

Ashford Board of Education
Regular Meeting Minutes – April 20, 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 7:01 pm. Present were members Jennifer Leszczynski, Kim Kouatly, Marian Matthews (7:02 pm), Tess Grous, Al Maccarone and Meghan Smith 7:10 pm). Also present was Superintendent Cynthia Ford, Principal Polly Borysevicz, and Asst. Principal David Eichorn. There were 2 members of the school or community present via Zoom.

Pledge of Allegiance

All present recited the pledge.

Curricular Presentation/Board Field Trip (Physical Education/Health)

Physical Education and Health staff were not available for this meeting. Members returned at 7:25 pm after visiting Mr. Caldwell's middle school social studies classroom and viewing student art work displayed in the corridors of the school. The board thanked Mr. Caldwell and Mrs. Brodoff for this visit.

Opportunity for Public Comment

Jane Urban reminded members of the board of the May 2nd budget referendum and asked that members of the board remind their friends and neighbors of the date. Mrs. Urban and Mrs. Ford attended the recent town meeting and there were only 9 people present.

Consent Agenda

a. Approval of Minutes: 03/16/2023

b. Approval of March 2023 Financial Report

Motion made by Marian Matthews to approve the consent agenda, motion seconded by Meghan Smith and carried unanimously.

Mrs. Ford noted that the insurance broker representing the BOE and the Town has provided notice that the FY 24 health insurance rate increase will be 15%. This will be a savings from the 20% that had been estimated. Mrs. Ford will confirm this information.

Old Business

a. Facility and Capital Updates

Mrs. Ford noted she did not have anything new to report. The new UST is expected to be delivered by June 20; the most likely date is the 16th of June. The last day of school is June 15th. The project should take 2-3 weeks to complete.

Jane Urban inquired about the status of securing a project manager for the school roof project. Mrs. Ford noted that there are some dates being discussed but no meeting has been set yet to discuss this. The replacement generator has not yet been ordered. Mr. Falletti has been keeping our office updated on these projects. A 200 kw/h unit will be ordered with an auto start. The insurance company has already paid for a 180 kw/h manual start unit which is equal to the failed generator, they will also be covering the installation.

Members discussed the use of board's non-lapsing fund and legal statute directing that the fund be used for educational purposes as decided by the Board. Currently, the board of finance has a policy directing that this fund be used for school facility improvements. Board legal counsel will be consulted to ensure that such use is in line with the intent of the statute.

b. Second Reading of Policies provided by Counsel (Series 4000: Emergency Action Plan for Interscholastic and Intramural Athletic Events; Series 5000: Administration of Medications in the Schools; Series 5000: Management Plan and Guidelines for Students with Food Allergies, Glycogen Storage Disease and/or Diabetes)

Jane Urban asked if we have an Emergency Action plan for athletics in place, Mrs. Ford and Mrs. Borysevicz stated that there is a plan. Marian Matthews inquired if recess or physical activity is withheld for disciplinary consequences, Mr. Eichorn responded that it is not. Jennifer Leszczynski was pleased that these policies had been reviewed by Martha Sibley-Jett.

Motion made by Kim Kouatly to approve the policies as presented, motion seconded by Jennifer Leszczynski and carried unanimously.

New Business

a. Request Authorization to Review/Extend Term of Technology Services Contract

Mrs. Ford noted that the technology services contract that is shared by the Town needs board action to extend the agreement to five years. The deadline June 30, 2023. The terms remain the same as the current agreement, just the length of the contract would be extended. Brief discussion followed.

Motion made by Tess Grous to authorize the Superintendent to extend the technology services agreement with Savage Systems pending confirmation that the Town approves the extension. Motion seconded by Meghan Smith and carried 6-0 (Al Maccarone was not present for this motion and vote).

b. Authorization to Submit Application for School Security Grant

There is a grant opportunity available for school security improvements. The grant funds can be used for past security expenditures or for current/future security items. Mrs. Ford noted that there are some items that she has discussed with the administrative team and she would like to apply for this grant. The board will discuss school security specifics in executive session at a future board meeting.

Motion made by Kim Kouatly to authorize the Superintendent to submit an application for the school security grant. Motion seconded by Meghan Smith and carried unanimously.

Opportunity for Public Comment

None

Next Meeting Date/Agenda Items

The next regular meeting date is May 4th. Agenda items include Superintendent Evaluation (executive session), FY 24 budget work session if necessary, date for Bicknell Scholarship meeting (executive session), designate a speaker for graduation for the class of 2023.

Adjournment

Motion made by Meghan Smith to adjourn the meeting at 8:20 p.m. Motion seconded by Marian Matthews and carried unanimously.

Recorded by: Jennifer Truax

Zoom Recording Link:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/rec/share/O3hzc7EuzldJ6lRsCQisleb9i0n5mVXbfsIQ4MfL-BYxILeHcuiH5VqM3wDwQtha.Mpn0zrXxZSXO0KTC>

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