

Special Meeting Minutes – Ashford Board of Education

January 11, 2024

Room 16, Ashford School and via Zoom

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 7:01 PM by Vice-Chair Kim Kouatly.

Members Present: Chonte Fields, Jennifer Leszczynski, Amanda Cantrell, Meghan Smith, Jane Urban (7:02 PM) and Al Maccarone (7:12 PM)

Others Present: Superintendent Cindy Ford, Business Manager Deana Chrzan and Principal Polly Borysevicz. There was one member of the school community present via Zoom.

Pledge of Allegiance

Recited by all present

Communications

An email communication was received with an FOI request of BOE budget expenditures for FY 23. Deana Chrzan responded with the requested information.

Opportunity for Public Comment

None

FY 25 Budget Worksession

- Mrs. Ford opened the discussion by stating the process followed and the stakeholders involved in the input creating the initial budget draft for this meeting. Mrs. Chrzan has done a great deal of work in obtaining the information, including reaching out to all established vendors. This document represents a 3% increase over the current budget.
- Mrs. Chrzan gave a comprehensive review of the working draft document by both line and object. Mrs. Urban, Mrs. Chrzan and Mrs. Ford provided additional information and details for certain areas of the budget, addressing items that the board has little control over such as collective bargaining, insurance and employee benefits, oil, fuel, utilities and services provided under existing contracts. The generator, roof, HVAC and fire systems, other facility items, grant resources and school staffing were discussed.
- Board members asked questions and engaged in dialogue throughout the presentation.

FY 23 Audit Update

Mrs. Chrzan gave members a brief update of the most recent communications with the auditors.

Opportunity for Public Comment

Kim Kouatly encouraged the citizens of Ashford come out to BOF and BOE meetings and ask questions!

Adjournment

Motion made by Chonte Fields to adjourn the meeting (8:58 PM). Motion seconded by Amanda Cantrell and carried unanimously.

Zoom Recording Information

https://us02web.zoom.us/rec/share/bireNRIJezlVOSEF_8h0U5iG4VFH6Gu9nzoTlJj9ehx8HNWCnVNYpOd03-oUrovb.KcQN74da9_WEaJnB

Passcode: 64Z45QH?

Recorded by: Jennifer Truax

Attachments: Initial working draft of the FY 25 budget