

Ashford Board of Education
Meeting Minutes – November 19, 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.

Prior to the commencement of the regular meeting, members of the 5th Grade Class at Ashford School shared a power point presentation with the Board of Education and all others present, including their families. The students were learning about Columbus in Ms. Aubrey's Spanish class and about Native Americans in Mr. Horn's social studies class. The students had asked their teacher, Ms. Aubrey, if they could address the Board of Education, and ask them if they would consider changing the Columbus Day holiday at Ashford School to Native Americans Day.

Students S. Holmes, S. Garrison, P. Perosky, L. Brown, S. York, K. Donegan, A. Fleming and S. Landry showed slides and verbally shared facts and information concerning Columbus and the Native Americans including those in Connecticut, in support of their request to the Board.

The Board and the administration applauded and were very impressed with the presentation, admiring the poise, preparation and initiative of the students in bringing their request forward. Members thanked the students, their families and their teacher for attending and sharing this example of the great things that are happening at Ashford School.

Call To Order

Chair J. Rupert called the meeting to order at 8:12 PM. Present were J. Rupert, J. Lippert, K. Warren and K. Rourke (8:11 pm). Also present were Dr. J. Longo, Superintendent, Business Manager D. Neel (8:13 pm), Board member elect L. Donegan, Principal T. Hopkins, Director of Pupil Personnel C. Ford, teacher R. Aubrey and recording secretary J. Barsaleau. Unable to attend were board members M. Matthews and J. Calarese.

Persons to be Heard

None

Communications

A copy of the Fall Newsletter from Shipman & Goodwin was included in the agenda packet. It was noted that the DOT has placed "fines doubled" signs on Rt. 89. Draft copies of the FY 15 audit and management letter were provided to the chair and vice-chair. K. Rourke and D. Neel attended a meeting of the Board of Finance, and reported that the auditors:

- were pleased that items in last year's audit and management letter have been addressed;
- advised the Town and the BOE to establish fraud risk management practices and a credit card policy;
- recommend a new accounting system and a central server.

Approval of Minutes: 10/01/2015; 10/15/2015; 11/05/2015

Motion by K. Warren to approve the regular meeting minutes of 10/01/2015 as presented, seconded by J. Lippert and carried unanimously.

Motion by K. Warren to approve the regular meeting minutes of 10/15/2015 as presented with one edit under Persons to be Heard, last sentence to change from "for him" to "for his". Motion seconded by J. Lippert and carried unanimously.

Motion by K. Rourke to approve the regular meeting minutes of 11/05/2015 as presented, seconded by K. Warren and carried unanimously.

Distribution of Administrative Reports

a. Superintendent

Dr. Longo's report is attached. Dr. Longo suggested the board consider a shorter agenda for the first meeting of the month to include committee meetings and roundtable discussions. He encouraged more student presentations like the one heard earlier this evening. Discussion followed, the first December meeting will include public budget input.

b. Business Manager

Mr. Neel provided written and financial reports through October 2015. There were no non-contractual payments to or for the benefit of the Superintendent for the period reported. A brief discussion followed concerning zero-based budgeting practices.

Motion by K. Rourke to accept the report of the Business Manager, as presented. Motion seconded by K. Warren and carried unanimously.

c. Principal/Asst. Principal

Mr. Hopkins distributed an after school program flyer and reviewed his report. Mr. Dukette's report was distributed for review.

d. Director of Pupil Personnel

Mrs. Ford distributed and reviewed her report with the members.

e. Quarterly Reports: Cafeteria/Health Room

Written reports from the food services manager and the school nurse were included in the agenda packet for members to review.

New Business

a. FY 15 Draft Audit Follow Up Report

There were no desk audit findings for the ED001. The FY 15 draft audit was presented at the Board of Finance meeting and discussed under *Communications*.

b. First Reading of Board Policy Updates Provided by Counsel (Series 5000 – Use of Private Technology by Students; Wellness)

The *Use of Private Technology by Students* policy draft includes some optional language. Dr. Longo recommends exclusion of this language. The *Wellness* policy is presented as is for first reading. Members should review both policies and direct any questions to the Superintendent's office.

Old Business

a. Second Reading of Policies: (Series 1000 – Prohibition Against Smoking; Series 4000-Family and Medical Leave; Alcohol and Drug Free Workplace; Concussion Training for Athletic Coaches; Series 5000-Homeless Students; Section 504; Suicide Prevention and Intervention)

J. Rupert read the names of the policies for being considered for adoption.

Motion by K. Warren to adopt all of the policies as presented and to include the optional language presented in Series 1000 "Prohibition Against Smoking". Motion seconded by K. Rourke and carried unanimously.

b. Board of Education Committee Appointments

Appointments will be tabled until all board members are present. Discussion followed for the need to appoint a member to the Long Term planning committee to represent the Board at Capital Improvement meetings. John Lippert agreed to represent the Board of Education concerning Capital Improvement, with Jim Rupert as an alternate.

Next Meeting Date/Agenda Items

The next regular meeting date is 12/03. Agenda items will include Public budget input, roundtable discussion and committee appointments.

Superintendent Evaluation (Executive Session, Action Anticipated)

J. Rupert reminded all members to conclude their working drafts.

Motion by J. Rupert to table Superintendent Evaluation, seconded by K. Rourke and carried unanimously.

Motion to adjourn the meeting at (10:03 pm) made by K. Warren seconded by J. Lippert and carried unanimously.

Recorded by:

Jennifer Barsaleau
Recording Secretary

Approved by the Ashford Board of Education: