

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

October 6, 2009

MEMBERS PRESENT

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

MEMBERS ABSENT

Mr. Stack, without notice

ADMINISTRATORS PRESENT

Dr. McCormack, Ms. Temperino, Mr. Tirone

OTHERS PRESENT

Mr. Ruell

CALL TO ORDER

Mr. Burgess called the meeting to order at 7:03 p.m.

MINUTES

**A. Regular Meeting,
September 1, 2009**

Mrs. Knowlton moved, Ms. Brown seconded, that the minutes of the September 1, 2009 regular meeting be approved, with the following corrections:

- On page 2, under Financial Reports, the final balance for 2008-2009 should read \$216,822.
- On page 4, under Student Safety, third paragraph, "segway" should be spelled "segue."

The vote was unanimously in favor.

NON-PUBLIC SESSION

At 7:04 p.m., Mr. Hughes moved, Ms. Brown seconded, that the Board move into non-public session under R.S.A. 91-A:3 IIc for the purpose of discussing negotiations. A unanimous roll call vote was taken.

The Board returned to public session at 7:15 p.m. upon a motion made by Mrs. Knowlton, seconded by Mr. Hughes, and unanimously approved.

**STUDENT/TEACHER
RECOGNITION**

Mr. Tirone reported on the following students-of-the-month: Garrett Dion, Kindergarten; Joseph D'Ambruoso, Grade 1; Jourdan Stevens, Grade 2; Ashley Ulicson, Grade 3; Gillian Mayes, Grade 4; Joselynn Lyford, Grade 5; Steven Colle and Myaah Swanson, Grade 6; Abigail Downing, Grade 7; and Paige Bavis, Brian Moriarty and Quinlan Smith, Grade 8.

He also reported that Deborah Willey and Sarah Davis were selected as staff-members-of-the-month, Ms. Willey for her smooth transition from teacher to paraeducator at the school this year; and Ms. Davis for her work on the Title I grant.

Mr. Tirone also reported that Brendan Dowd and Teresa Merrifield will be presenting at this year's Christa McAuliffe technology conference this year.

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 #2008 (checks #16028-#16029 in the amount of \$1,412.10), manifest #2009 (check #15967 in the amount of \$359.32), manifest #2010 (checks #16054-#16063 in the amount of \$52,534.72), manifest #2011 (checks #16088-#16090 in the amount of \$2,202.31), and manifest #2012 (checks #16091-#16160 in the amount of \$74,639.67).

Ms. Temperino and Mr. Tirone responded to Mrs. Knowlton's inquiry regarding what was bought from Hertz Furniture Systems for \$5,862 (file cabinets, desks).

The vote on the motion was unanimously in favor.

FINANCIAL REPORT

Ms. Temperino referred Board members to the financial reports included with the agenda. She stated that they are continuing to encumber necessary funds. At this time, the district is in "pretty good shape".

Ms. Temperino also distributed a summary year-end report for 2008-2009, and reviewed its contents. Highlights included:

- \$216,822 will be returned to reduce taxes for the 2009-2010 fiscal year.
- Revenues exceeded the projected amount by \$50,493 due to reimbursements of prior year expenses related to the sale of the old school building, and from Medicaid reimbursements that offset special education costs.
- Fuel oil cost savings of almost \$47,000 were realized due to negotiating a lower rate after the market fluctuated.
- Personnel changes resulted in a savings of approximately \$47,000 in salaries and benefits.
- \$50,450 was saved in various special education areas, including transportation and tuition.

Ms. Temperino indicated the school district's readiness to review the year-end report with the town budget committee.

With regard to the financial reports, Mr. Burgess questioned the amount over budget in special education (-\$3,612). Ms. Temperino noted that this is largely due to ARRA money which has not yet been received.

FINANCIAL REPORT *(cont'd.)*

Mr. Burgess also inquired about the \$7,972 over budget in the “Other Professional Support” account. Ms. Temperino stated that that is an area she will be reviewing, and which may need to be adjusted.

With regard to the over budget amount in the “Office of the Principal”/Administrative Salaries account (-\$9,995), Ms. Temperino explained for Mr. Burgess that this is a result of changes in employees’ medical insurance choices.

Ms. Temperino stated that revenues were not included in this month’s financial report since Ashland’s tax rate has not yet been set. Also, a fuel oil analysis was not included since the school has not had a delivery yet this fiscal year.

PUBLIC INPUT

None.

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

Dr. McCormack distributed copies of this year’s October 1 enrollments, including a three-year comparison. The school has increased its enrollment by nine students this year over last year’s beginning enrollments. Dr. McCormack noted that, in a time where a lot of area schools have decreased or stable enrollments, Ashland’s enrollments have increased.

B. Principal’s Report

Mr. Tirone provided the following highlights:

- The first month of school has been very busy. NECAP preparation ended last Friday, and math and language arts testing began today. Mr. Tirone noted the flexibility of test times and the schedule. A pep rally to “kick off” the testing was held yesterday, and a breakfast was held today.
- Soccer and volleyball seasons are going well. Tournaments are scheduled for October 17th and 18th.
- Fire Prevention Week will be acknowledged next week at the school so that it does not interfere with testing. Activities are planned.
- Mrs. Sole has completed fall benchmarks for AIMSweb. She has completed the results for every student. AIMSweb gives the strengths and weaknesses of students, as well as the curriculum. Another test will be conducted in May. This is the third year of the school’s participation in the program. Mr. Tirone spoke briefly about the program, and compared it to the NWEA program which is much more expensive. Dr. McCormack also noted that Performance Pathways, through the State Department of Education, allows a greater breakdown for more specific reports, i.e., Title I. Some discussion ensued. Mr. Tirone confirmed that the Literacy Leadership Team deciphers the data, and presents workshops for classroom strategies. Right now they are analyzing the NECAP science results, with a staff training scheduled for next week. Mr. Tirone also noted that two Ashland teachers will be attending a workshop next week on differentiated instruction. He stated that he feels the Literacy Team will be very valuable for the school.

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

- The school's annual Halloween parade will be held October 30th.
- Mr. Tirone stated that he is scheduled to read to the first graders next week, and he will be making pasta with the kindergartners next month.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS**A. District Meeting Date**

Mr. Burgess noted that the possibility of changing the district meeting date to either April or May had been brought up at a previous Board meeting.

Ms. Temperino distributed a proposed schedule for the 2010-2011 budget development. In response to Mr. Burgess's inquiry, Ms. Temperino stated that the administration is "on schedule" relative to the 2010-2011 budget development. She also stated that the budget book will look slightly different this year since it is being developed directly through MUNIS.

At this time, Mr. Burgess asked for Board members' input regarding whether to move forward with asking the voters to consider a meeting date change to allow more time to develop/refine the proposed budget.

Dr. McCormack commented that keeping the district meeting date in March is "doable". There is a disadvantage with moving it ahead in terms of recruiting. Mr. Tirone agreed, noting that the pool of candidates could be negatively affected by a change to a later date.

Mr. Hughes stated that he does not think this is the year to consider a change to the district meeting date.

In response to Mrs. Knowlton's inquiry, it was noted that changing the district meeting date would not affect the election time of school board members.

Mr. Burgess also noted that, if a teacher contract is voted down, a later district meeting date does not allow enough time to resubmit another contract for voters' consideration before the coming school year.

The consensus of the Board was not in favor of asking voters this year to consider a change to the district meeting date.

B. Budget Work Session

Discussion ensued regarding the scheduling of work sessions for budget development. Friday, November 20th, at 5:00 p.m. was established. Dinner will be provided.

Mr. Ruell informed the Board that the town's deliberative session has been set for January 30th.

Ms. Temperino was asked and will find out when Pemi-Baker's district meeting will be held.

Thursday, February 4th, was tentatively scheduled for the school district's first deliberative session.

NEW BUSINESS

- A. First Reading of Policy #3323, Bidding Policy** Ms. Brown moved, Mrs. Knowlton seconded, to approve a first reading of policy #3323, Bidding Policy. The vote was unanimously in favor.
- B. First Reading of Policy #3541.33, Special Transportation for Exceptional Children** Ms. Brown moved, Mrs. Knowlton seconded, to approve a first reading of policy #3541.33, Special Transportation for Exceptional Children. The vote was unanimously in favor.
- C. First Reading of Policy #4110, Recruitment Selection, Hiring** Ms. Brown moved, Mrs. Knowlton seconded, to approve a first reading of policy #4110, Recruitment, Selection, Hiring. The vote was unanimously in favor.
- D. First Reading of Policy #4112.2, Personnel Records** Mrs. Knowlton moved, Mr. Hughes seconded, to approve a first reading of policy #4112.2, Personnel Records. The vote was unanimously in favor.
- E. First Reading of Policy #4144, Insurance** Mrs. Knowlton moved, Ms. Brown seconded, to approve a first reading of policy #4144, Insurance. The vote was unanimously in favor.
- F. Rescinding of Policy #4113, Continuing Employee Benefits** Ms. Brown moved, Mrs. Knowlton seconded, to rescind policy #4113, Continuing Employee Benefits. The vote was unanimously in favor.
- Mr. Ruell questioned, and it was clarified, that the rescission of this policy is related to the final passage of policy #4144.
- G. NECAP Science Results** Mr. Tirone distributed the results and provided a brief review of the performance of Ashland students on the Spring, 2009 NECAP assessment. Highlights included:

- In grade 4, 20 students took the test, with all students scoring in the proficient or partially proficient range. Mr. Tirone noted that, in all areas, Ashland students scored higher than state scale scores.
- Grade 8 student scores were significantly above the state scores, but there was a drop in the “local” scores.
- Overall, the NECAP results were “good” and they are in the process of deciphering strengths and weaknesses.

Mr. Burgess asked that Mr. Tirone keep the Board updated when they get further along with their analysis.

ADDITIONAL BUSINESS

- A. Members of the School Board**

Mr. Burgess noted that the NHSBA annually invites school boards to submit resolutions for consideration at its Delegate Assembly which will be held January 16th. The deadline for submitting resolutions is October 23. Mr. Burgess asked that anyone wishing to propose a resolution, or if they want copies of information he received, to please notify him.

A. Members of the School Board *(cont'd.)*

With regard to the old school building, Mr. Burgess reported on a meeting he attended two weeks ago with representatives from Tri-County CAP to discuss other possible means of access to the school building. Three proposals were developed and a preliminary discussion held. Mr. Burgess briefly reviewed the proposals which involve using Ashland School's driveway or relocating it. He stated that he recommended to those in attendance at the meeting that a written proposal be submitted to the school board for discussion at a future meeting. Mr. Burgess reminded them that, when the deed was signed in June, two promises were made which have not been met on time, and one promise Tri-County CAP has yet to comply with. Mr. Burgess also noted that the school board never received a response to a letter sent to them from the Board.

Mr. Burgess noted that a planning board meeting will be held tomorrow night with Tri-County CAP on the agenda. Dr. McCormack will attend the meeting.

Mr. Hughes questioned whether the planning board was approached regarding a change in the driveway configuration.

Ms. Brown spoke on behalf of Tri-County CAP by providing a brief history of their plans.

B. Members of the Administration

Dr. McCormack referred Board members to a copy of a letter that was sent to parents, included with the agenda, regarding H1N1 flu information.

Mr. Hughes reported that this past weekend seven Boy Scouts from Ashland attended a Camporee. Ashland students won the teamwork station, and came in first in the spirit award and third overall. Congratulations were offered to the scouts for a job well done.

C. Citizens at the Meeting

None.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

B. Ashland School Board Meeting
Tuesday, November 3, 2009, 7:00 p.m.
(Policy Review Committee will meet at 6:00 p.m.)
Heffernan Media Center, Ashland

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the Board, at 8:30 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

MEMBERS ABSENT

Mr. Stack, without notice

ADMINISTRATORS PRESENT

Dr. McCormack, Ms. Temperino, Mr. Tirone

At 7:04 p.m., the Board discussed the status of negotiations with the Ashland Teachers Association.

At 7:15 p.m., Mrs. Knowlton moved, Mr. Hughes seconded, that the Board return to public session. The vote was unanimously in favor.