

Ashford Board of Education
Regular Meeting Minutes – June 1, 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

Vice-Chair Marian Matthews called the meeting to order at 7:08 pm. Present were members Kim Kouatly, Meghan Smith, Jennifer Leszczynski and Tess Grous (7:12 pm via Zoom). Also present was Superintendent/Director of Pupil Services Cynthia Ford, Principal Polly Borysevich, Asst. Principal David Eichorn and math interventionists Shawn Dimmock and Jack Champagne. Unable to attend were members Al Maccarone and chair Jane Urban.

Pledge of Allegiance

All present recited the pledge.

Opportunity for Public Comment

Kim Kouatly read aloud four thank you notes that were received from the 2023 Bicknell Scholarship recipients. Bicknell committee member Jennifer Leszczynski noted that there were many great candidates. The board encouraged people to apply annually. Marian Matthews stated it has been a pleasure working with everyone this year, she will be away and unable to attend the next board meeting.

Curriculum Report – Math

Math Interventionists Shawn Dimmock (K-4) and Jack Champagne (5-8) presented a detailed and comprehensive review of the first year with our new math program, Illustrative Math. They reported on the goal of “implementing with fidelity” by our staff. There were five professional development sessions this year dedicated to Illustrative Math in concert with CREC (Capitol Region Education Council). Both faculty and students were surveyed with feedback, likes/dislikes were shared in the presentation. (attached)

Committee Break Out Sessions(s)– TBD

Cafeteria committee members Tess Grous and Marian Matthews visited the school cafeteria for lunch and conversation with Karen Samperi, food service manager. Several topics were discussed during lunch, including the board’s concerns about sugary breakfast cereals. Both members were pleased to know that some items are being prepared on site, and that the breakfast cereals being served meet USDA nutrition standards and that cereals served in the cafeteria are not the same as what one purchases in the grocery store. They also discussed the sharing tray, components of a reimbursable meal and Farm to Table. Ms. Samperi explained to the members that the cafeteria receives a lot of fruits and vegetables at no cost from the DOD (Dept. of Defense). A salad bar discussion was revisited, noting that implementation and maintenance of a salad bar would be labor intensive for the cafeteria staff. There are many food options and choices available for students that do not appear on the published menu which members were very pleased to know. The possibility of installing air conditioning in the kitchen was also discussed. Karen Samperi shared that she has a wonderful staff who are always willing to do things without being asked, it is a great team. The committee will meet again next school year and were glad to have this opportunity.

Tess Grous exited the meeting at 8:04 pm

Old Business

a. Facility and Capital Updates

Mrs. Ford reported that a leak in Room 9 has been repaired and the room will be retiled in the summer. As mentioned previously, restringing of the oversized window shades will begin after school is out. The main entrance foyer floor will be replaced with a nonslip rubber surface material, the sign in front of the school will be scraped and repainted, closets throughout the building will be cleaned; any unused furniture and computers will be offered to the Town per Board policy prior to disposal. Public notice of the destruction of special education student records are being placed. A pre-construction meeting is being scheduled for next week prior to any ground breaking activities. The building committee is hoping to finalize the architect RFP for the roof project and get it sent out.

New Business

a. Non-Certified Staff Resignations (*Joel Ocasio – Maintenance; Donna Molnar – Paraeducator*)

An email was received from custodial and maintenance staff member Joel Ocasio and a letter of retirement from Donna Molnar technology paraeducator was received.

Motion made by Kim Meghan Smith to accept the resignations of Joel Ocasio and Donna Molnar. Motion seconded by Kim Kouatly and carried unanimously.

Members of the board expressed best wishes and appreciation for Joel and Donna. The board recognized Donna Molnar's many years of service and hope that she enjoys time with her family and retirement.

Opportunity for Public Comment

None

Next Meeting Date/Agenda Items

There was discussion about the remaining steps of evaluation of the Superintendent. Next meeting is June 15th. Agenda items: Superintendent Evaluation, facility update, schedule date for annual BOE summer retreat, consent agenda, financial report, second reading of policies.

Adjournment

Motion made by Jennifer Leszczynski to adjourn the meeting at 8:16 p.m. Motion seconded by Meghan Smith and carried unanimously.

Recorded by: Jennifer Truax

Zoom Recording Link:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/rec/share/11phDa9lRTDLdPSPP0SBTeZSyF9TYw8r1Gl0nPeS28tEIO4oLvyGx4yFu-hbsyDx.4obDfdYod6Pp7PuP>

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