

Ashford Board of Education
Meeting Minutes - August 20, 2015

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 special meeting to order at 7:42 PM. Present were J. Rupert, K. Rourke, J. Mozeiko, J. Lippert, L. Donegan, K. Warren, and D. Wesson. Also present were Dr. J. Longo, Superintendent, Principal T. Hopkins, Pupil Personnel Director C. Ford, Asst. Principal G. Dukette and recording secretary J. Barsaleau. Present in the audience were S. Morytko, S. Lyman, R. Haeger and D. Atkinson.

Persons to be Heard

S. Morytko asked when the new traffic signs in front of the school would be placed. J. Lippert asked about placement of concrete benches as discussed in the past.

J. Barsaleau was directed to follow up with the First Selectman's office concerning the status of the DOT signage. In lieu of benches, there had been discussion of placing large boulders instead. Dr. Longo will follow up.

Communications

J. Rupert reported that he had received a flyer from CABA at home as did the other members. The Summer 2015 Employment Law Newsletter and 2015 Legislative Summary were included in the board's packet.

Approval of Minutes: 07/16/2015

Motion to approve the minutes of 07/16/2015 made by K. Rourke, seconded by J. Mozeiko and carried with the following abstentions (L. Donegan, D. Wesson and J. Lippert).

Distribution of Administrative Reports

a. Superintendent

- Budget
- School Safety
- Building and Grounds Committee
- Curriculum

b. Principal

1. STEAM Initiative Status Report

- Arts – New Emphasis on Visual Arts, Dance and Theater
- Sciences

2. Curriculum Report

- Upgrade Plans – Status
- Writing Initiative
- Directions for Action
- Closing Remarks

c. Director of Pupil Personnel

Administrative reports will be tabled until the next meeting unless there is sufficient time available to hear the report of the Principal following the business items on the agenda.

New Business

a. Approval of School Bus Specifications for RFP

J. Rupert asked bus mechanic S. Lyman for his input concerning the specifications and RFP for the purchase of a new school bus. Mr. Lyman reported that the last bus purchased has been flawless in comparison to other recent purchases, and he would ask that the board consider a recommendation to the Board of Selectmen to purchase another Bluebird bus. Mr. Lyman was asked about the status of the fleet and he reported that he has been busy, but all is going well. He will recommend the removal of bus #4 and bus #6 from service.

Motion made by D. Wesson to approve the 2015 school bus specifications and to recommend to the Board of Selectmen the purchase of a Bluebird model school bus. Motion seconded by K. Warren and carried unanimously.

b. Approval of Ashford School Bus Routes

Ashford bus routes have been posted to the Ashford school website and include high school runs. Routes are still being revised due to recent student enrollments. K-12 Alert notification of route posting will be made this Friday and next Monday. It will be noted that Ashford School does not post student drop off time information for its students for reasons of safety.

Motion made by K. Warren to approve the Ashford School bus routes, seconded by L. Donegan and carried unanimously.

c. Staff Resignation

Communication was received from driver Kathleen Makray that she will be resigning due to health concerns.

Motion made by J. Lippert to accept with much regret, the resignation of Kathleen Makray. Motion seconded by L. Donegan and carried unanimously. Ms. Makray has been employed as a driver for 30 years and will be greatly missed. The board wishes her well.

d. Staff Appointments

Pupil Personnel Director C. Ford recommended the following individuals for full time appointment to the staff of Ashford School:

Polly Borysevicz – Teacher, Special Education

Kate Conway, Paraprofessional

Lina Janosi, Paraprofessional

Motion made by J. Lippert to approve the appointments of Polly Borysevicz, Kate Conway and Lina Janosi to the staff of Ashford School, motion seconded by D. Wesson and carried unanimously.

7. Old Business

a. Second Reading: Curricular Exemptions

Motion made by D. Wesson to approve the curricular exemptions policy as presented by counsel. Motion seconded by L. Donegan and carried unanimously.

Next Meeting Date/Agenda Items

The next meeting date is September 3rd. Agenda items to include review of Superintendent Evaluation document; information concerning tuition; audit update; DOT signs and safety; goals follow up.

Mr. Hopkins was asked to present his Principal's report at this time. He asked that G. Dukette begin by providing an update on the writing program. Mr. Dukette distributed a status report (attached) of where our school is now, and where we are going with respect writing curriculum and instruction at Ashford School.

T. Hopkins reported on the implementation of STEAM based interdisciplinary learning at Ashford School. He passed out draft pamphlet outlining the STEAM approach to learning and how such learning will be implemented in phases. This is the first year and will involve a lot of professional development integrating curriculum. In the first trimester of the school year, a theme will be identified and teachers will apply this theme to standards of learning, students will work together on projects, perhaps skits or stories that will be shared. The second trimester may culminate in a STEAM day at Ashford School and the third trimester may be used to evaluate this type of project based learning,

J. Rupert suggested that ways be found to reach the community at large and invite them to partake in such events as a STEAM day. Other members suggested reaching out to the other towns in Region 19 to discuss hosting of dances or other joint events at each others schools.

Dr. Longo spoke to the members of the audience to say that with all of the great things that are happening at Ashford School that were discussed tonight, it is clear that we have a good administrative team on board. This was a great evening full of enthusiasm, the skills and presentation of this team show why it is a good investment.

Audience member S. Mortyko said he was impressed with what he heard this evening and time at meetings such as this are much more worthwhile than those surrounding the budget.

Motion to adjourn the meeting at (8:46 pm) made by L. Donegan seconded by K. Warren and carried unanimously.

Recorded by:

Jennifer Barsaleau
Recording Secretary

Approved by the Ashford Board of Education:

Unapproved