

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

**August 4, 2009**

**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  
Chief Anthony Randall, Ashland Police Department  
Ms. Ann Sanborn, Resident

**CALL TO ORDER**

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

**MINUTES**

**A. Regular Meeting,  
June 22, 2009**

Mrs. Knowlton moved, Mr. Stack seconded, that the minutes of the June 22, 2009 regular meeting be approved with the following corrections:

- Change the second non-public session heading to "II".
- The motion to return to public session in non public session II was made by Mrs. Knowlton.

The vote was 4 in favor; Mr. Hughes abstained.

**STUDENT/TEACHER  
RECOGNITION**

None.

**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**

Ms. Brown moved, Mrs. Knowlton seconded, that the Board approve the payment of bills, as presented, including manifest #2004 (checks #15894-#15925 in the amount of \$257,233.56) and manifest #2005 (checks #15926-15930 in the amount of \$2,029.27).

Mrs. Knowlton inquired about the "reserve fund". Ms. Temperino stated that it paid for postage meter expenses. She also noted that the check to the Inter-Lakes School District was for a deposit correction.

**A. General Operating Expenses** *(cont'd.)* The vote on the motion was unanimously in favor.

**PUBLIC INPUT** None.

**ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS**

**A. Superintendent/Assistant Superintendent** None.

**B. Principal's Report** Mr. Tirone provided the following highlights:

- Summer maintenance and cleaning is on schedule, with the building almost ready for the start of school. All annual inspections, etc., are being done.
- Summer school is in its fourth week; next week will be the last week. It has gone well.
- The administrative team has been meeting to plan the three teacher workshop days before school starts: Project Learning Tree, going to Geneva Point to review the school's textbook, plan and assessment; and an organizational meeting on the third day, with time for teachers to work on their rooms.
- Responsive Classroom training was held this summer, with 17 staff participating in the week-long refresher class. It was a worthwhile adventure, and was funded mostly by the Title IIa grant for professional development. The staff has been asked to speak at a national conference about the school's positive experience with the program.
- The number of students transferring in and out of the school this summer is similar to previous years; however, the projected enrollment of 165 reflects an increase in the school's overall enrollment.
- The school's five-year professional development plan has been approved by the NH Department of Education. Copies were distributed. Mr. Tirone stated that the state asked if the Ashland plan could be used as a model. He spoke about the different options now available for teachers to recertify.

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

**A. D.A.R.E. Donation**

Ms. Temperino provided an update on the status of the donation by The Common Man toward the school's D.A.R.E. program. She stated that only \$120 of the \$500 donation was used for expenses. The Town of Ashland paid for the officer. The Board thanked the town for doing this. Chief Randall suggested that the school district might be able to pay for the officer this coming year.

Mr. Stack asked what the cost was to the police department. Chief Randall estimated it to be \$300+.

The consensus of the board was that the leftover money will be used for future D.A.R.E. expenses.

**B. Reconsideration of  
2008-2009 Encumbrances**

Mr. Tirone addressed the Board regarding the school's fire alarm system which went off for no apparent reason in July. He stated that they had difficulty finding the source of the alarm and the system had to be shut down. The source was found to be a broken pull station. A new system has been recommended by the company who services the system, noting the outdated technology in the current system.

Mr. Tirone distributed two quotes for a new fire alarm system, including one from Mango Security System, the current company maintaining the system. He spoke briefly about the quotes, and asked that the Board consider using 2008-2009 surplus money to pay for a new system.

Some discussion ensued regarding what the new system would include. Mr. Hughes commented favorably about the quotes, noting that systems "wear out over time". Mr. Tirone responded to questions from Board members for clarification about the system and the quotes.

Mr. Burgess noted that it is up to the Board to decide if it wants to use surplus money or include money for a new system in the next budget since it is not considered an "emergency". Board members expressed their preference for how it should be funded.

In response to Mrs. Knowlton's inquiry, Ms. Temperino stated that \$235,000 is anticipated to be returned to taxpayers from the 2008-2009 budget surplus.

Further discussion ensued regarding the school's fire alarm system. It was noted that it appears that the system is unreliable based on the recent malfunction.

Ms. Brown moved, Mr. Stack seconded, that \$18,165 be encumbered from the 2008-2009 budget surplus for the purpose of hiring Mango Security System to replace the school's fire alarm system. The vote was 4 in favor; Mr. Hughes was opposed. Motion passed.

Ms. Temperino confirmed that \$217,000 would be the remaining amount from the 2008-2009 budget to return to reduce taxes.

**NEW BUSINESS****D. Student Safety Concern**

Dr. McCormack spoke to a public concern over Raymond Guay's residence in New Hampton, on the Ashland town line. At a meeting in New Hampton, it was noted that further meetings would be held in the surrounding towns. To date, no such meetings have been scheduled. Therefore, Dr. McCormack stated that he does not have a lot to report at this time. He and Mr. Tirone have spoken about the situation. The district's attorney has sent samples of wording for a letter that could be sent to parents, including Mr. Guay's picture from a newspaper article (at no liability to the district). It is understood that the New Hampton chief of police is supposed to schedule the meeting.

**D. Student Safety Concern**  
*(cont'd.)*

Mr. Burgess questioned the need to wait to coordinate a meeting with other towns. Dr. McCormack stated that a general discussion with other towns might help guide the Board regarding any action it might take. Mr. Hughes noted that New Hampton residents have already met. Discussion ensued regarding what has already occurred in terms of meetings and the purpose of them.

Mr. Tirone explained that he had asked the New Hampton selectmen about an agenda for the meeting that they held. They acknowledged that they did not have one, but felt there should be an agenda for any future meeting(s). Early in July, the New Hampton chief of police said he'd "be in touch," but he has not been.

Mr. Burgess asked if the district's attorney has suggested any action that should be taken. Dr. McCormack stated that Mr. Guay can't be told he can't live here; he is not on any identified list. There are constraints as to what can be done.

Mr. Burgess asked if Mr. Guay has any restrictions regarding travel during his probationary period.

Ann Sanborn addressed the Board. She stated that it is her understanding that restrictions were going to be communicated, but those responsible for providing the information have not been available. She has a concern that middle school students move back and forth between the school and gymnasium, unsupervised. What are the parameters? What is the school's responsibility regarding student safety?

Mr. Burgess asked if the conditions of Mr. Guay's probation are confidential. Is the public allowed to know the conditions? Mr. Hughes stated that, at the New Hampton meeting, they were told the probation officer has to know where Mr. Guay is at night, where he travels, but not where he is "minute by minute".

Ms. Sanborn asked if Mr. Guay can be around children since he is a convicted child murderer. Discussion ensued regarding what was said at the New Hampton meeting.

Mrs. Knowlton commented on the lack of straight forward answers from law enforcement and probation officials to questions of concern.

Mr. Burgess asked if the Board has the right to deny access to anyone to school property. Dr. McCormack stated that he would have to consult with legal counsel regarding this.

Chief Randall noted that he knows people have drafted up their own letters of trespass and given it to the police department.

Dr. McCormack reiterated that the benefit of a coordinated meeting would be that answers to questions that all are asking would be heard.

Mr. Hughes asked that SAU 2 host a meeting and invite area school districts.

**D. Student Safety Concern**  
*(cont'd.)*

Mr. Burgess expressed a concern that school will be starting soon and the next Board meeting won't be held until after school starts. The Board should be discussing what can be done in the absence of cooperation from other towns.

Mr. Stack stated that it is very important not to make any "mistakes". He agreed that a coordinated meeting could be scheduled prior to school starting. But if not, the Board should be prepared to call a special meeting to take any necessary action to ensure student safety.

Discussion continued. Mr. Burgess questioned the location of the bus stop near where Mr. Guay lives. Is it considered school property and, if so, can restrictions be placed on Mr. Guay?

Ms. Sanborn expressed a concern regarding all bus stops. She feels every parent needs to be aware and informed.

Mr. Burgess asked if Chief Randall had any suggestions. The chief suggested that the Board move ahead with scheduling a meeting without the rest of the towns, i.e., give them an opportunity, but don't "wait around". The police are already on the alert, but he doesn't feel all parents are. He suggested doing a mailing to parents, but the wording should be such that parents are not made to feel afraid – just aware.

Mr. Hughes noted that there are four child predators living in Ashland. They should be included.

Ms. Brown suggested that the system used to notify parents about snow days could be used to notify them regarding a meeting on this issue.

Dr. McCormack suggested that a public forum not be held; rather, bring officials together to discuss a safety plan. Under the Right to Know law, the Board can go into non public session to discuss safety issues as they might pertain to an individual.

Mr. Hughes suggested that the Ashland Police Department could put on a workshop for parents around safety.

Mr. Burgess requested clarification regarding whether the meeting would be a school board meeting.

Dr. McCormack stated that his intent would be to contact area school and law officials to discuss what a contingency plan would be, i.e., have an environment to discuss the safety protocol in order to be able to implement it. It would be a meeting called by him, not the school board.

Mr. Tirone expressed a concern that he cannot find out information about Mr. Guay's parole restrictions. Chief Randall stated that he will try to find out information and report back to the Board.

**D. Student Safety Concern**  
(*cont'd.*)

Dr. McCormack will attempt to schedule a meeting next week.

Mr. Burgess suggested that the administration and Board could also do its own investigation regarding trespassing issues. Dr. McCormack will contact legal counsel.

Mr. Stack suggested that the administration should be prepared to develop a flyer.

Mr. Burgess stated that a school board meeting will be scheduled as soon as possible after Dr. McCormack's meeting if there is any action to be taken.

Mr. Burgess also asked if the school has an active parent advisory group. Mr. Tirone stated that it does not; however, it does have active volunteers. Mr. Burgess asked if they should be contacted to meet after the "fact finding" meeting.

Mr. Tirone stated that he will ensure that students are monitored during their travel between the school building and gymnasium. Some discussion ensued regarding other times that students might be alone when traveling around the school, i.e., sports fields, etc.

Ms. Sanborn suggested that parents could help. She asked that Mr. Tirone contact her regarding developing a schedule for parents to be available to help monitor students.

Mr. Burgess suggested that the parent letter to be developed include a recommendation that parents alert their children to not travel alone.

Ms. Sanborn stated that, as a community, parents should be vigilant about watching all the community's children when they can.

In summary, it was decided that Dr. McCormack will schedule an administrative meeting, with a school board follow up special meeting to address what the Board can do.

**A. SB 2 Timeline for District Meeting**

Ms. Temperino referred to the proposed budget timeline which was included with the agenda. She labeled it as a "starting point" in an effort to push the budget development ahead due to the implementation of SB 2. She stated that she has received input from the budget committee chair around coordinating a schedule with the committee.

Mr. Ruell commented that, the sooner the school board can begin its budget development process and complete it, the better. The town takes three to five weeks. He asked if the Board thought it could be done for November. Mr. Burgess noted that the Board will be involved in teacher negotiations this year as well.

No objections by Board members were expressed relative to moving forward with the proposed schedule.

Mr. Burgess asked that Ms. Temperino investigate moving the district meeting from March to April or May, as is an option.

- A. SB 2 Timeline for District Meeting** (*cont'd.*) Dr. McCormack noted that teachers have to be notified by a certain date that they will be renewed for the coming year.
- B. Rescind Policy #2440 Administrative Leeway in Absence of Board Policy**  
Mrs. Knowlton moved, Ms. Brown seconded, to rescind policy #2440, Administrative Leeway in Absence of Board Policy.  
Dr. McCormack spoke to the reason for rescinding the policy, noting that it is the recommendation of the Policy Review Committee which feels it is unnecessary and lends to bad practice.  
The vote was unanimously in favor.
- C. Rescind Policy #2450, Review of Administrative Decisions**  
Ms. Brown moved, Mrs. Knowlton seconded, to rescind policy #2450, Review of Administrative Decisions. The vote was unanimously in favor.
- E. Proposed Article 28-a, Lawsuit Against the State**  
Dr. McCormack referred Board members to information included in the agenda packet relative to a lawsuit being initiated against the state in opposition to its decision to shift retirement costs from the state to local school districts. It is felt that this is an unfunded mandate since the state has a commitment to fund retirement at a certain level. Ashland's share of the lawsuit cost would be \$267.06. Some discussion ensued.  
Mr. Hughes moved, Mr. Stack seconded, that the Board approve the expenditure of \$267.06 from the 2009-2010 budget for the purpose of supporting proposed Article 28-a, the lawsuit against the state.  
Ms. Temperino noted the additional cost to the district because of the state's decision.  
The vote on the motion was unanimously in favor.

### **ADDITIONAL BUSINESS**

- A. Members of the School Board**  
Mr. Hughes stated that the Boy Scouts/Cub Scouts would like to use the school every third Sunday of the month. Following some discussion, Mr. Tirone indicated his approval of this request.  
At this time, Mr. Burgess noted that there was no financial report this month due to year-end business being conducted.
- B. Members of the Administration** None.
- C. Citizens at the Meeting** None.

### **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

- A. Ashland School Board Meeting**  
Tuesday, September 1, 2009, 7:00 p.m.  
(Policy Review Committee will meet at 6:00 p.m.)  
Heffernan Media Center, Ashland

### **NON-PUBLIC SESSION**

At 8:32 p.m., Mrs. Knowlton moved, Mr. Stack seconded, that the Board move into non-public session under R.S.A. 91-A:3 IIe and IIc for the purpose of discussing negotiations and student personnel. A unanimous roll call vote was taken.

**NON-PUBLIC SESSION**

The Board returned to public session at 9:19 p.m. upon a motion made by Mrs. Knowlton, seconded by Ms. Brown, and unanimously approved.

**ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business to come before the Board, at 9:20 p.m., upon a motion made by Mrs. Knowlton, 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; Mrs. Knowlton; Mr. Stack

**MEMBERS ABSENT**

None

**ADMINISTRATORS PRESENT**

Dr. McCormack, Ms. Temperino, Mr. Tirone

At 8:32 p.m., the Board discussed negotiations with the Ashland Teachers Association.

**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 9:15 p.m., the Board discussed a student personnel issue.

At 9:19 p.m., the Board returned to public session upon a motion made by Mrs. Knowlton, seconded by Ms. Brown, and unanimously approved.