

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

September 1, 2009

MEMBERS PRESENT

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

MEMBERS ABSENT

None

ADMINISTRATORS PRESENT

Dr. McCormack, Ms. Temperino, Mr. DiCecca, Mr. Tirone

OTHERS PRESENT

Mr. Ruell

CALL TO ORDER

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

NON-PUBLIC SESSION

At 7:00 p.m., Mrs. Knowlton 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 student personnel and litigation. A unanimous roll call vote was taken.

The Board returned to public session at 7:30 p.m. upon a motion made by Mr. Hughes, seconded by Ms. Brown, and unanimously approved.

PUBLIC HEARING

Mr. Burgess opened the public hearing at 7:32 p.m. for the purpose of obtaining input from the public on the status of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act grant.

Dr. McCormack noted that the grant is specifically related to special education and referred to Mr. DiCecca who spoke about the contents of the grant. Mr. DiCecca noted that the grant includes money for additional personnel and technology equipment to accommodate special education needs. He stated that, while the grant was written for special needs students, the technology equipment can be used by all students. The total of the grant is \$39,437, not including the preschool portion of the grant which has not yet been written.

Mr. DiCecca responded to Mr. Burgess's inquiry regarding how much of the grant is earmarked for equipment. He stated that between \$7,000 and \$12,000 will be split between SmartBoards and netbooks.

In response to an inquiry from Mr. Ruell, Mr. DiCecca stated that a paraeducator would be hired as the "additional personnel".

Mr. Burgess asked what would occur if there is not enough funds available to purchase the equipment. Dr. McCormack stated that the administration would look at the current budget for money, or wait.

PUBLIC HEARING

(cont'd.)

There being no further comments/questions raised, Mr. Burgess declared the public hearing closed at 7:37 p.m.

MINUTES

**A. Regular Meeting,
August 4, 2009**

Mrs. Knowlton moved, Ms. Brown seconded, that the minutes of the August 4, 2009 regular meeting be approved, as printed and distributed. The vote was unanimously in favor.

**B. Special Meeting,
August 19, 2009**

Mr. Hughes moved, Mr. Stack seconded, that the minutes of the August 19, 2009 special meeting be approved, with the following correction: on page one, last paragraph, it should read Chief *Randall*. The vote was unanimously in favor.

**STUDENT/TEACHER
RECOGNITION**

No report.

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, Mr. Stack seconded, that the Board approve the payment of bills, as presented, including manifest #2006 (checks #15965-#15966 in the amount of \$1,006.23) and manifest #2007 (checks #15967-#16026 in the amount of \$60,236.11).

Ms. Temperino responded to Ms. Knowlton's inquiries regarding the manifests. She clarified that the payment to Clean-o-Rama was for custodial supplies, and the payment to Lesley College was for staff members who took a course on literacy.

The vote on the motion was unanimously in favor.

FINANCIAL REPORT

Ms. Temperino distributed the DOE 25 and MS 25 reports for 2008-2009 for Board members' review. She stated that the final balance for 2008-2009 was \$216,822. She further stated that the reports have been submitted electronically. The new accounting software made completion of reports easier than in the past.

Mr. Stack thanked the administration for its fiscal responsibility in returning a significant amount to reduce taxes in this difficult economy.

PUBLIC INPUT

None.

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

Dr. McCormack informed the Board of his recent appointment to the state's Commission on School Discipline by the NH Department of Education. He stated that he is one of three Superintendents representing New Hampshire. Since there could be legislation coming from the commission, he stated that he would prefer to be on the "inside". In that there is a quick timeline, it is hoped that the commission will be able to develop an easily implemented plan. Issues to be discussed involve behavior, in general, but also include bullying and harassment.

Mr. Burgess offered the Board's congratulations to Dr. McCormack upon this appointment.

Mr. Stack commented that he feels Ashland School is "way ahead" in its pro-activeness against discipline issues.

Dr. McCormack spoke to his participation in morning meeting at the school with the staff. He also was present for opening day and felt it went very smooth.

B. Principal's Report

Mr. Tirone provided the following highlights:

- Opening days with staff and students went very smooth.
- Planning for the school-wide theme for the year included a workshop for the staff on the first day around conservation and "going green". Project Learning Tree is an initiative this year, with a lot of activities occurring outside of the classroom. The staff also spent one of the beginning days at Geneva Point reviewing handbooks, curriculum, etc.
- There were a significant number of transfers this year – 15 new students; 6 have left. There has been some staff movement. The first day of school was a little hectic, but has stabilized.
- NECAP preparation began today, and will continue every day until the testing starts the first week of October. Incentives and activities are being planned.
- Volleyball and soccer have begun with a good number participating.
- The building is in very good shape with regard to cleanliness and renovations being complete.
- The new fire alarm has been installed and inspected and is currently on line.
- The school's new water filtration system has been installed and is operational.
- Mr. Tirone has spoken to the staff regarding Mr. Guay. Stranger/danger discussions are being held in the classrooms and will be ongoing. Students are being watched going to and from the gym, and the bus stop near where Mr. Guay lives has been changed.
- Curriculum developments for study skills, and health and music are being reviewed.
- The ARRA grant money for Title I math has been approved. This will enable the employment of a half-time paraeducator.
- Beginning enrollment is around 170, which is an increase from last year.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS**A. District Meeting Date**

Ms. Temperino referred Board members to information included with the agenda from the school district's legal counsel relative to the process to be used should the Board want to change the date of the school district meeting from March to April or May.

Ms. Temperino briefly reviewed the process, which includes a public hearing and a vote. If there is an affirmative vote at the 2010 district meeting to change the date, it would be effective for the 2011 district meeting.

Mr. Stack inquired about the pros and cons of implementing SB 2 with regard to requirements/demands. Ms. Temperino noted the demands of preparing the budget through the school and central office. Under SB 2, budget decisions have to be made sooner.

Some discussion ensued. Mr. Hughes stated that he feels moving the district meeting date to April or May would be more realistic.

It was noted that the teachers have to be notified by April 15th regarding their nomination for the following year. If they are not notified by that date, they are automatically hired for the following year.

Dr. McCormack stated that he would like to ask legal counsel if there are exceptions to the law under SB 2 relative to notifying staff of the intent to rehire.

Further discussion ensued. Dr. McCormack was asked to confirm information regarding hiring under SB 2 and report to the Board. It was noted that the budget process for this year will begin in the interim.

B. Student Safety

In light of Mr. Guay's presence near the community, Dr. McCormack distributed copies of a letter intended to be sent to parents relative to student safety. He stated that the intent of the letter is to be broad with regard to student safety and what parents should be doing. Unless the Board objects, the letter will be signed by the chief of police, as well as Dr. McCormack and Mr. Tirone.

Mr. Stack stated that he thought the Board's focus was to shift to a broad responsibility and awareness. Dr. McCormack referred to the third paragraph in the letter, noting that there are four registered sex offenders living in town. The intent of the letter is to inform parents to increase their awareness and sensitivity.

Mr. Stack recommended a segue in the second paragraph, i.e., that parents need to be aware of the situation; a sentence which doesn't single Mr. Guay out.

Some discussion ensued. Suggested revisions to the letter also included adding "about" after the word "concerned" in the first paragraph, and changing the date of the letter.

NEW BUSINESS

Mr. Burgess reported that there was a Board consensus in non-public session to add a bus stop.

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

Mrs. Knowlton requested and received clarification that Ashland, Plymouth and Rumney staffs started on August 24th, with students starting on August 27th. There was a concern that all students start on the same day.

Mr. Burgess inquired about the teacher Professional Development Master Plan, i.e., have the teachers always had options relative to how their hours are earned toward recertification? Mr. Tirone stated no; he feels some staff will take other options, but he doesn't know as yet. He may have a better idea next month.

Mr. Burgess asked how members of the committee present their own plans to the committee. Mr. Tirone stated that they will abstain when necessary. Mr. Burgess stated that he is impressed with the new plan.

Mr. Hughes asked if there are any updates on the H1N1 flu. Mr. Tirone stated that the school nurse has met with other area school nurses to ensure being on a similar focus. Information keeps changing.

Dr. McCormack noted that he participated in a conference call which confirmed the evolving information. Tomorrow he is meeting with area superintendents to discuss/coordinate emergency plans. Right now, the Department of Education is strongly discouraging cancelling schools upon an outbreak. A more formalized approach will be discussed.

B. Members of the Administration

Mr. Tirone informed the Board of a change to the soccer field from the lower to upper grounds. Some discussion ensued. Mr. Tirone noted that the field on the upper grounds is slightly smaller.

Mr. Burgess questioned the end-of-season tournaments for this year. Mr. Tirone noted that it has been difficult for coaches to enlist teams to play. Some discussion ensued regarding the different teams' schedules.

C. Citizens at the Meeting

None.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

B. SAU #2 School Board Meeting
Thursday, October 8, 2009, 6:30 p.m.
Humiston Building, 103 Main Street, Meredith

NON-PUBLIC SESSION

At 8:25 p.m., Mrs. Knowlton moved, Ms. Brown seconded, that the Board move into non-public session under R.S.A. 91-A:3 IIc and IIe for the purpose of discussing staff personnel and negotiations. A unanimous roll call vote was taken.

NON-PUBLIC SESSION

The Board returned to public session at 8:50 p.m. upon a motion made by Mr. Hughes, seconded by Mrs. Knowlton, and unanimously approved.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the Board, at 8:51 p.m., upon a motion made by Mrs. Knowlton, seconded by Mr. Hughes, 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. DiCecca, Mr. Tirone

At 7:00 p.m., the Board discussed the pending AARA grant and its impact on special education students.

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. DiCecca, Mr. Tirone

At 7:12 p.m., the Board discussed a request for consideration of a bus stop at 18 Winona Road.

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. DiCecca, Mr. Tirone

At 7:18 p.m., Dr. McCormack updated the Board with regard to a letter drafted by the school district attorney.

Mr. Stack moved, Mr. Hughes seconded, to restrict action taken in this non-public session. The vote was unanimously in favor.

At 7:30 p.m., Mr. Hughes moved, Ms. Brown seconded, that the Board return to public session. The vote was unanimously in favor.

NON-PUBLIC SESSION IV

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 8:25 p.m., the Board discussed upcoming negotiations with the Ashland Teachers Association.

NON-PUBLIC SESSION V

MEMBERS PRESENT

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

MEMBERS ABSENT

None

ADMINISTRATORS PRESENT

Dr. McCormack

At 8:34 p.m., the Board discussed with Dr. McCormack the Superintendent's goals for 2009-2010.

At 8:50 p.m., Mr. Hughes moved, Mrs. Knowlton seconded, that the Board return to public session. The vote was unanimously in favor.