

**Ashley Board of Education
Ashley Community Schools
Regular Meeting
Virtual (ZOOM)
Monday, January 18, 2021
7:00 pm**

Members Present:

Anmarie Bradley-Dodd, President
Steve Hardman, Vice-President
Kurt Densmore, Treasurer
Lynne Burlingame, Trustee
Ashleigh Shaw, Trustee

Guests (via ZOOM)

Adrian Cervini
Lori Harmon
Joe Shaw
Marti Bontrager

Traci Gavenda, Superintendent/HS Principal
Marty Cartwright, Dean of Students/AD
Ben Engelter, Business Manager

Members Absent:

Cindy Wilson, Secretary
Jim Fabus, Trustee

1.0 Call to Order

Board President Bradley-Dodd called the January 18, 2021, Regular Board Meeting to order at 7:02 p.m.

2.0 Pledge of Allegiance

3.0 Oath of Office

Newly elected Board Members, Bradley-Dodd, Densmore, and Shaw were administered the Oath of Office by Notary Sandy Slowinski. James Fabus was absent.

4.0 Roll Call

Board members in attendance: Bradley-Dodd, Hardman, Densmore, Burlingame, Shaw.
Board members absent: Wilson, Fabus.

5.0 Board of Education Recognition

Superintendent Gavenda expressed her thanks and gratitude to the Board. Due to meeting being virtual, she explained she would be delivering a certificate of thanks, a letter, and a gift bag to each Board Member.

6.0 Audience Participation

None.

7.0 Approval of Consent Agenda

President Bradley-Dodd added an additional action item, Presentation from Ben Engelter and Traci Gavenda, to the agenda.

Motion by Burlingame seconded by Hardman to approve the January 11, 2021, agenda with added action item; approve the minutes from the December 14, 2020, Regular Meeting, and approve the bills to be paid. Motion passed.

Bradley-Dodd	- Yes	Hardman	- Yes
Burlingame	- Yes	Shaw	- Yes
Densmore	- Yes	Wilson	- Absent
Fabus	- Absent		

8.0 Correspondence

Thank you cards for Board Appreciation from the AEA and support staff were emailed to Board Members earlier in the afternoon.

9.0 District Reports

Athletics – Mr. Cartwright

- Winter sports started practice today. Games can resume on February 4th. We have a 16-game schedule. The tournament schedule has been moved as well.
- Sports boosters cancelled the January 6th meeting because it couldn't be in person. Looking to start putting together golf outing. Get Facebook page, and presence to gain members. Will make meeting up when able.

Pre-K – 12 – Mrs. Gavenda

- Excited to be back face-to-face.
- Today is the end of the first semester.
- MS / HS completed exams.
- Letters were sent to students struggling online suggesting returning to face-to-face.
- Elementary/MS will be doing NWEA testing next week and the following week.
- Implementing Guided Academics in HS.
- Beefing up Title services in Elementary.

District – Mrs. Gavenda

- Gratiot County Community Foundation Spring grant cycle through February 01.
 - Competitive Grant – received in past
 - YAC Grant – received in past
- Approved for GEERS grant
- Working on survey regarding remote learning. Would like feedback from parents.
- Elementary copy machine needs replaced. In process of getting quotes.

10.0 New Business

None.

11.0 Action Items

Extended Continuity of Learning Plan

Virtual statistics from past three weeks:

Elementary:	78%	Two-way communication
	11%	One-way communication
	11%	No communication

Middle School: 78% Two-way communication
9% One-way communication
13% No communication

High Schools: 84% Two-way communication
9% One-way communication
7% No communication

Ashley is not the only school struggling with communication.

Motion by Densmore seconded by Hardman to approve the Extended Continuity of Learning Plan. Motion passed.

Bradley-Dodd	-	Yes	Hardman	-	Yes
Burlingame	-	Yes	Shaw	-	Yes
Densmore	-	Yes	Wilson	-	Absent
Fabus	-	Absent			

Emergency Paid Sick Leave (EPSLA)

Congress did not approve extension of EPSLA past December 31, 2020. Districts have the option of extending through March 31, 2021.

Motion by Densmore seconded by Burlingame to approve an extension of the EPSLA through March 31, 2021. Motion passed.

Bradley-Dodd	-	Yes	Hardman	-	Yes
Burlingame	-	Yes	Shaw	-	Yes
Densmore	-	Yes	Wilson	-	Absent
Fabus	-	Absent			

IRS Closing Agreement

Ben Engelter, Business Manager presented information regarding an agreement with the IRS that favorably resolves the tax treatment for the 3% contributions to the MPSERS Health Care Trust going forward and for taxable years for which the period of limitations on claims of credit or refund has not expired.

- MSBO & Dewitt Schools collaborating on closing agreement
 - \$3,000 per District to tag on – ORS to pay fee to opt in
 - Opt in agreement must be submitted to IRS (Form 2848) by February 05, 2021.
 - Districts to send letters to employees back to 2017.
 - Districts to handle adjustments and issue W-2c.

Motion by Densmore seconded by Hardman to move forward with the IRS Closing Agreement. Motion passed.

Bradley-Dodd	-	Yes	Hardman	-	Yes
Burlingame	-	Yes	Shaw	-	Yes
Densmore	-	Yes	Wilson	-	Absent
Fabus	-	Absent			

12.0 Audience Participation

None.

13.0 Board Comments

Board member Bradley-Dodd will be having procedure on February 8, 2021. This is the date of the next Board meeting. Concerned she might not be able to conduct meeting. Hardman not able to attend meeting as it is a basketball game night.

14.0 Upcoming Events

- Wednesday, January 20, 2021, students dismissed at 11:30 am
- Wednesday, January 27, 2021, students dismissed at 11:30 am
- Wednesday, February 03, 2021, students dismissed at 11:30 am

15.0 Adjournment

Motion by Hardman seconded by Burlingame to adjourn the meeting at 7:53 p.m. Motion passed.

Bradley-Dodd	-	Yes	Hardman	-	Yes
Burlingame	-	Yes	Shaw	-	Yes
Densmore	-	Yes	Wilson	-	Absent
Fabus	-	Absent			