

## Regular Meeting Minutes – Ashford Board of Education

April 4, 2024

Room 16, Ashford School and via Zoom

### Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 7:03 PM by Chair Jane Urban.

Members Present: Amanda Cantrell, Kim Kouatly, Chonte Fields, Jennifer Leszczynski, Meghan Smith and Al Maccarone

Others Present: Supt. Cindy Ford, Business Manager Deana Chrzan, Principal Polly Borysevicz and Asst. Principal David Eichorn. Two members of the community were present via Zoom.

### Pledge of Allegiance

Recited by all present

### Curriculum Presentation: Physical Education and Health *(Tiffany Mararra and Luke Croxton)*

Mrs. Mararra shared a powerpoint presentation of the current PK-8 curriculum at Ashford School. She reviewed current state standards, goal setting and noted that the state will be making changes to the standards. Both she and Mr. Croxton share the teaching of health and P.E., both teach SOAR, and are involved in other school activities such as Field Day, Staff vs. Student basketball and soccer games and planning of annual pep rallies. Board members and Mrs. Mararra exchanged questions and answers about the curriculum.

### Communications

None

### Opportunity for Public Comment

None

### Consent Agenda

#### a. Approval of Minutes: 02/15/2024; 03/07/2024; 03/28/2024

***Motion made by Al Maccarone to approve the minutes of 02/15/2024, 03/07/2024 and 03/28/2024. Motion seconded by Chonte Fields and carried unanimously.***

### New Business

#### a. Staff Appointment *(Emma Tomanelli, PT School Psychologist)*

Two applications were recently received for the .45 part time position that had been posted all year. Both candidates were interviewed and Mrs. Tomanelli was offered the position. She will begin in August 2024.

***Motion made by Jennifer Leszczynski to appoint Emma Tomanelli to the position of part time school psychologist commencing in August 2024. Motion seconded by Meghan Smith and carried unanimously.***

### Old Business

#### a. FY 25 Budget

The Public Budget Hearing is in person only and will be held April 9, 2024 at 7:30 pm at the Ashford Town Office Building Lower Level.

#### b. Facility Update

Mrs. Ford distributed a facility update. Items discussed were the approval of the roof project architectural plan by the State, Clerk of the Works and bid/RFP for roofing contractor, solar, interviews and walk throughs. There were recent repairs to one of the school boilers and the fire panel installation will be completed on 4/15.

### Committee Breakouts *(Facilities, Finance and Operations; Curriculum and Educational Optimization)*

Mrs. Urban called for the two committees to meet and discuss what they feel is most appropriate for their group and then report back to the full board. The full board will be discussing Board Policies and policy process after the budget season has concluded. The board meeting was suspended at 7:54 pm for in-person work sessions and reconvened at 8:16 pm hearing the following reports:

- Curriculum and Educational Optimization (Al Maccarone, Jennifer Leszczynski, Amanda Cantrell)  
Mr. Maccarone reported that the group, including Mr. Eichorn and Mrs. Borysevicz, had a lively discussion of the support of classroom instructional needs with input from the teachers; gathering feedback about student preparation for high school; and revisiting skills such as cursive writing, typing skills and safe/responsible use of social media. This was discussed during Strategic Planning and are essential to budget creation.

- Facilities, Finance and Operations (Chonte Fields, Kim Kouatly, Meghan Smith)  
The group was joined by Mrs. Chrzan and Mrs. Ford. Mrs. Urban sat in as ex-officio. Mrs. Chrzan distributed the March 2024 budget and expenditure report for discussion and committee review. The committee recommends approval of the March 2024 report.

***Motion made by Meghan Smith to approve the March 2024 Budget and Expenditure report. Motion seconded by Kim Kouatly and carried unanimously.***

### **Opportunity for Public Comment**

None

### **Next Meeting Date/Agenda Items**

April 18, 2024. Meeting falls during school vacation week; a decision on cancellation of the meeting will be made next week if appropriate.

### **Adjournment**

***Motion made by Chonte Fields to adjourn the meeting (8:27 PM). Motion seconded by Amanda Cantrell and carried unanimously.***

### **Zoom Recording Information**

<https://us02web.zoom.us/rec/share/SonPjZXC8fXjQAa-J9RXyYINMBLRJ2Gbtcr5ser5iSGAJLE64sPKqRvGxeCoGS1L.XxM2AYEOhwIKsY11>

Passcode: 8LRSc\*.V

Recorded by: Jennifer Truax

Attachments: Health/PE document; minutes; resume; facility report 4/4; March 2024 budget/exp. report