

Ashford Board of Education
Meeting Minutes – December 5, 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

Board Chair D. Wesson called the meeting to order at 7:31 pm.

Board Present

Present were members D. Wesson, J. Rupert, J. Lippert, K. Rourke and L. Donegan (7:36 pm). Also present were Superintendent Dr. J. Longo and recording secretary J. Barsaleau. In the audience was C. Miller, D. Morgan, L. San Diego, N. Rice, and CAPSS award recipients T. Pavilscak and S. Cosgrove and their family members. Unable to attend were board members B. Supina and K. Warren.

2013 CAPSS Awards Recipients

Dr. Longo introduced the 2013 recipients of the CT Association of Public School Superintendents (CAPSS) award. This years recipients are Sabrina Cosgrove and Thomas Pavliscak. Nomination criteria as defined by CAPSS are based on community service and service to others; academic prowess relative to ability; and leadership in the school community. Dr. Longo and the board congratulated both students on their nomination and receipt of this award.

Persons to be Heard

N. Rice provided the board with an update of the current Grade 4. She felt there are still academic struggles for many of the grade 4 students and asked that the board consider support options for this group of students in its budget development. She went on to share an e-mail that she had written to Mr. Hopkins to show support and praise for many positive things happening at school since his arrival at Ashford.

Communications

The Ashford School Jazz Band performed at the annual CABE convention in November. The band was very well received by those in attendance. Three grants have been awarded to the school district, Exxon-Mobil, a competitive School Security Grant and a Technology Improvement grant. J. Rupert reminded the board that the Capital Improvement Committee agreed last year to provide security enhancements for the school through the use of capital improvement funds. Mr. Rupert added that he would be extremely disappointed if the security grant reimbursement revenues were retained by the Town, and not allocated to providing those further security and safety enhancements to protect the children of Ashford School.

Approval of Minutes: 11/07/2013

Motion to approve the meeting minutes of 11/07/2013 made by J. Lippert seconded by J. Rupert and carried with one abstention (L.Donegan).

Committee Reports

a. Finance

1. FY 13 Audit

2. Final Budget Transfers FY13

3. Minimum Budget Requirement

The committee met prior to the regular board meeting. Items discussed were the FY 13 audit and recommendations noted by the auditors, minimum budget requirement, and a review of proposed final budget transfers. Ms. Miller distributed a July-November 2013 profit and loss statement to the committee. Per e-mail communication from the chair of the board of finance, the minimum budget requirement matter has been transferred to the town treasurer for resolution. The treasurer will advise the business office of any action that is required. The committee recommends the board accept the final budget transfers for FY 13.

Motion made by K. Rourke to add to the agenda approval of FY 13 final budget transfers, motion seconded by J. Lippert and carried unanimously. Brief discussion followed concerning the funding of a non-lapsing account for FY 13 and to review of the transfers with the board.

Motion made by J. Rupert to approve the object budget transfers, as presented, by the business office, for the period of July 2012-June 2013. Motion seconded by J. Lippert and carried unanimously.

b. Long Range Planning

J. Rupert gave a brief summary of the meeting held prior to this regular board meeting. The capital improvement list submitted to the town last year was reviewed, as were additional items for consideration in this year's list. The Capital Improvement Committee will meet on December 11th at town hall. D. Wesson and Dr. Longo will attend.

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

a. Superintendent

Notice of intent sent to the BOF chair concerning 1% non-lapsing fund from FY 13. A tree came down the weekend before Thanksgiving, crushing part of perimeter chain link fence. Debris removal, spreading of woodchips, and parking lot work were completed by Town; met with Selectman Zambo to discuss common goals and the school security grant. There are plans to meet with the Region 19 superintendents next week. The Winter Concert is on the 12th; reserved seating is available by contacting Jen Barsaleau.

Old Business

Brief discussion

New Business

a. Discussion and Ratification of Ashford BOE and Ashford Education Association Successor Collective Bargaining Agreement

The board asked that anyone in the audience and the recording secretary exit the room so that the board could enter into non-meeting for the purpose of discussing collective bargaining strategy (8:44 PM).

The meeting resumed (9:01 PM).

Motion made by K. Rourke to ratify, as mediated, the successor collective bargaining agreement by and between the Ashford Board of Education and the Ashford Education Association for the period of July 1, 2014 –June 30, 2017. Motion seconded by J. Lippert and carried unanimously.

b. Bicknell Trust

1. Review Account Statement and Authorization of 2013 Scholarship Awards

The October 2013 portfolio statement was provided to the members for review. The ending balance on this statement is \$ 128,921.32.

Motion made by L. Donegan to authorize a maximum of \$10,000 in Bicknell Scholarship awards to be distributed as follows: five (5) awards of \$2,000 each, or six (6) awards of \$1,500 each. Motion seconded by J. Rupert and carried unanimously. Scholarship Management Services will receive and screen the applications. SMS will provide the name of recipients who have met the criteria for receipt following the application (postmarked) deadline of April 1, 2014.

c. First Reading of Board Bylaws

The board received a draft of bylaws created by counsel at the 11/7/13 meeting. Members discussed two areas of the bylaws requiring board input.

Motion made by J. Rupert to approve first reading of board bylaws as provided by counsel with optional language in numeral 4 of the “Committees” bylaw stricken; and the words “\$50 per day” inserted into the blank in section C (2) of the draft bylaw “Reimbursement of Board Members’ Expenses”. Motion seconded by L. Donegan and carried unanimously.

Next Meeting Date/Agenda Items

The next meeting date is scheduled for 12/19. There will be a personnel committee meeting at 6:30 PM, followed by a Public Budget Input Session at 7:00 PM prior to the regular board meeting.

Superintendent Evaluation (Executive Session Anticipated)

Tabled by mutual consent of members present.

Adjournment

Motion to adjourn the meeting (9:42 p.m.) made by J. Rupert, seconded by D. Wesson and carried unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted,

Jennifer Barsaleau
Recording Secretary