

Ashford Board of Education  
**Regular Meeting Minutes – February 16, 2023**  
**7:00 pm**

**Meeting Held in Person and Electronically Via Zoom**

*Note: Per CGS 10-218, Board of Education Meeting Minutes are provided in a draft format within 48 hours of the date the meeting was held. With the exceptions of motions and votes recorded, the minutes are unofficial until they have been read and approved by a majority vote by the Board. Should edits be necessary, they will be made at a regularly scheduled meeting, noted in the meeting minutes, and so voted upon.*

**Call to Order**

Chair Jane Urban called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm. Present were members Jennifer Leszczynski, Kim Kouatly, Marian Matthews and Al Maccarone. Also present was Superintendent Cynthia Ford, Principal Polly Borysevicz, . There were 2 members of the community present via Zoom.

**Pledge of Allegiance**

All present recited the pledge.

**Curricular Presentation/Board Field Trip**

The board left the meeting room at 7:03 pm to visit Mrs. Bryant’s Grade 6 classroom and returned at 7:13 pm. Members enjoyed the visit and were very impressed, pleased to see the many examples of student learning and the organization of the classroom.

**Opportunity for Public Comment**

No one from the public offered any comments. Jane Urban thanked Mrs. Ford, the building committee, Jim Rupert, Bill Falletti and the board of selectmen and all of those who came out to the special town meeting on February 11<sup>th</sup>. There were lots of good questions posed by the public and the overall turnout of 100 people was wonderful to see. The successful outcome of the vote allows the project to move forward.

**Consent Agenda**

**a. Approval of Minutes: 01/19/2023, 02/02/2023**

*Motion made by Marian Matthews to approve the minutes of 01/19/2023 and 02/02/2023. Motion seconded by Kim Kouatly.*

Edits to the 02/02/2023 minutes were noted as follows: insert the word “to” in the first sentence of school calendar agenda item (Minor edits were made *to* the calendar…) and insert the word “to” in the fourth sentence of the FY 24 budget work session agenda item (The administration reviewed efforts *to* fill vacancies…)

The motion to approve the minutes as edited was called to vote and carried unanimously.

**Committee Breakout Sessions**

**a. Cafeteria**

Tess Grous, Al Maccarone and Marian Matthews reviewed Ashford School breakfast and lunch menus. They expressed with the amount of sugar that is served, particularly in the breakfast menu. They discussed reaching out to UCONN extension programs, reviewing other schools’ menus and farm to school options and inquired what the status of the salad bar is – was the grant approved? Jane Urban attended this meeting as ex-officio. The board noted that we have the best cafeteria staff, they know every child’s name and ensure that every child is fed, they want to investigate menu options. Committee members plan to come to the school and have a meal in the cafeteria.

**b. Transportation**

Kim Kouatly and Jennifer Leszczynski discussed electric buses in their session. Mrs. Ford was in attendance. While electric buses are going to be required, the committee has done some research and found that with a full charge, an electric bus could travel 100-150 miles, however, those numbers can be lessened by hilly terrain and cold temperatures. There are other limitations for Ashford in that our buses are on the road each day with high school runs then they go directly to elementary runs. The committee will be collecting and reviewing more data. They noted there are grants available to purchase the buses, but servicing by our mechanic is an issue as is installation of the charging station.

**New Business**

None

## Old Business

### a. Final Review of the FY 24 Budget Documents for Presentation to the Board of Finance

Mrs. Ford distributed two handouts to the board for review (attached). The documents will be forwarded to the Board of Finance on 2/17. Discussion, clarification and questions followed. Members inquired about the health insurance rate increase, student enrollment numbers, test scores and test participation rates. Mrs. Ford responded to email inquiries from the BOF chair concerning recent enrollment history.

### b. Facility Update

Mrs. Ford reported that the next step for moving forward on roof replacement is for a bid to go out for design/architectural services; then submission of a grant application. Discussion followed concerning grant reimbursement rates, needed preparation by the contractor and warrantee consideration prior to installation of roof top solar panels. Capital request forms and supporting documents were sent to the Town, no meeting date has been set for the Capital Improvement Committee. Cloud based phone service installation is underway.

## Opportunity for Public Comment

No public comment.

## Next Meeting Date/Agenda Items

Next meeting date is 03/02/2023, there is no BOE meeting, the board will be presenting its budget to the Board of Finance. Agenda items for the meeting on 03/16/2023 are consent agenda (minutes and financial reports); field trip to Cardboard Night and a social studies presentation, FY 24 budget work session if necessary; facility update and assign Bicknell Scholarship committee representatives.

## Adjournment

**Motion** made by Marian Matthews to adjourn the meeting at 8:38 p.m. Motion seconded by Kim Kouatly and carried unanimously.

Recorded by: Jennifer Truax

Zoom Recording Link:

[https://us02web.zoom.us/rec/share/rPW4wOWL5Fdfho1yIcJEO\\_2OvZ4Mm4NtPNXcRmQibsoYKKY0nskz19XoRmQdLlOo.sE8\\_5judVF2exXpQ?startTime=1676591820000](https://us02web.zoom.us/rec/share/rPW4wOWL5Fdfho1yIcJEO_2OvZ4Mm4NtPNXcRmQibsoYKKY0nskz19XoRmQdLlOo.sE8_5judVF2exXpQ?startTime=1676591820000)

Passcode: 5G4S!R0r