

Ashford Board of Education
Meeting Minutes – February 6, 2014
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 J. Rupert called the meeting to order at 7:40 pm.

Board Present

Present were members J. Rupert, J. Lippert, K. Rourke, K. Warren and D. Wesson. Also present were Superintendent Dr. J. Longo, Principal T. Hopkins, Asst. Principal C. Ford and recording secretary J. Barsaleau. In the audience were G. Leedie and AEA representative J. Lindsay. Unable to attend were board members L. Donegan and B. Supina.

Persons to be Heard

None

Communications

None

Approval of Minutes: 01/16/14; 01/23/14; 01/30/14

Motion made by K. Warren to approve the regular meeting minutes of 1/16/14 and special meeting minutes of 01/23/14 and 01/30/14, motion seconded by D. Wesson.

K. Warren amended her motion to include edits to the 01/16 minutes: under Superintendent Evaluation, the word “my” should be *by*; and the 01/23 special meeting minutes should be edited to include the names of the members present in the executive session.

J. Rupert called for a vote. The minutes of all three meetings were carried unanimously, with K. Rourke and D. Wesson abstaining from voting on the minutes of 01/23/14.

Committee Reports

No report.

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

a. Superintendent

1. Minimum Budget Requirement

Dr. Longo reviewed the status of the MBR. Currently, the matter is under review by town counsel. Board members offered that perhaps a meeting could be arranged with Dr. Longo, the first selectman, the treasurer and business office staff members to discuss responsibilities and concerns common to both. Dr. Longo provided a report for the meeting that includes FY 15 budget related content. He reminded everyone that the budget comments in the report do not represent any official action and should not be viewed in that manner. He asked that the board consider moving to an executive session to discuss personnel matters as it relates to construction of the FY 15 budget.

Motion made by K. Rourke to add an executive session to the agenda under New Business for the purpose of discussing potential budget reductions that may have personnel implications. Motion seconded by K. Warren and carried unanimously.

Old Business

a. Review of December Financial Reconciliation

C. Miller forwarded a corrected report to the board for December. Dr. Longo offered that business office staff member L. SanDiego has offered to prepare monthly reconciliation reports going forward, with review and oversight by C.L. Services. The members were receptive to this idea.

New Business

a. Review and Discussion of FY 15 Public Budget Input

Board members discussed input from parents of students presented at the January 30th meeting. Mr. Hopkins and Mrs. Ford were asked to share how the matters that were presented are being addressed. Both explained that there are now and have been measures taken to provide additional support where needed in classrooms, and that an interdisciplinary fitness component has been introduced this year to address scheduling changes in physical education. The board was satisfied with the administration’s response. The board reiterated its hope that parents would come to the town meetings and take an active role in the budget process.

b. 2014-2015 Budget

The Superintendent’s draft budget was redistributed with the format changes requested by the board at its last meeting. Members asked for clarification of certain lines or objects in the document.

Motion made by K. Warren to enter into executive session (8:39 pm) for the purpose of discussion of the FY 15 budget and potential personnel implications, and to invite Dr. Longo, Mr. Hopkins and Mrs. Ford to attend.

G. Leedie asked if there would be any action taken following the session. The chair responded that no action was to be taken.

The motion was seconded by D. Wesson and carried unanimously.

Present: J. Rupert; K. Warren. J. Lippert, D. Wesson, K. Rourke, Dr. J. Longo, C. Ford and T. Hopkins.

Next Meeting Date/Agenda Items

Prior to departure of the recording secretary and the audience, the board was reminded it has scheduled special meetings on February 13th for Superintendent Evaluation and a budget work session.

The board and invited participants exited the executive session (10:03 pm).

Adjournment

Motion to adjourn the meeting (10:05 p.m.) made by K. Warren, seconded by D. Wesson and carried unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted,

Jennifer Barsaleau
Recording Secretary