

Ashford Board of Education  
Regular Meeting Minutes – September 15, 2022

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 7:09 p.m.
- Board members present: Al Maccarone, Jennifer Lesczynski, Tess Grous, Marian Matthews and Meghan Smith (7:11 pm). Unable to attend was member Kim Kouatly.
- Also present was Director of Pupil Personnel/Acting Superintendent Cindy Ford and Principal Polly Borysevicz. There were 4 members of the public/staff present via Zoom. Asst. Principal David Eichorn joined via Zoom at approximately 7:45pm.

**Pledge of Allegiance**

**Board Chair Comments**

Chair Jane Urban gave a special thank you to Joan Celotti and our drivers for making student transportation work, other towns had to cancel school due to driver issues, we are grateful to them, to Seth Lyman, the administration, the teachers, and all staff for their hard work and extra hours in getting Ashford students to and from school.

**Communications**

Jane Urban noted there were no written communications received. She noted that School Security is on the agenda and explained that such plans are confidential and not available to the public. There will be brief related information that is public shared later in the meeting prior to entering executive session on this topic.

**Consent Agenda**

**a. Approval of Minutes: 08/04/22; 09/01/22**

Motion made by Marian Matthews to approve the meeting minutes of 08/04/22. Motion seconded by Al Maccarone and carried unanimously.

Motion made by Marian Matthews to approve the meeting minutes of 09/01/22. Motion seconded by Meghan Smith.

Discussion followed resulting in the following edits:

- Communications: add “there were no written communications received.”
- Jane Urban noted that the time to enter executive session (9:40pm) was omitted.
- Going forward, written minutes need not reflect the procedures stated by the Secretary for public comment during the second opportunity for public comment.

The motion to approve the minutes of 09/01/22 as amended, carried unanimously.

**Old Business**

**a. Status Update (AEA Negotiations, Audit...)**

- Jenn Lesczynski stated that the initial teacher negotiations session took place 9/14. There are several other meetings scheduled over the next few weeks.
- Cindy Ford shared that the auditors were on site last week and we are waiting for direction on next steps.

There were no further updates concerning roof, solar and UST projects for Ashford School. Discussion concerning special town meetings being necessary to authorize funding of these kinds of projects. It does not appear that can be accomplished before the November ballot. Mrs. Ford noted there has not been a building committee meeting since July. Marian Matthews noted she has not been kept informed of any building committee information, she believes she is on this committee. The board certainly is in support and an advocate for these plans for the school, but they are ultimately town projects. Mrs. Ford will follow up.

**New Business**

**a. Approval of 22-23 Medical Standing Orders (confidential)**

Mrs. Ford gave a copy of the orders to each board member. She explained this document is confidential and members must return the copies after action on this item. Martha Sibley-Jett was in the Zoom audience and shared with the membership that these orders are provided annually by the School Medical Advisor and give her treatment direction to

follow. She noted they are generally the same from year to year, updates from the Academy of Pediatrics have been added for this year.

**Motion** made by Meghan Smith to approve the 22-23 Medical Standing Orders. Motion seconded by Jennifer Lesczynski and carried unanimously.

**b. First Reading of Policy Updates as Per Counsel (September 2022 Release)**

Jane Urban expressed that there were some policy revisions in this packet that she would like the board to review before the second reading: Administration of Medications, Meal Charging, and Physical Activity, Undirected Play and Student Discipline. Marian Matthews inquired about board policy concerning Identification of Gifted and Talented students. Discussion followed concerning posting of current policies on the website, Al Maccarone suggested the board look over a few policies at a time at future meetings.

**c. ED 099 – Change of Authorized Signer for School Nutrition Programs**

This action is required any time there is a change to either of the two authorized signers for school nutrition programs.

**Motion** made by Meghan Smith to direct Kim Kouatly to execute the ED 099 adding Cindy Ford as an authorized signer for school nutrition programs. Motion seconded by Tess Grous and carried unanimously.

**Discussion and Possible Action on Appointment of Interim Superintendent (Executive Session Anticipated)**

Jane Urban noted that executive session would not be necessary. Cindy Ford has been the acting superintendent since July 1<sup>st</sup>. Superintendent Craig Creller has submitted a resignation effective September 30, 2022. Mrs. Ford was recognized for taking on this role and she has done a great job.

**Motion** made by Marian Matthews to appoint Cynthia Ford as interim superintendent of schools effective 10/01/22 through 06/30/23, and to give Jane Urban authority to negotiate a contract with Mrs. Ford. Motion seconded by Meghan Smith and carried unanimously.

**Opportunity for Public Comment**

It was noted there were now 5 members of the public and staff present via Zoom, there was no public comment.

**Next Meeting Date/Agenda Items**

There was lengthy discussion held surrounding student and curriculum presentations to the board. The next meeting date is 10/06. Agenda items include an administrative presentation; committee breakouts (finance, curriculum), board vision/goals and preliminary 23-24 budget discussion.

**School Security Plan (Executive Session Anticipated)**

Mrs. Ford noted that Mrs. Borysevich has been spearheading school safety review and planning. She has made contact with the CT State Police and local agencies. Mrs. Ford noted she and Mrs. Borysevich will be attending an upcoming training workshop, “Community Response Against Targeted Violence.”. The first fire drill was held today and it went very well, both the fire marshal and fire department were on site during the drill. Feedback was requested and provided, items for improvement will be implemented.

**Motion** made by Meghan Smith (8:13 pm) to enter into executive session for the purpose of discussion of the School Security Plan and to invite interim Superintendent Cindy Ford and Principal Polly Borysevich. Motion seconded by Marian Matthews and carried unanimously.

Present: Jane Urban, Tess Grous, Al Maccaone, Jennifer Lesczynski, Marian Matthews, Meghan Smith, Polly Borysevich and Cindy Ford.

Members and guests exited executive session at 9:03 p.m.

**Adjournment**

**Motion** made by Marian Matthews to adjourn the meeting at 9:03 p.m. Motion seconded by Meghan Smith and carried unanimously.

Recorded by: Jennifer Truax

Zoom Recording: [File 1 BOE REC 09152022 .mp4](#)