT

Elizabeth Corrow addressed the Board regarding an incident involving her daughter. In response to being asked, she stated that she did not want to go into non-public session to discuss it. She spoke to the incident involving cell phones and her daughter's discipline which she felt was excessive for the infraction. She asked that the school board discuss and reconsider its policy relative to electronics, and discuss students' right to privacy relative to random backpack searches since she had challenged Mr. Tirone's interpretation of his authority to do so.

Mrs. Knowlton assured her the Board would be reviewing the district's electronics policy and will notify her of any revisions, if proposed.

Dr. McCormack briefly reviewed the Board's policy review process. In response to Mr. Hughes' suggestion, Dr. McCormack stated that the Policy Review Committee does look at the NHSBA's model policies during its review of policies.

REORGANIZATION OF THE BOARD

In the absence of Mr. Stack, this agenda item was passed over until all Board members could be present.

- A. Chairman
- B. Vice Chairman
- C. Secretary
- D. Delegate
- E. Policy Review Committee
- F. Budget Committee

MINUTES

- A. Regular Meeting,
March 2, 2010

Ms. Lamson moved, Ms. D'Ambruoso seconded, to approve the minutes of the regular meeting of March 2, 2010, as printed and distributed. The vote was 2 in favor; Ms. D'Ambruoso and Ms. Lamson did not vote and, thus, were recorded with the majority. Motion passed.

**A. Special Meeting,
March 11, 2010**

Mr. Hughes moved, Ms. Lamson seconded, to approve the minutes of the special meeting of March 11, 2010, as printed and distributed. The vote was 2 in favor; Ms. D'Ambruoso and Ms. Lamson did not vote and, thus, were recorded with the majority. Motion passed.

**STUDENT/TEACHER
RECOGNITION**

Mr. Tirone reported on the following Students-of-the-Month: Kurtis Cross, Kindergarten; John Ulricson, Grade 1; Emily Giguere, Grade 2; Makenna Straw, Grade 3; Keanu Stevens, Grade 4; David Jiang, Grade 5; Myaah Swanson, Grade 6; Abigail Downing, Austin Graton, Robert Merrill, Jessica Noyes and Mackenzie Welch, Grade 7; and Andressa Freitag and Quinlan Smith, Grade 8.

Mr. Tirone also recognized the following inductees into this year's National Junior Honor Society, the ceremony to be held April 15th: Abigail Downing, Andressa Freitag, Jessica Noyes, and Quinlan Smith.

He also recognized as Staff-Members-of-the-Month: Mr. Tuttle for his research and work on the school's technology system; Ms. Gray for her role as school secretary and all that encompasses; and Mr. Dowd and Ms. Merrifield for their work on Cultural Arts Night.

COMMUNICATIONS

A. Superintendent of Schools

Dr. McCormack circulated a thank you card received from Mr. Burgess.

**B. Secretary of the
School Board**

None.

**C. Members of the
School Board**

None.

CURRENT BILLS PAYABLE

**A. General Operating
Expenses**

Mr. Hughes moved, Ms. Lamson seconded, that the Board approve the payment of bills, as presented, including manifest #2025 (checks #16843-#16845 in the amount of \$3,469.79) and manifest #2026 (checks #16867-#16937 in the amount of \$114,989.73). The vote was unanimously in favor.

FINANCIAL REPORT

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

- The district has spent down or encumbered \$28,473 since last month (evenly distributed throughout the budget).
- There has been no change in revenues since last month.
- The district is down 1,169 gallons in fuel oil usage from this time last year. The tanks will be filled before the contract for this year runs out.
- There has been little change in electricity usage over the past few months.
- The Food Services deficit has been reduced from \$4,100 to \$3,200 this month.

Ms. Temperino distributed the MS 22 budget form for Board members' signatures.

FINANCIAL REPORT *(cont'd.)*

Ms. Temperino offered to assist new Board members by explaining the financial report in greater detail at a separate time.

PUBLIC INPUT

Taken up previously.

ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS**A. Superintendent/Assistant Superintendent Report****1. Health Insurance Rate Finalized**

Dr. McCormack explained the guaranteed maximum rate for 2010-2011 health insurance premiums, and reported that the final rate shows a reduction of 5.4 percent from November's estimated rate of 26.3 percent. The new rate is 20.9 percent and will result in a savings of approximately \$17,000 to the district from what has been budgeted. He stated that it is his recommendation to the Board that these savings be set aside and, barring some catastrophic issue, this money not be spent. He noted that the amount budgeted was based on a good faith estimate.

B. Principal's Report

Mr. Tirone provided the following highlights:

- A Title I onsite was held today by NH Department of Education staff. Many Ashland School staff participated, as did parents and students, Dr. McCormack and he. It was an extensive review of the school's Title I program and recordkeeping. Mr. Tirone stated that he feels it went well.
- Mr. Tirone announced that Ashland Elementary School made AYP again this year. He noted that the school has made AYP every year since NECAP testing began. He briefly noted the process if schools don't make AYP.
- Report cards will be issued on Friday for the third quarter.
- Softball and baseball games begin next week.
- A TIGER presentation was held last week by Plymouth State University students. They presented a skit on the school's theme (conservation) and also visited classrooms.
- Mr. Tirone announced the school theme for next year -- "Change". Developing thoughts on how to implement the theme into lessons will begin soon.
- As noted earlier, the induction ceremony for the National Junior Honor Society will be held April 15th.
- Kindergarten registration for 2010-2011 will be held in May.
- End-of-year activities are being planned/scheduled now, including the 8th grade trip to Boston.
- Graduation will be held June 11th at 7:00 in the gymnasium.
- The annual Penny Sale will be held May 1st. Proceeds go toward the high school scholarship fund.
- Mr. Heath, Ms. Soule and Mr. Metcalfe are scheduled to attend a NECAP science workshop in May at the Department of Education.
- Mr. Durand and he attended a lead paint seminar in Meredith yesterday. Mr. Tirone noted that any projects done at the school must follow proper procedures.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

A. Policy #4134, Tutoring for Pay Mr. Hughes moved, Ms. Lamson seconded, to approve a second reading of policy #4134, Tutoring for Pay, as presented. The vote was unanimously in favor.

NEW BUSINESS

A. Policy #4131, Reimbursement for Courses Ms. D’Ambruoso moved, Ms. Lamson seconded, to rescind policy #4131, Reimbursement for Courses. The vote was unanimously in favor.

It was noted that the wording in the policy is contained in the agreement between the Ashland Education Association and the Ashland School Board.

B. Policy #4131.1, Support Staff Professional Learning Mr. Lamson moved, Ms. D’Ambruoso seconded, to approve a first reading of policy #4131.1, Support Staff Professional Learning, as presented. The vote was unanimously in favor.

C. Policy #4144, Insurance Mr. Hughes moved, Ms. Lamson seconded, to approve a first reading of policy #4144, Insurance, as presented. The vote was unanimously in favor.

Dr. McCormack noted that he and Mr. Tirone met with non-bargaining staff regarding the proposed policy. No objections were raised.

D. Policy #4145, Degree Status and Salary Adjustments Ms. Lamson moved, Ms. D’Ambruoso seconded, to rescind policy #4145, Degree Status and Salary Adjustments. The vote was unanimously in favor. It was again noted that this policy’s wording is contained in the bargaining agreement.

ADDITIONAL BUSINESS

A. Members of the School Board

1. Consideration of Board Meeting Night Change Mr. Hughes reiterated his request to change the night of the school board meetings due to another commitment he has on the first and second Tuesday of the month. Some discussion ensued.

Mr. Hughes moved, Ms. D’Ambruoso seconded, to move the school board meetings to the third Tuesday of the month, beginning next month (May). The vote was unanimously in favor.

B. Members of the Administration Mr. Tirone noted the school newsletter that was distributed to Board members prior to the meeting. He stated that the publication is issued quarterly to parents and all teachers are required to provide input.

C. Citizens at the Meeting None.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

**A. Ashland School Board Meeting
Tuesday, May 4*, 2010, 7:00 p.m.
(*changed to May 18, 2010 based on Board action this evening.)
(Policy Review Committee - cancelled)
Heffernan Media Center, Ashland**

ANNOUNCEMENTS *(cont'd.)*

B. SAU #2 Annual Meeting

Thursday, May 6, 2010, 6:30 p.m.

Room 113 ~~Heffernan Media Center~~, Ashland Elementary School

Ms. D'Ambruoso stated that she would not be able to attend the SAU Board meeting on May 6th due to a previous commitment.

NON-PUBLIC SESSION

At 7:52 p.m., Ms. Lamson moved, Mr. Hughes seconded, that the Board move into non-public session under R.S.A. 91-A:3 IIc for the purpose of discussing staff and student personnel. A unanimous roll call vote was taken.

The Board returned to public session at 8:25 p.m. upon a motion made by Ms. Lamson, seconded by Ms. D'Ambruoso, and unanimously approved.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the Board, at 8:27 p.m., upon a motion made by Ms. Lamson, seconded by Ms. D'Ambruoso, the meeting was adjourned by a unanimous vote in favor.

Respectfully Submitted,

Jodi Lamoureux
Recording Secretary

NON-PUBLIC SESSION I

MEMBERS PRESENT

Ms. D'Ambruoso, Mr. Hughes; Mrs. Knowlton; Ms. Lamson

MEMBERS ABSENT

Mr. Stack, without notice

ADMINISTRATORS PRESENT

Dr. McCormack, Ms. Temperino, Mr. Tirone

At 7:52 p.m., the Board discussed a request by a legal guardian to have her grandchild finish the 2009-2010 school year in kindergarten at Ashland Elementary School. It was noted that the situation is new and the child, who does not meet the age requirement for kindergarten in Ashland, has been attending a full-day kindergarten program this year from where she came.

Mr. Hughes moved, Ms. D'Ambruoso seconded, to waive policy #5111, Entrance to School, for the purpose of allowing the child to attend Ashland Elementary School for the remainder of the 2009-2010 school year. The vote was 3 in favor; Ms. Lamson abstained from voting. The motion passed.

NON-PUBLIC SESSION II

MEMBERS PRESENT

Ms. D'Ambruoso, Mr. Hughes; Mrs. Knowlton; Ms. Lamson

MEMBERS ABSENT

Mr. Stack, without notice

ADMINISTRATORS PRESENT

Dr. McCormack, Ms. Temperino, Mr. Tirone

At 8:02 p.m., the Board discussed a request for a waiver of policy #5111, Entrance to School, which, if granted, would allow a child with a birthdate of September 15th to attend kindergarten in 2010-2011.

Ms. Lamson moved, Mr. Hughes seconded, that the Board waive policy #5111, Entrance to School, for the purpose of approving the request for a kindergarten attendance waiver, as presented. The vote was unanimously in favor.

NON-PUBLIC SESSION III

MEMBERS PRESENT

Ms. D'Ambruoso, Mr. Hughes; Mrs. Knowlton; Ms. Lamson

MEMBERS ABSENT

Mr. Stack, without notice

ADMINISTRATORS PRESENT

Dr. McCormack, Ms. Temperino, Mr. Tirone

At 8:04 p.m., Dr. McCormack informed the Board of his intent to use Title I carryover money to rehire a staff member for Title I math for 2010-2011. This is contingent upon the NH Department of Education's approval of funds.

NON-PUBLIC SESSION IV

MEMBERS PRESENT

Ms. D’Ambruoso, Mr. Hughes; Mrs. Knowlton; Ms. Lamson

MEMBERS ABSENT

Mr. Stack, without notice

ADMINISTRATORS PRESENT

Dr. McCormack

At 8:08 p.m., the Board discussed the evaluation of the Superintendent of Schools for 2009-2010.

The Board returned to public session at 8:25 p.m. upon a motion made by Ms. Lamson, seconded by Ms. D’Ambruoso, and unanimously approved.