

Received 11-21-2023
at 2:10 AM / PM
Attest Karen M. Gulick
Asst Ashford Town Clerk

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

Meeting Held in Person and Electronically Via Zoom

Note: Per CGS 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.

Welcome and Call to Order to the Superintendent of Schools

Superintendent Cynthia Ford called the reorganizational meeting of the Ashford Board of Education to order at 7:02 pm. Present were members Jennifer Leszczynski, Al Maccarone, Jane Urban, Chonte Fields, Meghan Smith, Kim Kouatly and Amanda Cantrell, Others present were Principal Polly Borysevicz, Asst. Principal David Eichorn and teachers Carly Levine and Sean Vanzant.

a. Presentation on Board Member Roles and Responsibilities

Mrs. Ford displayed a PowerPoint with an overview of what the primary responsibilities of members of the board of education are, and the duties of the officers of the board.

Mrs. Ford opened the floor for board reorganization, noting all votes for officers will be tallied by paper ballot.

Board of Education Reorganization

a. Election of Officers

1. Chair

Mrs. Ford asked for nominations for Board of Education Chair.

Meghan Smith nominated Jane Urban for Chair of the Ashford Board of Education. Nomination seconded by Al Maccarone.

There being no other nominations, Mrs. Ford closed the floor and asked Jane Urban if she would accept the nomination. Mrs. Urban replied affirmatively.

Mrs. Ford distributed and collected the ballots. The count was unanimously in favor of Jane Urban for Chair of the Board of Education. Mrs. Ford passed control of the meeting to the Chair.

2. Vice-Chair

The board chair opened the floor to nominations for Vice-Chair of the Board of Education.

Jennifer Leszczynski nominated Kim Kouatly for Vice-Chair of the Ashford Board of Education. Nomination seconded by Meghan Smith.

There being no other nominations, the floor was closed to vote on the nomination of Kim Kouatly.

Mrs. Ford distributed and collected the ballots. The count was unanimously in favor of Kim Kouatly for Vice-Chair of the Board of Education.

3. Secretary

The board chair opened the floor to nominations for Secretary of the Board of Education. Previous secretary Kim Kouatly gave some examples of duties of Secretary.

Al Maccarone nominated Meghan Smith for Secretary of the Board of Education.

Amanda Cantrell nominated Jennifer Leszczynski for Secretary of the Board of Education.

Jennifer Leszczynski nominated Amanda Cantrell for Secretary of the Board of Education.

The nomination of Meghan Smith was seconded by Chonte Fields.

The nomination of Jennifer Leszczynski was seconded by Kim Kouatly. Jennifer Leszczynski declined the nomination.

There being no other nominations or seconds, the floor was closed to vote on the nomination of Meghan Smith.

Mrs. Ford distributed and collected the ballots. The count was unanimously in favor of Meghan Smith for Secretary of the Board of Education.

Pledge of Allegiance

All present recited the pledge.

Communications

- Jane Urban received an email from the Planning and Zoning Commission concerning evaluation by the Town of an Interstate Interchange district zone. The email asked board members to provide any feedback or input and to reach out to neighbors and friends for the same. The PZC will have a public survey available on the town website.
- CABE will be holding a new board member orientation on 12/6. Chonte Fields will attend, any other members who wish to attend should contact Jen Truax.
- The memo from the Town Clerk's office concerning annual meeting schedule filings, posting deadlines for agendas and minutes and FOI email rules clarification was included in the board packet for review.

Curriculum Presentation - Science

Mrs. Borysevicz introduced teachers Dr. Carly Levine and Mr. Sean Vanzant. Dr. Levine updated the board on K-4 science. She noted that while there has been no change since her last presentation to what is being taught, she demonstrated through videos created by students that the way that science is being taught is different and focused on increasing student interest.

Mr. Vanzant also noted that Next Generation of Science Standards (NGSS) remain the same in Grade 7-8. Students have just completed a study of electricity, magnetism research and body systems, and are using Stem Scopes which is a new program that his students are enjoying. He also shared some samples of student work via video.

The board was very impressed with what the students are learning and how they are demonstrating what they have learned.

Opportunity for Public Comment

Meghan Smith opened the floor for comments.

- Rick Kouatly attempted to address the board, but was unable to do so due to technical issues.
- Jane Urban wished to thank everyone involved in the Veteran's Day event held at the school. She noted that it brought tears to her eyes and it was truly wonderful.
- Jennifer Leszczynski reminded everyone of the Book Fair that is underway until November 22nd. Please stop in!

Consent Agenda

a. Approval of Minutes (10/19/2023; 11/02/2023)

Motion made by Kim Kouatly to approve the minutes of October 19, 2023 and November 2, 2023. Motion seconded by Meghan Smith and carried unanimously.

New Business

a. Approval of 2024 Board of Education Meeting Schedule

Jane Urban noted that although the Board of Finance was not able to meet, it is her belief that they will likely continue with meeting on the 2nd and 4th Thursdays of the month. She recommends the BOE adopt the calendar presented which represents our traditional 1st and 3rd Thursday meeting dates.

Motion made by Kim Kouatly to approve the 2024 Board of Education Meeting Schedule as presented. Motion seconded by Chonte Fields and carried unanimously.

Opportunity for Public Comment

- Mr. Kouatly once again tried to share comment, but was unsuccessful. He texted his comments to Kim Kouatly who read it aloud. His comments were supportive of the education his children have received, of the faculty, staff and culture of Ashford School and he thanked the administration for their input and their role in this, many don't see how much administration has to do with the successes of the school.

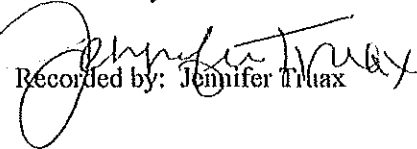
Next Meeting Date/Agenda Items

Agenda items for next meeting on 12/07/2023.

- Nick Caruso from CAFE will be present at the next meeting, members should contact the chair if there are any specific topics they wish to review - Jennifer Leszczynski would like to review freedom of information (FOI).
- Scheduling of a tri-board meeting for budget planning and BOE committee appointments may be discussed.

Adjournment

Motion made by Meghan Smith to adjourn the meeting (8:10 pm). Motion seconded by Amanda Cantrell and carried unanimously.


Recorded by: Jennifer Triax

Zoom Recording Link: https://us02web.zoom.us/rec/share/lrqiEsEHhk02RClgJDqNtpbtDF4o15zmg9vP-ebX7BBfqpUICbzKP9_PrdmOnYB.UvdzWrkcNW3hPn0x

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