ASHLAND SCHOOL BOARD REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
HEFFERNAN MEDIA CENTER, ASHLAND
November 1, 2011

MEMBERS PRESENT  Ms. Brown; Ms. Badger; Ms. D’Ambruoso; Ms. Sharps

MEMBERS ABSENT  Mr. Stack, with notice

ADMINISTRATORS PRESENT  Dr. McCormack, Ms. Temperino, Mr. Tirone

ADMINISTRATORS ABSENT  None

OTHERS PRESENT  David Ruell, Media
Ashland School Staff
Members of the Public

CALL TO ORDER  Ms. Brown called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

PUBLIC INPUT  Shelly Thompson addressed the Board regarding discipline her
daughter received for wearing clothing during the school day that
the administration declared was inappropriate. Ms. Thompson was
wearing the shirt in question and stated that she had collected 100
signatures agreeing that it was not sexually suggestive. A Board
member asked and received an explanation from Ms. Thompson of
what she felt the shirt represents.

Ms. Brown referred to the Ashland School’s student/parent handbook
regarding the dress code which states that the final determination of
whether clothing is inappropriate rests with the principal.

Dr. McCormack stated that Ms. Thompson had appealed Mr. Tirone’s
decision to him. He upheld Mr. Tirone’s decision and, when asked
by Ms. Thompson, told her that she could address the school board
if she chose.

Ms. Brown stated that she did not feel the Board should discuss a
student’s disciplinary action in public session and advised Ms.
Thompson that the Board would take her input under advisement
with the intent being to discuss it in non-public session.

Ms. Thompson stated that she was told by Dr. McCormack to come
to the school board. Again, Dr. McCormack explained his advice
regarding her intent to appeal the principal’s and his decision.

Some discussion ensued regarding Ms. Thompson’s intent in
addressing the Board. Clarification was made that Ms. Thompson
was looking for the Board to decide whether or not the t-shirt worn
by her daughter is sexually suggestive.

Further discussion ensued regarding the shirt, with comments made
by some of those present.
PUBLIC INPUT (cont’d.)

Ms. Brown reiterated that the final determination regarding appropriate dress rests with the administration. Was Ms. Thompson asking the Board to override the principal’s decision? Ms. Thompson reiterated that she was present because Dr. McCormack stated that she could come to the Board.

Ms. Brown stated that she feels the shirt is suggestive and explained why. Ms. Badger understands the student’s feeling about it, but can also understand an adult’s reaction. Ms. Sharps stated that she feels the shirt is offensive. Ms. D’Ambruoso also found it explicit and offensive.

Ms. Thompson suggested that the dress code be revised to include more specifically what would be considered unacceptable clothing.

A student asked for clarification regarding what would be acceptable, i.e., the wording or its placement on the shirt.

Ms. Brown reiterated that it is the consensus of the Board that the shirt is sexually suggestive.

MINUTES
A. Regular Meeting, October 4, 2011

Ms. D’Ambruoso moved, Ms. Sharps seconded, to approve the minutes of the regular meeting of October 4, 2011, as printed and distributed.

Ms. Badger noted a correction on page 5, fifth paragraph, second sentence. She stated that she felt it would be clearer if the sentence read, “… if discipline issues decline…”.

The vote was unanimously in favor of approval of the minutes, as amended.

B. Regular Meeting, October 12, 2011

Ms. Badger moved, Ms. Sharps seconded, to approve the minutes of the special meeting of October 12, 2011, as printed and distributed. The vote was unanimously in favor.

STUDENT/TEACHER RECOGNITION

Mr. Tirone recognized the following students-of-the-month: Eliza Foote and Declan Ulricson, kindergarten; Devan Towle, grade 1; Garrett Dion and Raquel McCoy, grade 2; Eden Fuller and Emma Heath, grade 3; Maia McHugh-Kramer, grade 4; Richard D’Ambruoso, grade 5; Khalilah Abdul-Jabbar, grade 6; and Sarah Chalmers, Jacob Poitras, and Sophie Sanborn, grade 8.

Mr. Tirone also recognized, as staff-member-of-the-month, Mr. Heath for his work during Fire Prevention Week and the activities he coordinated. He also thanked the fire department for its participation.

COMMUNICATIONS
A. Superintendent of Schools

None.

B. Secretary of the School Board

None.
COMMUNICATIONS (cont’d.)
C. Members of the School Board

None.

CURRENT BILLS PAYABLE
A. General Operating Expenses

Ms. Temperino distributed an additional manifest and responded to questions on the manifests raised by Board members for clarification.

Ms. Badger moved, Ms. D’Ambruoso seconded, that the Board approve the payment of bills, as presented, including manifests #2012 (checks #18885-#18887 in the amount of $3,150.43), #2013 (checks #18888-#18950 in the amount of $75,219.65) and #2014 (checks #18951-#18954 in the amount of $1,719.82). The vote was unanimously in favor.

FINANCIAL REPORT
A. Financial Reports

Ms. Temperino spoke to the financial report distributed with the agenda:

- There are overages throughout the budget due to pending grant reimbursements, particularly in special education.
- A new function, “Athletics,” is being used to track sports officials. This is based upon advice from the auditors to run employees who serve as officials through payroll, and non-employees through payables (who will be issued 1099s at year end).
- Retirement accounts are currently running over, as anticipated, by approximately $21,000.
- The fuel oil account has been encumbered to reflect estimated usage based on $3.20 per gallon.
- Encumbrances will be adjusted as more information becomes available and the budget will continue to be monitored closely.

Ms. Brown requested and received clarification regarding ESY expenditures. Ms. Temperino noted that this occurred last summer. She also addressed the bilingual (ESL) expenditures.

Under the electricity account, Ms. Brown stated that it looks like there was considerable more use this year than last. Is there a reason? Neither Ms. Temperino nor Mr. Tirone could think of anything different. They will keep an eye on it.

ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS
A. Superintendent/Assistant Superintendent Report

Dr. McCormack reported that the legislative update meeting in Concord is November 9th from 6:00 to 7:30 p.m. at the Local Government Center. Ms. Brown and Ms. Badger are planning to attend.

Dr. McCormack also reported that the New Hampshire Retirement System announced that it received a 23 percent return on its investments last quarter. This is extremely high and, hopefully, will positively impact its rates.
**ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS**

A. **Superintendent/Assistant Superintendent Report**  
   For information purposes, Ms. Temperino distributed a worksheet showing a tax rate comparison from 2010 to 2011 and briefly spoke to it. She noted that there was a 3.63 percent increase in the tax rate from 2010 to 2011 (from $19.41 in 2010 to $20.11 in 2011).

B. **Principal’s Report**  
   Mr. Tirone provided the following highlights:
   - The first quarter ends tomorrow. Report cards will be issued next week (Wednesday).
   - NWEA testing for kindergarten, grade 1 and grade 2 has been completed. The preliminary data is positive. Testing in grades 3 through 8 will be conducted in the spring.
   - Fire Prevention Week was last week and many activities were held, including a fire muster.
   - The school’s Thanksgiving lunch will be November 16. Board members are invited to attend.
   - The annual book fair will be held November 16, 17 and 18.
   - The annual open house is November 17, with the spaghetti supper being held to benefit the scholarship fund.
   - Basketball season begins soon. Soccer and volleyball ended last week. Ashland was tourney winners.
   - NECAP testing was done last week. Students were very focused.

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

A. **SB 2 Timeline for 2012 District Meeting**  
   Ms. Badger moved, Ms. D’Ambruoso seconded, to approve the timeline for the 2012 district meeting, as presented.

   Ms. Temperino spoke briefly regarding the calendar for the district meeting which was included with the agenda.

   Mr. Ruell stated that the town budget work sessions will be held January 11th and 12th, with the 13th as a back-up date.

   Ms. Brown suggested that the Board discuss at this time the date for the school board’s budget work session, which was listed under New Business. The consensus was that it will be held on Tuesday, November 8th, beginning at 6:00 p.m. in the teachers’ room at the school. Dr. McCormack will arrange a light dinner.

   The vote was unanimously in favor of the timeline, as amended, with the budget work session date included.

B. **Policy #3650, Fund Balance Policy**  
   Ms. D’Ambruoso moved, Ms. Badger seconded, to approve a second reading of policy #3650, Fund Balance Policy, as presented. The vote was unanimously in favor.

C. **Policy #4118.1, Evaluation**  
   Ms. Badger moved, Ms. Sharps seconded, to approve a second reading of policy #4118.1, Evaluation, as presented. The vote was unanimously in favor.

D. **Policy #5124, Records: Policies and Procedures**  
   Ms. Badger moved, Ms. D’Ambruoso seconded, to approve a second reading of policy #5124, Records: Policies and Procedures, as presented. The vote was unanimously in favor.
UNFINISHED BUSINESS (cont’d.)

E. Policy #5131.6, Student Drug and Alcohol Policy

Ms. Badger moved, Ms. D’Ambruoso seconded, to approve a second reading of policy #5131.6, Student Drug and Alcohol Policy, as presented. The vote was unanimously in favor.

F. NECAP Science Scores

Mr. Tirone distributed an informational packet showing the NECAP science testing results, and spoke to them. In grade 4, the results showed Ashland scoring above the state mean scaled score in the last three years (2008-2011). In eighth grade, scores also were above the state mean scaled score.

Also distributed were minutes from the Literacy Leadership Team meeting and how they will use the results to address curriculum strengths and weaknesses in science.

Dr. McCormack pointed out in the Literacy Leadership Team meeting minutes that the group has discussed coordinating a work session for the entire staff so the focus is clear.

Mr. Tirone commented further regarding the Literacy Committee.

NEW BUSINESS

A. 2011-2012 Tuition Rates

Ms. Temperino referred to the memo included with the agenda and spoke to how the tuition rate is calculated. She noted that the proposed rate for 2011 is an increase over last year of $400, or 2.5 percent.

Ms. D’Ambruoso moved, Ms. Badger seconded, to approve the tuition rate for 2011-2012 for Ashland Elementary School, as recommended, in the amount of $16,543.48. The vote was unanimously in favor.

B. Budget Work Session

Taken up previously in the meeting. The date of November 8th was selected by consensus.

C. 2012-2013 Proposed Budget

The books containing the administration’s proposed 2012-2013 budget were distributed to Board members prior to the meeting. Ms. Temperino provided a brief overview of the budget, noting that:

- The proposed budget represents a $52,487, or 1.73 percent increase over 2011-2012.
- The health insurance guaranteed maximum rate increase is estimated at 7.6 percent and dental at negative 4.3 percent.
- New Hampshire Retirement System employer contribution rates will remain the same for 2012-2013 at 11.3 percent for teachers and 8.8 percent for employees.
- Proposed special education staffing is based on known student needs.
- There is a 2 percent merit pool budgeted for non-bargaining staff.

Ms. Temperino encouraged Board members to contact her prior to the November 8th work session with any questions.
ADDITIONAL BUSINESS

A. Members of the School Board

Ms. Sharps asked if we have any type of “swap shop” in the school for clothing/athletic equipment.

Ms. Young, who was present, stated that she certainly uses extra clothes when donated. She also goes to second hand stores. Storage is somewhat of an issue. She also just found out that Olympic Sports has a program to provide jackets. If people know of a child in need, please let her know.

Mr. Tirone stated that Ashland School does not have a formalized program; however, Plymouth does and people here in town use that one.

Ms. Brown suggested that such a program might be something for the parks and recreation department to implement.

B. Members of the Administration

None.

C. Citizens at the Meeting

Sandra Coleman asked what the increase will be in the NH Retirement System from past years. It was clarified that when it went up to 13 percent, it was for the month of July and after that it was adjusted.

Ms. Coleman raised a question regarding whether the administration or school board has discussed purchasing a generator for the school since FEMA has money available that would pay for 50 percent of the cost. Mr. Tirone noted that it has only been discussed in terms of getting one through a grant, since the school is a town shelter. He has discussed it with Mr. Nichols and will contact him again. It was suggested that it could be discussed again during budget deliberations.

PUBLIC INPUT

None.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

A. SAU #2 School Board Meeting Budget Session
   Tuesday, November 15, 2011, 6:30 p.m.
   Humiston Building, 103 Main Street, Meredith

Ms. Badger, Ms. Sharps and Ms. D’Ambruoso stated their intent to attend. Ms. Brown will not be able to attend due to a previous commitment.

B. Ashland School Board Meeting
   Tuesday, December 6, 2011, 7:00 p.m.
   (Policy Review Committee to meet at 6:00 p.m.)
   Heffernan Media Center, Ashland

Dr. McCormack also noted that the November 8th budget session, established this evening, is a public meeting.
NON-PUBLIC SESSION  

At 8:09 p.m., Ms. D'Ambruoso moved, Ms. Badger seconded, to move into non-public session under R.S.A. 91-A:3(c) for the purpose of discussing student and staff personnel. A unanimous roll call vote was taken.

At 8:34 p.m., Ms. Badger moved, Ms. Sharps seconded, to return to public session. The vote was unanimously in favor.

ADJOURNMENT  

There being no further business to come before the Board, at 8:35 p.m., upon a motion made by Ms. D'Ambruoso, seconded by Ms. Badger, the meeting was adjourned by a unanimous vote in favor.

Respectfully Submitted,

Jodi Lamoureux  
Recording Secretary
NON-PUBLIC SESSION I

MEMBERS PRESENT  Ms. Brown, Ms. Badger, Ms. D’Ambruoso, Ms. Sharps

MEMBERS ABSENT  Mr. Stack, with notice

ADMINISTRATORS PRESENT  Dr. McCormack, Ms. Temperino, Mr. Tirone

At 8:09 p.m., the Board discussed Robin Hogan’s letter of intent to retire.

Ms. D’Ambruoso moved, Ms. Sharps seconded, that the Board approve, with regret, Ms. Hogan’s request to retire under Article XII (H) of the agreement between the Ashland Teachers’ Association and the Ashland School Board. The vote was unanimously in favor.
NON-PUBLIC SESSION II

MEMBERS PRESENT  Ms. Brown, Ms. Badger, Ms. D’Ambruoso, Ms. Sharps

MEMBERS ABSENT  Mr. Stack

ADMINISTRATORS PRESENT  Dr. McCormack, Ms. Temperino, Mr. Tirone

At 8:20 p.m., Dr. McCormack and Mr. Tirone updated the Board regarding several student personnel issues.

At 8:34 p.m., Ms. Badger moved, Ms. Sharps seconded, to return to public session. The vote was unanimously in favor.