

Ashford Board of Education
Regular Meeting Minutes – October 20, 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 7:06 p.m.
- Board members present: Jennifer Leszczynski, Meghan Smith, Marian Matthews, Kim Kouatly and Al Maccarone. Unable to attend was member Tess Grous.
- Also present was Director of Pupil Personnel/Interim Superintendent Cindy Ford, Principal Polly Borysevich and 5 community members via Zoom.

Pledge of Allegiance

Board Chair Comments

None

Communications (Secretary)

Chair Jane Urban read aloud an email received from AEA president Jennifer Lindsay (attached). Secretary Kim Kouatly noted there were no written communications received.

Opportunity for Public Comment

None

Consent Agenda

a. Approval of Minutes: 09/16/2022; 10/06/2022

b. Second Reading: Policy Updates Provided by Counsel

Before moving on to the consent agenda items, Marian Matthews requested that there be some items added to the agenda for discussion/updates.

Motion made by Marian Matthews to add to “Old Business”, item 7b “Roof/Solar Project Update”. Motion seconded by Meghan Smith and carried unanimously.

Motion made by Marian Matthews to add to “Old Business”, item 7c “Board Goals”. Motion seconded by Al Maccarone and carried unanimously.

Motion made by Marian Matthews to add to “New Business”, item 8b “Agendas and Future Meetings”. Motion seconded by Al Maccarone and carried unanimously.

Motion made by Kim Kouatly to approve the consent agenda items. Motion seconded by Marian Matthews and carried unanimously.

Old Business

a. FY 24 Budget Planning Calendar

Interim Supt. Cindy Ford noted that she will be holding two meetings with regard to the FY 24 budget to allow community budget conversation.

- Saturday, November 12th, Mrs. Ford and Business Manager Deana Chrzan will be available from 10 am to 12 noon in Room 16 for public input.
- Wednesday, November 2nd, Mrs. Ford will be available from 7:45 am – 8:15 am for community input.

She noted that these dates have been publicized on K-12 Alerts and appear in her next Ashford Citizen article. Brief conversation followed with regard to the most effective processes for board budget development of the FY 24 budget. Jane Urban noted there was discussion of having a three-board conversation (BOE, BOF and BOS chairs) concerning FY 24 budget, she will reach out to the First Selectman.

b. Roof/Solar Project Update

Jane Urban noted that the Underground Storage Tank (UST) funding application filed and approved and thanked Cindy Ford for her efforts. Mrs. Ford noted that two quotes for removal and replacement have been received and a third is expected next week; the vendors are on the state approved bid list.

Two meetings are scheduled for 10/21 with regard to the roof project. The first is a meeting with bond counsel to go over timeline and regulations related to such a project. The second is to review the project status, apply bond counsel information and review next steps. Discussion followed with concerns about loss of solar incentives as time moves forward. Kim Kouatly noted that the board has done what it can, it is now up to the Town to move the project forward to the next step.

c. Board Goals

Marian Matthews noted that the CABA Journal's September 2022 newsletter included an article regarding board goals and Marian recommended everyone read the article.

New Business

Item 8b added earlier in the meeting was addressed before item 8a on the agenda.

b. Agendas and Future Meetings

As discussed at the August planning meeting, CABA has been contacted and is available to come to a board meeting to discuss student achievement and the board's role in curriculum with the board. Marian Matthews would like to have curricular related presentations on all agendas. Discussion followed on methods to address curriculum sharing and test scores with the board including but not limited to methods of presentation, events, slideshows, programs and resources to improve student achievement.

a. Ratification of Successor Agreement with the Ashford Education Association July 1, 2023 – June 30, 2026

Jane Urban noted the agenda did not identify this item would be discussed in executive session noting the agreement is not an official document until it has been ratified by the board.

Motion made by Meghan Smith (8:03 pm) to enter into executive session for the purpose of discussing the ratification of the successor agreement with the Ashford Education Association July 1, 2023 – June 30, 2026, and to invite Interim Supt. Cindy Ford to the session. Motion seconded by Jennifer Leszczynski and carried unanimously.

Chair Jane Urban stated there would be action taken on this agenda item at the conclusion of executive session.

Present: Jane Urban, Al Maccarone, Kim Kouatly, Jennifer Leszczynski, Meghan Smith, Marian Matthews, Cindy Ford.

The board and the interim Superintendent exited executive session at 8:22 pm

Motion made by Kim Kouatly to ratify the successor agreement with the Ashford Education Association for the period of July 1, 2023 – June 30, 2026. Motion seconded by Marian Matthews and carried unanimously.

Jane Urban thanked all parties involved in this negotiation for their time and efforts.

Opportunity for Public Comment

None

Adjournment

Motion made by Marian Matthews to adjourn the meeting at 8:24 p.m. Motion seconded by Meghan Smith and carried unanimously.

Recorded by: Jennifer Truax

Zoom Recording: https://us02web.zoom.us/recording/detail?meeting_id=eBsRBDe3QYeOLCue9wa0Bw%3D%3D



Communication
Read at Meeting

Jennifer Truax <jtruax@ashfordct.org>

Fwd: Thank you from the AEA

Jane Urban <jurban@ashfordct.org>
To: AshfordBOE@ashfordct.org

Thu, Oct 20, 2022 at 7:10 PM

For your awareness. DO NOT REPLY ALL. Enjoy, and thanks for all you do!

----- Forwarded message -----

From: Ashford AEA <aeaebboard@gmail.com>

Date: Mon, Oct 17, 2022 at 10:15 AM

Subject: Thank you from the AEA

To: Board Of Education <boe@ashfordct.org>, Jane Urban <jurban@ashfordct.org>, Jane Urban <jane.m.urban@gmail.com>, Ashford Band <ashfordband@gmail.com>

Dear Board of Education Members,

We, the Ashford Education Association, wanted to take a few minutes to share with you how positive and upbeat the atmosphere is here at Ashford School. Everywhere we turn, our colleagues and students are smiling, sharing a laugh, talking about the day, or planning lessons and learning together.

As you know, the past few years have been very challenging, but we are confident in our new leadership team, and we believe that Ashford School has come through the pandemic and other difficulties ready to grow.

Thank you for all of your support and decision-making over the past few years. We are very thankful to have such strong partners in our community.

We look forward to the future!

Sincerely, on behalf of the AEA,

Jennifer W. Lindsay
AEA president