

Ashford Board of Education
Special Meeting Minutes – February 20, 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

Chairperson J. Rupert called the meeting to order at 7:47 pm.

Board Present

Present were members J. Lippert, D. Wesson, K. Rourke, L. Donegan and J. Rupert. Also present were Dr. J. Longo, Superintendent, Principal T. Hopkins and J. Barsaleau, recording secretary. Unable to attend were board members B. Supina and K. Warren.

Persons to be Heard

There was no audience present.

Communications

A memo was sent via e-mail today to all municipalities and superintendents by the Department of Emergency Management concerning monitoring of excessive weight on roofs due to the recent snow and expected melting over the next few days.

Committee Reports

None

Administrative Reports

a. Superintendent

No report

b. Director of Pupil Personnel

No report

c. Principal

Mr. Hopkins distributed his report and reviewed its content with the board.

d. Cafeteria

No report.

Old Business

a. Final 2014-2015 Budget Discussions

Dr. Longo suggested that the executive session scheduled for later in the meeting (item #10) be moved up on the agenda, as it would be necessary prior to making a final approval of the 2014-2015 budget.

Motion made by K. Rourke to address item #10, Non-Union Personnel Negotiations, to this point in the meeting, and to enter into executive session (8:08 pm) to discuss the same, and to invite Dr. Longo and Mr. Hopkins invited to attend. Motion seconded by J. Lippert and carried unanimously.

Present: K. Rourke, L. Donegan, D. Wesson, J. Rupert, J. Lippert, T. Hopkins and Dr. J. Longo.

The board exited executive session at 9:42 pm and took the following action:

D. Wesson left the meeting.

Motion by K. Rourke to approve 2014-2015 salary increases of 2.9% for specified non-union employees to align with the mediated agreement made with the certified staff. These positions are: Principal, Special Ed Director, Nurse, Superintendent's Administrative Assistant, Principal's Secretary, Special Education Secretary, Bookkeepers (2) and a .50 per hour increase for the part time Office Clerk.

Motion seconded by L. Donegan and carried unanimously.

b. Approval of the 2014-2015 Board of Education Budget

J. Lippert motioned that whereas the Board of Education, faced with rising costs associated with a mediated contract agreement and other items outside the full control of the Board, have to make budget reductions to ensure that its final budget proposal to the Board of Finance is acceptable, remain sensitive to the impact that these reductions will have on students and staff; have chosen reductions that protect the integrity of the academic program and are the least impactful upon the staff. These reductions are made to bring the board's proposed 2014-2015 budget to \$7,305,665, an increase of 3.88% over the 2013-2014 budget and are as follows:

- Reduction of .2 FTE in each of the following certified positions: Art, General Music, Physical Education, Health, Secondary reading specialist and elementary reading specialist.
- Elimination of the part time custodial position
- Removal of \$60,000 from the special education outplacement tuition line based upon the anticipated Excess Cost grant as was implemented in fiscal year 2014.

Motion seconded by K. Rourke and carried unanimously.

Motion made by L. Donegan to add to the agenda a second executive session (9:43 pm) for the purpose of discussing attorney-client privileged communication concerning financial matters; and to invite Dr. Longo to attend the session. Motion seconded by J. Lippert and carried unanimously. Present in the session were J. Rupert, L. Donegan, J. Lippert, K. Rourke and Dr. Longo.

The board exited the session at 10:05 pm and took the following action:

Motion made by L. Donegan that the Ashford Board of Education accepts the Minimum Budget Requirement memorandum of understanding, as presented by Board counsel, with the hope that this resolves the issue with the best interests of all parties served fairly and equitably. Motion seconded by J. Lippert and carried unanimously.

Adjournment

Motion to adjourn (10:10 pm) made by L. Donegan, seconded by K. Rourke and carried unanimously.

Recorded by:

Jennifer Barsaleau
Recording Secretary