

Ashford Board of Education
Regular Meeting Minutes – May 18, 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 7:05 pm. Present were members Kim Kouatly, Marian Matthews, Al Maccarone and Tess Grous. Also present was Superintendent/Director of Pupil Services Cynthia Ford and Principal Polly Borysevicz. There were 3 members of the school or community present via Zoom. Unable to attend were members Jennifer Leszczynski and Meghan Smih.

Board chair Jane Urban noted that the staff Variety Show was held last Friday and it was so well done, it was wonderful! She thanked everyone involved with this event.

Pledge of Allegiance

All present recited the pledge.

BOE Field Trip (Destination TBD)

None

Opportunity for Public Comment

- Rick Kouatly, Eastford Rd. addressed the board. Mr. Kouatly shared his personal observation that interactions between the BOE and the BOF was wonderful, it was nice to see cohesiveness and the ability of the boards to work together. He stated that upon further reflection, there is a culture at Ashford School that is evident, and he complimented everyone who is responsible for such a culture.

Consent Agenda

a. Approval of Minutes: 04/20/2023; 05/04/2023

b. Approval of April 2023 Financial Report

c. Approval of Third Quarter Grants Report

Members briefly discussed the financial reports seeking clarification on any negative percentages in the lines. Mrs. Ford explained that line- item transfers have not been made to date, the board will be asked to approve budget transfers in June. Making such transfers to close out the fiscal year is preferable to making quarterly transfers throughout the year.

Motion made by Kim Kouatly to approve the consent agenda items as listed on the agenda. Motion seconded by Al Maccarone and carried unanimously.

Old Business

a. Facility and Capital Updates

Mrs. Ford reported that the Town building committee met for quite some time on May 10. They discussed preparing for the UST project; there will be a pre-construction meeting before ground breaking. The generator has been ordered, Mr. Falletti has been working closely with the insurance company and the vendor on a final resolution to the claim and installation. Mrs. Ford noted that the funnel ball posts will be removed and set back in place after construction. She is investigating the purchase of some new sensory playground equipment for younger students. A clerk of the works would be sought after the roof RFP goes out and an architect is chosen. She noted that Mr. Mellady, who has so much knowledge of the building and in particular the roof, will be on site during these projects. Summer work plans include new floor tile in Room 9 and main entrance foyer, painting/freshening up and restringing of the window shades in the building. Next meeting is May 24th.

b. Bicknell Scholarship Update

Al Maccarone reported that the committee met on May 9th. There were 8 applications received. The committee met for an hour and 45 minutes and it was very difficult to choose four recipients as all who applied were very deserving. This year's recipients are Jenelle Lewis, Sierra York, Amber Recchia and Ryan Ignatowicz. Mr. Maccarone stated he was proud of our students. The board reminds everyone to apply each year.

New Business

a. Appointment of Certified Staff (Valerie Podolski – Music; Erin Kirdzik – Special Education)

Motion made by Kim Kouatly to appoint Valerie Podolski and Erin Kirdzik to the certified staff of Ashford School. Motion seconded by Al Maccarone and carried unanimously.

The board welcomed Mrs. Podolski's return to Ashford School and welcomed Mrs. Kirdzik to the staff.

b. First Reading of Policies – May 2023 Update Provided by Counsel

Board counsel sent a policy summary of required updates to existing board of education policies. As stated in the summary provided, these are necessitated by statutory and/or regulatory changes, citation updates and best practice. The board should review the updates noted and the policies will be on the second June meeting agenda for second reading/approval.

Opportunity for Public Comment

Jane Urban expressed appreciation and noted that it moved her to know that our school provides breakfast to its students prior to SBAC testing.

- Lynn Fontaine, Ashford Drive. Mrs. Fontaine stated her thanks the board for “trusting in us last year, we have an amazing administrative team; we are a family once again and stronger than ever!” Thank you to all members of the BOE.
-

Next Meeting Date/Agenda Items

There was discussion about the remaining steps of evaluation of the Superintendent. Next meeting is June 1st. Jane Urban, Al Maccarone and Tess Grous cannot attend. Remaining members will be polled for a quorum. Agenda items: Superintendent Evaluation, math presentation, committee breakouts (cafeteria and finance or personnel), employee job descriptions.

Superintendent Evaluation (Executive Session Anticipated)

Mrs. Ford and Mrs. Borysevicz exited the meeting.

Motion made by Kim Kouatly to enter into executive session (8:00pm) for the purpose of evaluation of the superintendent. Motion seconded by Marian Matthews and carried unanimously.

Present: Al Maccarone, Jane Urban, Kim Kouatly, Marian Matthews.

The board exited executive session at 8:31 pm. There was no action taken.

Adjournment

Motion made by Marian Matthews to adjourn the meeting at 8:31 p.m. Motion seconded by Al Maccarone and carried unanimously.

Recorded by: Jennifer Truax

Zoom Recording Link:

https://us02web.zoom.us/rec/share/cY3D7HrEp9I5hM9eaQNWv_TtePUuyIRHT3K48gO1AL0dVwfNtLPseMN3ozYB18_W.dH_1J1iuyRhPlolV

Passcode: HS5jL6@f