

Ashford Board of Education
Meeting Minutes – June 3, 2021
7:00 pm
Meeting Held Via Zoom

Note: Per CGS 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 exceptions of motions and votes recorded, the minutes are unofficial until they have been read and approved by a majority vote by 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

- Chair John Lippert called the meeting to order at 7:04 p.m.
- Present were members Jane Urban, Kim Kouatly, Tess Grous, Al Maccarone, and Marian Matthews. Tina Fradette joined the meeting at 7:50 p.m.
- Also present were Superintendent Dr. James Longo, Incoming Superintendent Craig Creller, Principal Troy Hopkins, Asst. Principal Polly Borysevich, Director of Pupil Personnel Cindy Ford, Interim Business Manager Kelee Calkins, and Zoom meeting host Scott Waddell, as well as approximately 15 other members of the school staff and the public.

Communications – None.

Opportunity for Public Comment – None.

Approval of Minutes

- **MOTION by Jane Urban to approve minutes from 05/20/2021. Motion seconded by Marian Matthews.** John Lippert request clarification regarding the timing of Amy Capozziello's leave of absence. It is planned to be from the second week of September through February. **Motion carried unanimously.**

Old Business

a. Superintendent Search Update

- Craig Creller has been chosen as new superintendent.

b. Appointment of Superintendent of Schools

- **MOTION by Jane Urban to appoint Craig Creller Superintendent of Schools for Ashford beginning 07/01/2021. Motion seconded by Al Maccarone and carried unanimously.**
- Board members expressed their appreciation for Dr. Longo.
- Dr. Longo met with Craig Creller and feels good about the future. He has enjoyed his 12 years at Ashford School.
- Craig Creller said the board ran a phenomenal process, he feels like Ashford School is a special place, and he is excited to begin.

c. MEUI Negotiations Update

- MEUI is meeting on 06/07/2021 to vote on the contract.

New Business

a. Staff Appointment

- Ashley Tullock is being hired as a 4th grade teacher. Jenna Hebert is being hired as a 2nd grade teacher.
- **MOTION by Marian Matthews to appoint Ashley Tullock as 4th grade teacher. Motion seconded by Al Maccarone and carried unanimously.**
- **MOTION by Jane Urban to appoint Jenna Hebert as 2nd grade teacher. Motion seconded by Marian Matthews and carried unanimously with one abstention (K. Kouatly).**

b. Brief Review of Administrative Reports

- We are ending the year with 38 remote learners. About 30% started remote, and we are down to 10%.
- Graduation is scheduled for 06/14/2021 at 7:00 p.m. outdoors. Rain date will be 06/16/2021.
- Community Mental Health: 25 students/families are receiving services now. The Community Mental Health program is separate from the school-based services. Community Health Center is available through the summer.
- The state is not requiring school districts to offer a remote option for the 2021-2022 school year.
- The current executive order for masks, etc. goes through 07/20/2021.
- Special education faculty have done an amazing job to ensure that services were provided and students were not losing out.

- The ESY (Extended School Year) will only be for special education students this year. Transportation will be provided.
- They do not have enough staff to be able to offer ESY for additional students.
- Mrs. Craven was asked to support 6th grade classrooms in regard to cyber bullying, which went well. They talked about deescalating digital drama.

Tina Fradette joined the meeting at 7:50 p.m.

c. Second Reading of Policies (Series 1000, 4000, 5000: Non-Discrimination; Series 3000: Purchasing; Series 5000: Student Dress)

- There was a student presentation on dress code a while back. The board decided to leave updating the dress code to the administration and students. We are operating with an outdated dress code. Proposed changes, in compliance with board policy, could be brought to the board to consider. Updated dress code could be included in the student handbook for the next school year.
- Al Maccarone asked if there is a non-discrimination statement in the student handbook. It is on page 68.
- ***MOTION by Kim Kouatly to accept updates to policies as presented by Shipman and Goodwin. Motion seconded by Jane Urban and carried unanimously.***

Opportunity for Public Comment – None.

Next Meeting Date/Agenda Items

- Next meeting date will be 06/17/2021. Tess Grous and Al Maccarone will be absent because of E. O. Smith award ceremony being the same evening.
- Student Presentation from Kindergarteners
- Business Office Report
- MEUI Contract for Approval
- Administrative Reports - Jane Urban would like an opportunity for the board to get some information on class sizing and teacher staffing for the next academic year. She is concerned about whether we are considering the personalities and the needs of the children per grade level as well as just the strict numbers of who is in a class. She would be interested in seeing a detailed staffing plan. She mentioned some personnel changes that are affecting services available, and she would like board discussion regarding those changes.
- Year End Reports from Transportation Coordinator and Cafeteria Coordinator with possible discussion at 07/15/2021 board meeting – Board members were asked to email Jen Truax with specific questions they would like addressed.

Discussion of Strategy with Respect to Potential Litigation (Possible Executive Session)

- Executive session not necessary. There are no updates.

Adjournment

- ***MOTION by Marian Matthews to adjourn the meeting at 8:28 p.m. Motion seconded by Kim Kouatly and carried unanimously.***

Sara Wilson
Recording Secretary