

**ASHLAND SCHOOL BOARD REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
HEFFERNAN MEDIA CENTER
ASHLAND ELEMENTARY SCHOOL, ASHLAND
April 7, 2015**

<u>MEMBERS PRESENT</u>	Dr. Davis, Mr. Dion, Ms. Liebert, Mr. Lyford, Ms. Ulricson
<u>MEMBERS ABSENT</u>	None
<u>ADMINISTRATORS PRESENT</u>	Ms. Ormond, Ms. Temperino, Mr. DiCecca, Ms. Bartlett
<u>ADMINISTRATORS ABSENT</u>	None
<u>OTHERS PRESENT</u>	David Ruell, Media Norm DeWolfe, Steve Felton, and Frances Newton, Selectmen 15 Citizens, Staff Members and Students
<u>CALL TO ORDER</u>	This being the Board's organizational meeting, Superintendent Ormond called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m., under school district policy #9100.
<u>REORGANIZATION OF THE BOARD</u>	
A. Chairman	Ms. Ormond entertained nominations for chairman of the school board. Dr. Davis moved, Ms. Liebert seconded, to nominate Ms. Liebert as chairman of the school board. Ms. Ulricson moved, Mr. Lyford seconded, to nominate Mr. Dion as chairman of the school Board. Voting in favor of Ms. Liebert were Dr. Davis and Ms. Liebert; 3 were opposed. Voting in favor of Mr. Dion were Mr. Dion, Ms. Ulricson, and Mr. Lyford; 2 were opposed. Mr. Dion was declared elected chairman.
B. Vice Chairman	Ms. Liebert moved, Ms. Ulricson seconded, to nominate Dr. Davis as vice chairman of the school board. There being no additional nominations, Dr. Davis was declared elected by a unanimous vote in favor.
C. Secretary	Dr. Davis moved, Mr. Dion seconded, to nominate Ms. Ulricson as secretary of the school board. There being no additional nominations, Ms. Ulricson was declared elected by a unanimous vote in favor.
D. Policy Review Committee	Dr. Davis and Ms. Ulricson were appointed to the Policy Review Committee.
E. Budget Committee	Mr. Dion and Mr. Lyford (alternate) were appointed to the Budget Committee.

REORGANIZATION OF THE BOARD (cont'd.)

F. Negotiations Committee Tabled for a future meeting.

G. NHSBA Delegate Mr. Lyford and Mr. Dion (alternate) were appointed to serve as the school board’s delegate to the NH School Boards Association.

Mr. Dion assumed the chair at this time for the remainder of the meeting.

STUDENT PRESENTATION

Two Ashland School students gave a very informative presentation on the activities of the Student Council during this school year. A very nice Power Point accompanied their presentation. They received a round of applause from the Board and those present.

NON-PUBLIC SESSION

At 6:42 p.m., Mr. Lyford moved, Dr. Davis seconded, to move into non-public session under R.S.A. 91-A:3(c) for the purpose of discussing staff personnel. A unanimous roll call vote was taken.

At 7:30 p.m., Ms. Liebert moved, Ms. Ulricson seconded, to return to public session. The vote was unanimously in favor.

NEW BUSINESS

A. Nomination/Election of Professional Staff for 2015-2016 Ms. Liebert moved, Dr. Davis seconded, to elect professional staff for 2015-2016, as nominated by the Superintendent. The vote was unanimously in favor. The list of staff elected was read by Mr. Dion.

MINUTES

A. Regular Meeting, March 3, 2015 Ms. Ulricson moved, Dr. Davis seconded, to approve the minutes of the regular meeting of March 3, 2015, as printed and distributed. The vote was 4 in favor; Mr. Lyford abstained.

COMMUNICATIONS

A. Superintendent of Schools Ms. Ormond reported that she had received an anonymous note regarding a substitute who was said to have yelled at students. Upon investigation, she said that the substitute was calling to the students not to run due to safety issues.

B. Secretary of the School Board None.

C. Members of the School Board None.

CURRENT BILLS PAYABLE

A. General Operating Expenses Dr. Davis moved, Ms. Ulricson seconded, that the Board approve the payment of bills, as presented, including manifests #2021 (checks #23215 through #23217 in the amount of \$3,459.04) and #2022 (checks #23237 through #23285 in the amount of \$117,720.85), including check #22963 which was voided.

Ms. Temperino responded to Mr. Lyford’s and Ms. Ulricson’s requests for clarification on some of the payments.

The vote on the motion was unanimously in favor.

FINANCIAL REPORT

Ms. Temperino reported that an additional \$18,017 has been encumbered or spent down since last month's report, the majority of the expense coming from occupational therapy additional expenses. Revenues are slightly ahead at this point based on estimates.

PUBLIC INPUT

Mr. DeWolfe, Selectman, noted he was at the school the day the EDies Committee visited. He was thoroughly impressed with everything he saw, including the dedication of the staff. It was an enlightening day.

Mr. Hughes, a parent, also attended and reiterated Mr. DeWolfe's comments. He is proud of the school and what's been done.

Ms. Newton, Selectman, also commended the school and its energy. She noted the comments that have been made to her about the school system.

Mr. Felton, Selectman, also attended the EDies group discussion. His observation of students was very gratifying. He offered congratulations to the staff.

A parent spoke in favor of the new customized learning. Her child feels very challenged coming to school and loves it.

A kindergarten parent also spoke in favor of the school and how much her child loves school. She stated that Ashland School is one of the most forward thinking schools in the area.

ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS

**A. Superintendent/Assistant Superintendent/
Special Education Director Reports**

1. Enrollment Report

Ms. Ormond referred to the enrollment report included in the agenda packet, noting that it continues to hold steady. She also noted the 10-year enrollment report, with the average being 165 students. She feels confident that the school's enrollment will remain steady, while other districts are experiencing declining enrollments.

Ms. Ormond spoke about the state budget and how it may impact education. She spoke about adequacy and the money that goes to property poor areas. If hold harmless money is withdrawn, it will increase local taxes. It is a dire circumstance and potentially harmful to the Ashland community. The budget has been moved to the Senate who looked at putting \$35 million back into education, but the money would be taken from the energy fund.

Mr. Dion commented that Ashland does not pay into the state energy fund; therefore, it would have no effect on Ashland.

Ms. Ormond noted that she will be attending a legislative breakfast with Senator Jeanne Forrester and will speak to her. She will keep the Board updated since the financial impact is tremendous. A list of bills currently being considered was distributed to the Board by Ms. Ormond.

ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS**A. Superintendent/Assistant Superintendent/
Special Education Director Reports** (*cont'd.*)**2. Withdrawal Timeline/
Adequacy Worksheet**

Ms. Ormond referred to the agenda packet for information relative to the withdrawal of Ashland from SAU 2. She stated that she has talked to several superintendents who have gone through this or are going through it. If Board members have any questions, Ms. Ormond asked that they please email her for more detail. She has also reached out to SAU 48 Superintendent Mark Halloran who will be speaking to his Board to see if they are interested in adding Ashland.

**3. Special Education
Update**

Mr. DiCecca referred to his report included with the agenda packet and commented briefly on the annual parent involvement survey and the state's decision to use a "sampling method" in the future.

B. Principal's Report

Ms. Bartlett shared the calendar of activities for the coming month (a complete list is included with the archive agenda):

Chrisdel Tower and Jamie King were named Staff-Members-of-the-Month. Ms. Bartlett spoke about their enthusiasm in the classroom.

Ms. Bartlett also reported on the following:

- The EDies School of Excellence Committee is meeting today and an announcement is expected in a few days.
- The National Junior Honor Society Ceremony will be held April 23. All Board members are invited to attend.
- 2015-2016 staff vacancies include: Intermediate Teacher, .5 Library Media Specialist, and a Title I Reading and Math teacher (pending grant approval).
- The annual Penny Sale will be held May 9th. Donations are now being accepted.
- Planning for the Summer Blast program will begin next week.
- Project Week Team Pitch Presentations were made last week. It was a very interesting experience, and Ms. Bartlett commended the students for their quality presentations.
- Kindergarten registration for 2015-2016 will be held May 9. So far, they expect 9 students to register and also expect that number to increase.
- Muffins for Moms/Donuts for Dads, to celebrate Mother's Day and Father's Day, will be held May 21st and 22nd.
- The annual Spring Concert will be held May 28th; the Primary Tier will be visiting the Montshire Science Museum on June 1st, and the 8th grade will be traveling to Boston on June 5th.

Ms. Ulricson asked about her previous request for a three-year comparison on test results. Ms. Bartlett will respond as soon as possible.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS**A. Policy #5121, Progress Reporting**

Dr. Davis moved, Ms. Ulricson seconded, to approve a second reading of policy #5121, Progress Reporting, as revised.

Ms. Liebert commented that she heard that students like the new system and, therefore, she continues to support the policy.

Mr. Dion commented that the new progress reporting does not mean a whole lot to him. He noted that, when students get to high school, they will be working under the traditional letter grade system.

Ms. Ormond commented on the purpose for this type of progress reporting. She stated that students need to know where they are and where they need to go. When you look at purpose, you have to design a system around that. The days of testing, quizzing, and averaging for a grade are "gone." The new system is a national trend. Research indicates that students like being informed about how they are doing, etc. Ms. Ormond spoke about test scores and questioned how they measure what students know. She spoke further regarding elementary grades and what teachers usually do. Is the issue for some parents around communication? This is what your child knows and this is where they need to go next. She suggested talking about adding something that will help parents understand the tool more.

Ms. Ulricson suggested that the R.S.A. relative to the new progress reporting be added to the policy as a reference.

Dr. Davis commented on some research she has done and distributed copies of three articles she found regarding competency based education. She also provided a brief PowerPoint presentation showing comparisons of traditional grading vs. standards-based grading with learning goals/rubrics.

A parent commented in favor of the competency based grading. Another parent also spoke in favor of "forward thinking".

The vote on the motion was 2 in favor; Mr. Dion, Mr. Lyford and Ms. Ulricson were opposed. The policy was remanded back to the Policy Review Committee for further review.

B. Field Trip Approval

Ms. Ormond commented on the Project Week field trips and briefly reviewed where the students will be going. Detailed information on the trips was included in the agenda packet.

Mr. Lyford questioned female chaperones and male students. Ms. Ormond noted that there is not enough male staff. She spoke to how the students will be chaperoned.

Ms. Ormond and Ms. Bartlett responded to questions raised by Board members regarding fund raising efforts, and how much will come out of the school district's budget. In response to Ms. Ulricson's inquiry, Ms. Temperino noted that transfers will be made to cover the costs coming out of the school district budget.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

B. Field Trip Approval (*cont'd.*) Ms. Ulricson expressed concern about night supervision of students. She stated that she would feel better if chaperones were in the room with the students. Ms. Ormond noted that the district cannot assume that liability.

Ms. Bartlett also responded to Ms. Ulricson’s concern over the use of a van to transport students vs. a bus. Ms. Temperino noted Primex’s requirements around transportation of students.

Ms. Ormond stated that no approval vote by the Board is necessary for the trips, but she wanted the Board to have the information. Ms. Ulricson stated that she would like to see more fund raising done if the trips are taken again next year. Ms. Bartlett agreed, but noted that, since this is the first year of the trips, it was not known immediately what the costs would be. She spoke to the process this year and the expectation that next year will be more efficient.

The consensus of the Board was in favor of the trips, as presented.

C. Establish Board Workshop Date

Ms. Ormond noted that a workshop meeting of the Board would be helpful in discussing the school district’s vision and future focus. Discussion ensued. The consensus of the Board was to meet on Thursday, June 11, at 6:00 p.m. at Ashland.

Ms. Ormond noted the *School Board Field Book* included with the agenda packet which she feels can be used at the workshop. She will meet with Mr. Dion to discuss the agenda.

ADDITIONAL BUSINESS

A. Members of the School Board

None.

B. Members of the Administration

None.

PUBLIC INPUT

A parent spoke regarding losing focus of the goal around progress reporting, which is students. She feels there is learning happening at the school. Sometimes change is difficult for adults, but not for the students. The focus needs to remain on the students.

Another parent suggested holding a larger forum with parents to discuss the movement further. Mr. Hughes feels the new progress reporting method gets him more involved with his child through discussion.

Further discussion ensued. Mr. Dion responded to a remark made regarding the Board wanting to undo what the community wanted to do. He said it wasn’t the community who chose customized learning and the new reporting method; it was the Board. Mr. Dion commented on college grading systems where students “practice” getting grades.

Another parent commented on forward thinking. Why are we backing out now? She feels the Board is not following through with its commitment.

PUBLIC INPUT (*cont'd.*)

Ms. Ormond noted that Policy Review Committee meetings are open to the public. Revised or new policies are acted on for first, second, and third readings by the Board. She would welcome public input at these meetings.

Ms. Badger commented about high schools and how they have been adapting learning to the different learning styles, using rubrics, etc., for some time.

Mr. Hughes asked how Ashland students are doing at the high school now vs. "before." Ms. Ormond stated that customized learning has only been at Ashland School for two years. The average is 85 for freshmen. Mr. Hughes stated that more data is needed. Ms. Ormond commented further regarding how students are learning and how they will apply it at the high school.

Another parent asked what the consensus is of the teachers at Ashland School relative to the new grading system. Ms. Ormond responded, noting that it is the Board's discretion to decide how to do grading. Input is taken from a lot of different sources. She spoke further regarding the teamwork of the Board in caring for the students.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- A. Ashland School Board Regular Meeting
Tuesday, May 5, 2015, 6:30 p.m.
(Policy Review Committee to meet at 5:30 p.m.)
Heffernon Media Center, Ashland Elementary School**

- B. SAU #2 School Board Annual Meeting
Thursday, May 21, 2015, 6:00 p.m.
Heffernan Media Center, Ashland Elementary School**

NON-PUBLIC SESSION

At 9:02 p.m., Dr. Davis moved, Mr. Lyford seconded, to move into non-public session under R.S.A. 91-A:3(c) for the purpose of discussing staff personnel. The administration was excused from non-public session. A unanimous roll call vote was taken.

At 9:15 p.m., Ms. Liebert moved, Dr. Davis seconded, to return to public session. The vote was unanimously in favor.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the Board, at 9:15 p.m., upon a motion made by Ms. Liebert, seconded by Mr. Lyford, the meeting was adjourned by a unanimous vote in favor.

Respectfully Submitted,

Jodi Lamoureux
Recording Secretary

NON-PUBLIC SESSION I

MEMBERS PRESENT Dr. Davis, Mr. Dion, Ms. Liebert, Mr. Lyford, Ms. Ulricson

MEMBERS ABSENT None

ADMINISTRATORS PRESENT Ms. Ormond, Ms. Temperino, Mr. DiCecca, Ms. Bartlett

ADMINISTRATORS ABSENT None

At 6:42 p.m., the Board reviewed the Superintendent’s nomination list of professional staff for 2015-2016. Action was taken in public session.

At 7:08 p.m., Ms. Bartlett and Mr. DiCecca were excused from non-public session.

Ms. Ormond discussed with the Board the principal’s evaluation for 2014-2015.

At 7:30 p.m., Ms. Liebert moved, Ms. Ulricson seconded, to return to public session. The vote was unanimously in favor.

NON-PUBLIC SESSION II

MEMBERS PRESENT Dr. Davis, Mr. Dion, Ms. Liebert, Mr. Lyford, Ms. Ulricson

MEMBERS ABSENT None

ADMINISTRATORS PRESENT Ms. Ormond

ADMINISTRATORS ABSENT Ms. Temperino, Mr. DiCecca, Ms. Bartlett

At 9:02 p.m., the Board discussed the evaluation of the Superintendent for 2014-2015.

At 9:15 p.m., Ms. Liebert moved, Dr. Davis seconded, to return to public session. The vote was unanimously in favor.