

Regular Meeting Minutes – Ashford Board of Education

December 21, 2023

Room 16, Ashford School and via Zoom

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 7:06 PM by Chair Jane Urban.

Members Present: Kim Kouatly, Chonte Fields, Al Maccarone, Meghan Smith (via Zoom) and Amanda Cantrell

Members Absent: Jennifer Leszczynski

Others Present: Supt. Cindy Ford, Business Manager Deana Chrzan, Principal Polly Borysevicz, Asst. Principal David Eichorn and certified staff members Justine Meyer, Amanda Jacaruso and Alissa Tatro. There was one member of the school community present via Zoom.

Pledge of Allegiance

Recited by all present

Communications

No written communications were received. Jane Urban spoke to the First Selectwoman, no formal appointment of the superintendent to the town building committee is necessary.

Curriculum Presentation - Social Emotional Learning (SEL)

Mrs. Borysevicz introduced Justine Meyer, Amanda Jacaruso and Alissa Tatro who shared a powerpoint presentation on the social emotional learning program at Ashford School.

Opportunity for Public Comment

Jane Urban gave praise to Mrs. Capozziello, Mrs. Podolski and the accompanist at the Winter Concert, it was a wonderful performance. She recognized the efforts of Mr. Mellady and the maintenance staff who went above and beyond to correct some facility issues that could have jeopardized the concert.

Consent Agenda

a. Approval of Minutes (11/17/2023; 12/07/2023)

Motion made by Chonte Fields to approve the consent agenda. Motion seconded by Kim Kouatly and carried unanimously.

New Business

a. Acceptance of October and November Budget and Expense Reports

Mrs. Chrzan noted that there was nothing significant to report. Brief discussion followed about grant and lunch program reimbursements and some line items. Budget transfers will not be made until the end of the calendar year passes.

Motion made by Kim Kouatly to approve the October and November budget and expense reports as presented. Motion seconded by [Meghan Smith](#) and carried unanimously.

b. Request Approval of 2024-2025 Ashford School Calendar

Discussion of the process to create the calendar occurred followed by questions and answers.

Motion made by Kim Kouatly to approve the 2024-2025 Ashford School calendar as proposed. Motion seconded by Al Maccarone and carried unanimously.

c. Review and Prioritize Capital Needs/Requests

Mrs. Ford reviewed capital items that have been completed or are in progress.. State mandates and previously identified items were discussed, further discussion will be needed to prioritize the list.

d. Distribute December 2023 Policy Update Summary from Counsel

Packet distributed for review prior to first reading planned for January 5, 2024.

Old Business

a. Audit and Year End Budget Update

Mrs. Chrzan reported that the audit has not yet been completed, but is on target for the 1/31/2024 deadline.

b. Facility Update

Mrs. Ford reviewed her report with the board and updated them on recent events.

c. Second Reading of October 2023 Policy Updates Provided by Counsel

Motion made by Chonte Fields to approve the October 2023 policy updates provided by counsel, motion seconded by [Amanda Cantrell](#) and carried unanimously.

Opportunity for Public Comment

None

Next Meeting Date/Agenda Items

January 4, 2024 - Committees, budget calendar review, first reading of policies, curriculum presentation, budget work session (special meeting) January 11, 2024

Adjournment

Motion made by Meghan Smith to adjourn the meeting (8:34 PM). Motion seconded by Amanda Cantrell and carried unanimously.

Zoom Recording Information

https://us02web.zoom.us/rec/share/wxhTHYsaddcW6St0JkXwiKwT0C4bqOZ0piUnvaAldiExuabKci_U0Pt9YmNwaU-J_tfs0lw0SWo6S4QV

Passcode: !XX5#s&L

Recorded by: Jennifer Truax

Attachments: minutes; October/November budget expense reports, policy summaries, facility update