

Ashford Board of Education  
**Special Meeting Minutes – August 10, 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 7:03 pm. Present were members Meghan Smith, Jennifer Leszczynski, Kim Kouatly, Al Maccarone and Tess Grous. Also present was Superintendent/Director of Pupil Services Cynthia Ford, Principal Polly Borysevich and Asst. Principal David Eichorn. Board of Selectman member Cathryn Silver-Smith was present via Zoom. Unable to attend was board member Marian Matthews.

**Pledge of Allegiance**

All present recited the pledge.

**Opportunity for Public Comment**

- Jane Urban noted that a legal action that was filed against most Connecticut Boards of Education has come to an end as has our board being billed monthly for its share of the cost of legal representation in this matter.
- Cindy Ford informed the board that three positions have been filled for the new After School Care program at Ashford School. The board will provide upfront costs associated with opening the program on 9/5/2023. The board will pay for the fingerprinting and CPR/First Aid training costs and be reimbursed by the Town.
- Cathryn Silver-Smith expressed thanks to the Superintendent and Principal for their support and efforts with the After School Care program and is looking forward to its success and hopes it can be expanded.
- Jane Urban thanked the Town and the Board of Selectmen for its efforts and support in getting this program off the ground.

**Consent Agenda**

**a. Approval of Minutes: 06/15/202; 06/22/2023**

**b. Approval of May Financial Report**

*Motion made by Al Maccarone to approve the consent agenda items. Motion seconded by Jennifer Leszczynski and carried unanimously.*

**Old Business**

**a. Facility and Capital Updates**

Mrs. Ford distributed a living document of items accomplished or in progress to date. She highlighted the following:

- Classroom window shades are ready and expected to be installed the week of August 14<sup>th</sup>
- The UST replacement is finished, we are awaiting quotes for paving to complete the project. She noted the project went very well, the company that did the work was very professional and cleaned up the site every day and made sure that fencing was secured daily.
- New playground wheel-chair accessible mats were installed.
- A portable sound system was purchased to replace inoperable rafter speakers in the gym, it can also be used in the cafeteria and for outside activities and events.
- Replacement of the fire panel is on the Capital Improvements list and would be funded post audit with available money in the 1% fund.
- Intercom system improvements continue for reasons of safety and security as many existing speakers throughout the building are inoperable.

Members held brief discussion of the amount of work it takes to get the building ready to open and appreciate the hard work of the custodial and maintenance staff.

**New Business**

**a. Staff Appointments (Meaghan Sulham – Grade 5; Karlos Aponte – Custodial/Maintenance)**

*Motion made by Meghan Smith to approve the appointments of Meaghan Sulham and Karlos Aponte. Motion seconded by Tess Grous and carried unanimously.*

**b. Decommission of School Buses from Fleet Service**

An attachment was distributed with VIN numbers of the vehicles to be taken out of service.

***Motion made by Kim Kouatly to decommission school bus #1 and #10 from service. Motion seconded by Jennifer Leszczynski and carried unanimously.***

**Opportunity for Public Comment**

None

**Next Meeting Date/Agenda Items**

The next scheduled meeting date is 8/17/23. Tonight's meeting was called as that date conflicts with members ability to attend; the 8/17 date will be noticed to the town clerk as cancelled. Items for the 9/07/23 agenda:

- Security Audit report
- Facility and Capital Updates
- Preliminary FY 23 End of Year Financial Report
- School Opening Report

**Superintendent Evaluation (Executive Session Anticipated)**

***Motion made by Tess Grous to enter into executive session (7:34 pm) for the purpose of evaluation of the Superintendent and to invite Mrs. Ford into the session. Motion seconded by Kim Kouatly and carried unanimously.***

Present: Jennifer Leszczynski, Al Maccarone, Jane Urban, Kim Kouatly, Tess Grous, Meghan Smith and Cindy Ford.

Board members and Mrs. Ford exited executive session at 8:28 pm. No action was taken

**Adjournment**

***Motion made by Al Maccarone to adjourn the meeting at 8:29 p.m. Motion seconded by Kim Kouatly and carried unanimously.***

Recorded by: Jennifer Truax

Zoom Recording Link:

[https://us02web.zoom.us/rec/share/wOajMF1nvnZY07nfmZ\\_juD366VQcLm3iHS3\\_SLRETVPTpddHL2qly9tBcVTXI3.c2uX4mtFeAj1e2y-](https://us02web.zoom.us/rec/share/wOajMF1nvnZY07nfmZ_juD366VQcLm3iHS3_SLRETVPTpddHL2qly9tBcVTXI3.c2uX4mtFeAj1e2y-)

Passcode: 3KzjGH1?