

# Minutes of Special and Work Session

## The Board of Directors Ashland School District

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A Special and Work Meeting of the Board of Directors of the Ashland School District was held Thursday, May 21, 2020, beginning at 7:30 PM via Zoom link .

### 1. Call to Order / Roll Check

Board Chair Skuratowicz called the meeting to order at 7:34 pm and a roll check confirmed that all directors were present.

#### Also present were:

Operations Director Steve Mitzel  
AMS Principal Steve Retzlaff  
John Muir Outdoor School Principal Rebecca Gyarmathy  
HMK Program Director Chris McKay  
HR & Communications Director Laurie Rooper  
Board secretary Jackie Schad

The planned Executive Session has been canceled. Director Westrick moved and Director Monter-Rangel seconded the approval of the agenda as amended. The roll was called and with all directors voting Yes the motion passed unanimously.

### 2. Bond Update

The Board then discussed proposals for the next phase of construction for Ashland Middle School and John Muir Outdoor School. **Question: Should the Board approve the recommended plan to relocate students from Ashland Middle School and John Muir Outdoor School for purposes of a comprehensive construction project on the AMS campus as proposed?**

Director Prud'homme reported that she had been contacted by a community member with several questions about moving John Muir students to Lincoln School.

#### Questions:

- Is the quote to upgrade Lincoln for \$75,000 sufficient? She has heard about mold problems? Mr. Mitzel stated that there will be an inspection and if they find it, they will mitigate it. The space has been consistently occupied since the school closed. It currently meets safety and security needs. The building is safe, warm and dry, and should be appropriate for a temporary need.
- What would be the interaction between JMOS and AHS students at the Thoreau Program? Mr. Mitzel said that there are plans to create separate

pathways and spaces in the building, including separate entrances to prevent interaction.

- What is the plan for food services? The planning team is looking at multiple options to serve meals to students. They may be transported from AHS. There is a kitchen in Lincoln if the food services team decides that would be a better option.
- How would they be sharing the gym with wrestling teams? Mr. Mitzel said that they would work out sharing options. They may ask wrestlers to roll up mats during the day. This is mostly a winter term sport with occasional special events.
- What happened to the original idea of keeping John Muir at AMS? Mr. Mitzel said that moving John Muir students out completely allows construction to proceed in a much shorter time frame – 18 months vs. 36 months. This is more efficient and cost effective. Having central building systems would make it difficult to run one side of the building while construction happens on the other.

Other questions:

Q - How would the AMS drop-off work for 6<sup>th</sup> grade kids if we no longer have a separate entrance and how would we handle increased traffic? Principal Retzlaff replied that they are still looking at possible options to split up drop zones.

Q – Are there any plans to change the parking lots that AHS uses at Lincoln? Mr. Mitzel said we are still working this out. The district needs to assess all of the users currently using that parking lot, probably make some priorities, and focus on safe access and egress.

Director Monter-Rangel moved and Director Chang seconded the approval of the recommended plan to relocate students from Ashland Middle School and John Muir Outdoor School for purposes of a comprehensive construction project on the AMS campus as proposed?

The roll was called and with all directors voting Yes, the motion passed unanimously.

The Board commended the AMS and JMOS teams for a great, thoughtful plan for the relocation of students.

#### **4. Other items of interest**

Director Westrick submitted the following motion:

I move to authorize the board chair to delegate district level responsibilities and authority to her designee or designees in order to effectively make timely decisions critical to the operations of the school district.

Director Chang seconded the motion. In response to a question about whether administrative directors would retain their current authorities, it was agreed that the Board Chair would have the right to delegate at or above current authorities.

There was a discussion of communication channels by which the Board would be informed about actions. The consensus was that the Board Chair would be responsible for communicating important developments in a transparent manner.

The roll was called:

Director Westrick voted Yes

Director Monter-Rangel voted Yes

Director Prud'homme voted Yes

Director Chang voted Yes

Director Skuratowicz voted Yes

The motion carried by unanimous vote.

The Board's priority is a plan for reopening schools and a high need to communicate with the community. Chair Skuratowicz officially delegated to AMS Principal Steve Retzlaff the authority to make district decisions for the remainder of the school year and through June 30, 2020. Mr. Retzlaff affirmed that the Lead Team is eager to plan and move forward.

Director Westrick requested early communication from the District to parents and the community, as many are wondering what will happen with the City's schools.

Director Prud'homme commended Mr. Retzlaff for having the courage to lead and accepting this assignment in service to the interests of the District.

Director Chang asked about the planned May 29 graduation car parade and whether there was any outreach to retired teachers that students might know? The Board was assured that the parade of scholars will be publicized to current and former District employees and to the broader community.

## 5. **Adjourn**

There being no further business, Chair Skuratowicz adjourned the meeting at 8:08 pm.

Submitted by:  
Jackie Schad, Board Secretary

Dated for Board Approval: June 8, 2020

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Board Chair, Eva Skuratowicz

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Acting Superintendent Steve Retzlaff