

**ASHLAND SCHOOL BOARD MEETING MINUTES
HEFFERNAN MEDIA CENTER, ASHLAND**

June 22, 2009

MEMBERS PRESENT

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

MEMBERS ABSENT

Mr. Hughes, with notice

ADMINISTRATORS PRESENT

Dr. McCormack, Ms. Temperino, Mr. Tirone

OTHERS PRESENT

Mr. Ruell
Steven Heath

CALL TO ORDER

Mr. Burgess called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m., and moved to the second item on the agenda.

**STUDENT/TEACHER
RECOGNITION**

Mr. Burgess recognized and thanked Steven Heath for his 20 years of service as a coach for the girls' basketball and soccer teams. On behalf of the Board, he presented a plaque to Mr. Heath. A round of applause was given to Mr. Heath. Mr. Heath responded to the Board's recognition, noting that he enjoyed all the years he spent coaching.

Mr. Tirone also informed the Board that Ashland School established the "Steve Heath Athletic Participation Award," annually given to two students, a male and a female athlete. A plaque, with the students' names engraved, is displayed in the showcase near the school's entrance. Mr. Tirone also thanked Mr. Heath for his years of dedication as a coach.

MINUTES

**A. Regular Meeting,
June 2, 2009**

Mrs. Knowlton moved, Mr. Stack seconded, that the minutes of the June 2, 2009 regular meeting be approved, as printed and distributed.

Mr. Burgess made the following corrections:

- On page 1, under Minutes, it should be noted that Mr. Stack abstained from voting on approval of the May 5, 2009 minutes.
- On page 5, under Adjournment, it should be noted that Ms. Brown made the motion to adjourn, with Mrs. Knowlton seconding the motion.

The vote on approval of the June 2, 2009 minutes, as corrected, was unanimously in favor.

COMMUNICATIONS

A. Superintendent of Schools None.

COMMUNICATIONS *(cont'd.)*

B. Secretary of the School Board None.

C. Members of the School Board None.

CURRENT BILLS PAYABLE

A. General Operating Expenses Ms. Brown moved, Mr. Stack seconded, that the Board approve the payment of bills, as presented.

Ms. Temperino distributed two additional manifests, as well as a corrected manifest #2032 (originally included with the agenda).

The manifests included checks #15766-#15795 in the amount of \$24,166.36; checks #15796-15806 in the amount of \$2,112.84; and check #15807 in the amount of \$430.19.

The vote was unanimously in favor.

FINANCIAL REPORT

Ms. Temperino spoke to a projected 2008-2009 year-end surplus in the amount of \$229,000, resulting from:

- \$48,043 in excess revenue due to unanticipated money from reimbursed legal fees and demolition costs
- \$48,405 related to fuel carryover money which was not needed
- Approximately \$47,000 savings related to personnel changes
- \$10,150 from unused special education transportation
- \$24,290 from unused contracted nursing services
- \$16,000 in special education tuition savings
- \$11,617 in other facility-related items
- Small balances in the following accounts: supplies, maintenance and repair, contracted services, conference and travel, and transportation

Mr. Burgess applauded all those responsible for contributing to the surplus by being fiscally responsible.

PUBLIC INPUT

None.

ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS

**A. Superintendent/
Assistant Superintendent**

1. State Budget

Dr. McCormack reported that the proposed state budget has come out of Conference Committee and it appears that building aid will be fully funded, but it will not impact Ashland. Catastrophic aid has been like a “roller coaster” – coming in at around 72% (latest figure). Adequacy will be fully funded. Still in discussion is the amount the state will contribute toward the retirement system, where it is looking to reduce its contribution from 35% to 30%. If this occurs, local taxpayers would be impacted. Dr. McCormack encouraged Board members to contact their representatives regarding this issue.

1. State Budget (cont'd.)

Mr. Stack questioned, and Ms. Temperino responded as to the impact of a 5% reduction in the retirement contribution. The “trickle down” is not known at this time since all employee groups would be included, not just teachers.

Mr. Burgess emphasized that the full Senate and House still must vote on the budget and, because the two chambers have significant differences of opinion on how to cure the budget gap (primarily over revenue), the final budget may be different than the budget that has come out of the Committee of Conference. Mr. Burgess cited the differences between the Senate and House on the issue of expanding legalized gambling as an example of these differences.

B. Principal's Report

Mr. Tirone provided the following highlights:

- School representatives were selected to make a presentation in Meredith regarding the recent technology grant award that Ashland School received. If the Board is interested in seeing the presentation, they would be glad to attend a future Board meeting.
- Ashland is coming up on the 20th year of the high school being closed. At the time, a time capsule was buried. A committee will be looking at how to celebrate the opening of the time capsule, which is scheduled to occur on Memorial Day, 2010. They are also looking at inviting former staff and students to the event.
- Kindergarten graduation went very well. Mr. Tirone noted that Mrs. Willey did a nice job organizing it.
- Eighth grade graduation also went well.
- The 8th grade participated in Community Service Day at Geneva Point by constructing kiosks.
- Class day was successful.
- End-of-year activities included athletic award presentations, class trips, and beach day (this year's weather was disappointing).
- During the teachers' last day, they completed a district education improvement survey, i.e., how successful we were at meeting our goals. Results will be tabulated this summer.
- Student digital portfolios were done this year – the students take them when they move on.
- Summer maintenance has already begun.
- The school's Title I and special education summer programs begin July 7th.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS**A. Stimulus Planning Update**

Mr. Tirone reported that they have applied for stimulus funding for a Title I math program to begin in September. He referred to NECAP scores as the reason for applying. They are awaiting federal approval. Once approved, the program would be used in kindergarten through grade 5. It would not be a pullout program; however, this could occur if necessary. They want it to be part of a team teaching model, and a part-time teacher would be hired for this purpose. The teacher would implement models for differentiated instruction so teachers are well equipped to teach different levels of math.

A. Stimulus Planning Update
(*cont'd.*)

Some discussion ensued, with Mr. Tirone responding to Board members' questions for further clarification of those students who would benefit from the new program, as well as the responsibilities of the additional teacher. He further clarified that this position would be combined with a half-time paraeducator position that is district-funded.

Mr. Tirone spoke to the special education piece of the grant. It is expected that the money received will be spent on materials and equipment. Further discussions will be held with Mr. DiCecca.

Mr. Tirone clarified that the math program is for one year, but could extend into two. Dr. McCormack clarified the new regulations regarding the ability to carry over some of the stimulus money.

B. Other - "Growing Dome" Project

At this time, Mr. Tirone noted another project involving next year's "Conservation" theme -- a greenhouse dome project -- and invited Mr. Heath to speak to the Board about the proposal.

Mr. Heath distributed a handout of the "Growing Dome," and highlighted the following:

- The dome is solar powered.
- It would be big enough to be considered a classroom where students would study heat transfer, solar energy, etc.
- The dome is totally self-sufficient, and would be run year round.
- The proposal is to raise money for the purchase of the dome through grants and community donations.
- This would be a community-based project and, thus, they will be exploring ways to involve the community.

Mr. Tirone requested the Board's permission to move forward with the fundraising and the project.

Mr. Stack asked for further clarification regarding what the administration wants from the school board. Also, how would area businesses benefit?

Mr. Tirone explained that area business indicating a willingness to donate want to do so for the students' benefit. A local women's club is also interested in the project.

Mrs. Knowlton asked how much the dome would cost. Mr. Heath is investigating the cost since there are different sizes. The one they are looking at (33 ft. diameter, 850 sq. ft.) seems suitable for what the school would need. The kit costs approximately \$15,000, plus another \$1,200 for local materials. Money could be saved by having local people do some of the construction work.

Mr. Burgess asked if this would be an entirely school-based project, or would the community be involved? Mr. Tirone feels it would be a school-owned and operated facility with those outside wishing to use it going through the same process as they would to use a classroom. Further discussion ensued regarding the benefits of the dome.

B. Other - "Growing Dome" Project *(cont'd.)*

A question was raised regarding where the dome would be housed. Mr. Tirone stated that the likely site would be across the parking lot – with easy access to the school and community, good sunlight, and less opportunity for vandalism.

Mrs. Knowlton commented that it sounds like a great project to benefit both the community and school. Mr. Stack agreed, noting a concern that it needs to be big enough to be able to be used as a "classroom". Further discussion ensued.

Mr. Heath noted a website which could be accessed for more information on the Growing Dome. It was included on the brochure that was distributed.

Dr. McCormack noted that the dome could become an ongoing part of any science curriculum.

In response to a comment made, Ms. Temperino stated that any food grown in the dome could not be used by the school's food service department; the food has to be federally approved.

Mr. Burgess questioned where the food that was grown would go. Some ideas included donating it to the community food bank.

Mr. Burgess questioned the amount of maintenance on the dome. Mr. Heath responded, and suggested that the local garden club could help during the summer, with students involved during the school year.

The consensus of the Board was in agreement that the Growing Dome project is worth continued examination.

NON-PUBLIC SESSION

At 7:52 p.m., Mrs. Knowlton moved, Ms. Brown 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 7:59 p.m. upon a motion made by Ms. Brown, seconded by Mr. Stack, and unanimously approved.

NEW BUSINESS

A. End-of-Year Projects/ Spending

Mrs. Knowlton moved, Ms. Brown seconded, that the Board approve the encumbrance of up to \$1,200 from the 2008-2009 budget for the purpose of providing summer special education tutorial services.

With regard to using surplus funds, Dr. McCormack reiterated that, in the past, the Board has only considered those items of an emergency nature that arose after the budget had been developed.

The vote on the motion was unanimously in favor.

It was noted that any remaining surplus will be returned for the purpose of reducing taxes.

ADDITIONAL BUSINESS

A. Members of the School Board

Mr. Burgess inquired about the money that was donated for the D.A.R.E. graduation. It was noted that the donated money was given to the business office. Ms. Temperino stated that she will investigate and confirm that the money was used to pay the Ashland Police Department for its services to the D.A.R.E. program.

Mr. Burgess thanked Great American Dining for its donation to the D.A.R.E. program. Ms. Brown noted that this donation should be made public.

Mr. Burgess also commented that the recent eighth grade graduation was very nicely done.

B. Members of the Administration

None.

C. Citizens at the Meeting

None.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

**A. Ashland School Board Meeting
Tuesday, August 4, 2009, 7:00 p.m.
(Policy Review Committee will meet at 6:00 p.m.)
Heffernan Media Center, Ashland**

NON-PUBLIC SESSION

At 8:07 p.m., Ms. Brown moved, Mrs. Knowlton seconded, that the Board move into non-public session under R.S.A. 91-A:3 IIe for the purpose of discussing negotiations. A unanimous roll call vote was taken.

The Board returned to public session at 8:19 p.m. upon a motion made by Ms. Knowlton, seconded by Mr. Stack, and unanimously approved.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the Board, at 8:20 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; Mrs. Knowlton; Mr. Stack

MEMBERS ABSENT

Mr. Hughes, with notice

ADMINISTRATORS PRESENT

Dr. McCormack, Ms. Temperino, Mr. Tirone

At 7:52 p.m., the Board discussed a special education student's status.

At 7:59 p.m., the Board returned to public session upon a motion made by Ms. Brown, seconded by Mr. Stack, and unanimously approved.

NON-PUBLIC SESSION II

MEMBERS PRESENT

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

MEMBERS ABSENT

Mr. Hughes, with notice

ADMINISTRATORS PRESENT

Dr. McCormack, Ms. Temperino, Mr. Tirone

At 8:07 p.m., the Board discussed upcoming negotiations with the Ashland Teachers Association.

At 8:19 p.m., the Board returned to public session upon a motion made by Ms. Knowlton, seconded by Mr. Stack, and unanimously approved.