

Ashford Board of Education  
**Regular Meeting Minutes – October 6, 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 7:05 p.m.
- Board members present: Jennifer Lesczynski, Tess Grous and Meghan Smith (via Zoom) Marian Matthews joined via Zoom at 7:08pm, Kim Kouatly arrived at 7:09pm and Al Maccarone arrived at 7:19pm)
- Also present was Director of Pupil Personnel/Interim Superintendent Cindy Ford, Principal Polly Borysevicz, Asst. Principal David Eichorn and AEA member Josh Carpentier. There were 7 members of the public/staff present via Zoom.

**Pledge of Allegiance**

**Board Chair Comments**

Chair Jane Urban gave a big thank you to the people who put together the COVID vaccine clinic held today at Knowlton Hall. There were a lot of people who came to the clinic.

**Communications (Secretary)**

Jane Urban noted there were no written communications received.

**Opportunity for Public Comment**

None

**Presentation by Administration: Social Emotional Learning & Behavior**

Assistant Principal David Eichorn distributed two documents to the board; a working draft of the “Behavior Consequence Matrix”, and a PowerPoint entitled “Ashford School Behavior and SEL 2022-2023”. Mr. Eichorn reviewed the content of the documents with the board and how the contents were derived. He explained that members of the administration team and teachers worked on a volunteer basis over the summer to review data from the prior year, discuss interventions, dialogue on classroom management, behavior supports, successful strategies and future plans. The matrix is a working draft and will be revised as may be deemed necessary. This document has been shared with families, students and staff prior to the first day of school.

Board members shared their appreciation for this comprehensive approach, the recognition of positive student behavior and inquired about prevention measures. Mrs. Borysevicz spoke about bringing back the Ashford programs such as WINGS and SOAR. Professional development next week will be related to these programs and will involve staff members going off site in groups to the Hole in the Wall Gang camp with a trainer to better understand them.

**Old Business**

**a. BOE Vision and Goals**

Board members were asked to revisit the board’s vision and current goals based on discussions held at the August planning meeting. Jane Urban and Meghan Smith shared some suggested language followed by board feedback. Members were asked to forward their ideas and suggestions to Jane Urban and they will be addressed at a future meeting.

**Audit Update**

Mrs. Ford noted that the business manager has been working closely with the town’s finance department on audit related items.

**AEA Negotiations**

Jenn Lesczynski reported that a tentative agreement had been reached with the teacher’s union. The new contract will go to the AEA first for ratification, and then to the BOE for ratification. She thanked the members of the board’s negotiating team, Jane Urban, Mrs. Ford, the teachers, the board of finance attendees and legal counsel for participating in the negotiations.

## **New Business**

### **a. FY 23 Financial Statements (July-Sept./1<sup>st</sup> Quarter Grants)**

Business manager Deana Chrzan stated her preference would be to review the September statement as it represents cumulative year to date financial activity. She reviewed several negative line items of the statement within the departments that have been affected by changes in the type of account masking, the implementation of Infinite Visions payroll and system enhancements. These will result in a difference in the format of the budget for next year, but going forward, it will be clearer and more transparent. Mrs. Chrzan noted that creation of the budget will be done differently by utilizing reports within the system for accuracy and clarity. Board members asked for clarification of several line items including substitutes, technology supplies, and outplacement tuition. Mrs. Chrzan noted that approximately 30% of outplacement tuition will be offset by special education excess cost grant funds and responded to their questions. A review of the first quarter grants statement followed. The board thanked Mrs. Chrzan and Mrs. Ford for their answers to questions and explanations of grants.

### **Committee Break Out Sessions (Finance and Curriculum)**

The two committees broke out at 9:14 pm. The regular meeting resumed at 9:33 pm.

- Kim Kouatly summarized the Finance Committee discussions concerning budget format/layout and having two budget presentations, one for the town and community and one that is more “nuts and bolts” to the BOF. Mrs. Ford will hold a Saturday input session for community input.
- Tess Grous noted the Curriculum committee discussed planning of presentations of past test results and action plans moving forward. Language Arts will be invited to present to the BOE, there is a new math curriculum in place this year and Mrs. Borysevich informed the committee of several pilots being deployed; teachers will be providing feedback on these pilot programs at the end of the school year.

### **Opportunity for Public Comment**

None

### **Adjournment**

***Motion*** made by Meghan Smith to adjourn the meeting at 9:42 p.m. Motion seconded by Tess Grous and carried unanimously.

Recorded by: Jennifer Truax

Zoom Recording: [https://us02web.zoom.us/recording/detail?meeting\\_id=cAgA0ffyQyWWGLn%2F7rpbJg%3D%3D](https://us02web.zoom.us/recording/detail?meeting_id=cAgA0ffyQyWWGLn%2F7rpbJg%3D%3D)