

Ashford Board of Education
Special Meeting Minutes – October 24, 2013
7:30 p.m.

Note: Per C.G.S. §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 exception of motions and votes recorded, these minutes are unofficial until they have been read and approved by a majority vote of 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

Chairperson D. Wesson called the meeting to order at 7:37 pm.

Board Present

Present were members D. Wesson, K. Rourke, J. Rupert, J. Lippert, K. Warren and L. Donegan. Also present were Superintendent Dr. J. Longo, Principal T. Hopkins, Pupil Personnel Director D. Hartigan and recording secretary J. Barsaleau. In the audience was resident G. Leedie. Unable to attend was board member B. Supina.

Persons to be Heard

Members of the board reported on this year's WINGS program at the Hole in the Wall Gang Camp and noted it was "phenomenal" and an exceptionally well-run program. The board expressed its thanks and appreciation to Mrs. Hardisty, Mrs. McDonough, Mrs. Leedie and all of the students, faculty members, and volunteers for making this program so successful.

Communications

The board was reminded of the CABE convention November 15 & 16. The Ashford Jazz Band will be performing at the opening of the convention at 8:30 AM. Dr. Longo will attend; J. Barsaleau will contact CABE to ask if it is acceptable for board members to attend the early performance, without registering for the entire day of the convention.

Mr. Hopkins distributed a letter from the Ashford School Class of 1958. Members of the class had visited the school, and then visited with their 6th grade teacher, Mrs. Myrtle Morse. The Class has sent a \$600 donation to the school for the purpose of creating a small showcase in celebration of Mrs. Morse from the Class of 1958.

Approval of Minutes: 09/19/2013; 10/03/2013

Motion to approve the meeting minutes of 09/19/2013 made by K. Rourke, seconded by D. Wesson and carried with abstentions by K. Warren and J. Rupert.

Motion to approve the minutes of 10/03/2013 made by J. Rupert, seconded by K. Warren and carried with abstentions by J. Lippert and L. Donegan.

Committee Reports

a. Personnel

Dr. Longo met with the personnel committee prior to this meeting and reported that blank copies of the Superintendent Evaluation would be distributed at the full board meeting. Teacher negotiations meetings have altered the original schedule for evaluation. Two security related items were discussed at the meeting, the creation of a new position for building security to monitor grounds and building access at weekend events during the school year; or utilizing existing maintenance staff to fulfill the same coverage. The committee's preference was the latter. The board members present were polled for their preference and concurred with the committee's recommendation.

Motion made by J. Rupert to direct Dr. Longo to address a change in hours for the maintenance staff to include weekend coverage with the members and their union representative. The motion was amended by K. Rourke to include that any schedule change be on a rotating or monthly basis, and include scheduling flexibility with relation to seasonal or event schedules of the school building. Motion seconded by K. Warren and carried unanimously.

The committee discussed notification to staff and visitors of CCTV camera monitoring. Appropriate signage will be ordered and placed in several locations both inside and outside of the building.

b. Finance

D. Wesson reported that the committee met prior to the meeting and reviewed the FY 14 first quarter BMSI report in detail, by line and by object. Mrs. Hartigan was in attendance and reported potential changes to the special education portion of the budget as necessitated by student need. Copies of the BMSI report were in the board packet; a 2-page object summary prepared by the business office was distributed to the members. The auditors had to postpone their planned visit for 10/25 due to the untimely death of one of the auditing firm's partners. A date will be rescheduled. The board will address any quarterly transfer action later in the meeting under "New Business".

Administrative Reports/Summary (reports may be distributed at meeting)

a. Superintendent

Dr. Longo reviewed his report with the board which included information on budget, a business office update, school safety, technology, regional matters, certified staff negotiations, fuel purchasing and parking lot improvements being done by the town. Thanks to the assistance of the town, the handicap parking spaces will be moved closer to the building before winter weather arrives.

b. Principal

Mr. Hopkins reviewed his report, which was included in the board packet. He and Mrs. Ford are well into the observation and evaluations for teachers. He reported that although it is very intensive it has proven to be very satisfactory as they are having great conversations and interactions with staff. A CMT report is being prepared and will be forthcoming.

c. Director of Pupil Personnel

Mrs. Hartigan's report addressed the effects of the current economy on school-aged students. We, like so many other districts, are seeing behavioral changes as a result of many factors, including those stemming from economic circumstances. She reported that the department of education is really pushing for districts to become "Community Schools" addressing many factors outside of the school setting that may be impacting student education and welfare. The Ashford School district has been proactive in addressing many of the factors identified as being impactful to student learning.

d. Cafeteria

Ms. Samperi could not be present but provided a brief update from Food Services. Any questions may be directed to Ms. Samperi.

Old Business

a. FY 13 Budget Audit Update

As discussed earlier, the auditing firm will be rescheduling its visit to review the ED001.

New Business

a. Authorization of FY 14 Budget Transfers

D. Wesson revisited the FY 14 first quarter budget report with the board. He reported that the finance committee recommends that the board acknowledge receipt of the first quarter BMSI expense and encumbrance report, and the associated 2-page object summary, but does not recommend object transfer. Motion made by D. Wesson to acknowledge board receipt of, and review of, the July 2013-September 2013 BMSI report and associated object summary report; and to accept the recommendation of the finance committee that no object transfers be made at this time. Motion seconded by K. Rourke and carried unanimously.

b. September 2013 Legal Policy Updates

Board members received a legal policy update packet from legal counsel. Both the Board Procedures and Line Item Transfer policy and the regulations to IDEA Fiscal Compliance policy require amendment to reflect language revision as required by the adoption of Public Acts and/or legislative changes to statute.

1. Amendment to Board Procedures and Line Item Transfers

A redline copy of the policy was provided by counsel for the purpose of amending the existing policy. By consent, the board accepts the revision of counsel as its first reading.

2. Amendment to IDEA Fiscal Compliance Regulations

A redline copy of the regulations was provided by counsel for the purpose of amendment. By consent, the board accepts the amended regulations of counsel as its first reading.

Next Meeting Date/Agenda Items

The next meeting date is scheduled for 11/7. The regular meeting agenda items will begin with board reorganization.

Superintendent Evaluation (Executive Session Anticipated)

Adjournment

Motion to adjourn the meeting (9:52 p.m.) made by J. Rupert, seconded by L. Donegan and carried unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted,

Jennifer Barsaleau
Recording Secretary