

Ashford Board of Education
Meeting Minutes – December 2, 2021
7:00 pm

Meeting Held in Person and Electronically 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 Jane Urban called the meeting to order at 7:15 p.m.
- Present were members Kim Kouatly, Jon Laughlin, and Al Maccarone. Tess Grous was present via Zoom. Marian Matthews was absent.
- Also present were Superintendent Craig Creller, First Selectman Bill Falletti, and Zoom meeting host Scott Waddell. Attending the meeting via the Zoom call were Director of Pupil Personnel Cindy Ford and approximately 15 other members of the school staff and the public.
- Pledge of Allegiance

Board of Education Vacancy

- a. Candidate Interviews (per CGS 10-219 and Board Bylaw Series 9000 "Filling Vacancies on the Board")
 - Candidates Meghan Smith, Erika Duplessis, and Jennifer Leszczynski were asked interview questions by current board members.

Executive Session (Discussion of Candidates)

MOTION made by Al Maccarone to enter executive session to discuss candidates. Motion seconded by Kim Kouatly and carried unanimously.

The board entered executive session at 8:09 p.m. The board exited executive session at 8:54 p.m. There was no action taken.

Vote to Seat Member on Board of Education

MOTION made by Jon Laughlin to appoint Meghan Smith to the vacancy on the Board of Education. Motion seconded by Al Maccarone. Jon Laughlin and Tess Grous voted in favor. Al Maccarone, Kim Kouatly, and Jane Urban were opposed. The motion did not pass.

MOTION made by Kim Kouatly to appoint Jennifer Leszczynski to the vacancy on the Board of Education. Motion seconded by Al Maccarone. Al Maccarone, Kim Kouatly, and Jane Urban voted in favor. Jon Laughlin and Tess Grous were opposed. The motion carried.

Public Comment – No public comment.

Old Business

- a. October Financial Report

MOTION made by Kim Kouatly to approve the October 2021 financial report. Motion seconded by Jon Laughlin and carried unanimously.

New Business

- a. COVID 19 Updates
 - The community of Ashford School has had 23 cases total this school year. There have been only 4 since Thanksgiving break.
 - Mitigation strategies: Vaccination, weekly testing, masking, medical grade air purifiers, distancing, new cleaning and handwashing stations, and very accurate contact tracing.
 - COVID 19 vaccine clinics at Knowlton Memorial Hall: 12/18/21 and 01/08/22 from 9 am to noon for ages 5-11 only; 12/30/21 from 9 am to noon for ages 12 and older getting first shot and for all booster shots.

- The COVID testing at the school is on Fridays for asymptomatic students and staff signed up for weekly testing.
 - The COVID vaccine is not a required vaccine for students to attend school.
- b. November Financial Report – This will be discussed at the next meeting.

Chair Jane Urban asked all board members to RSVP to Jen Truax when the meeting agenda is sent out so Jen can let Jane know if there will be an issue with having a quorum present for the meeting. Tess Grous would like to have the agenda sent out the Friday before the meeting date.

Adjournment

MOTION made by Kim Kouatly to adjourn the meeting at 9:15 p.m. Motion seconded by Al Maccarone and carried unanimously.

Sara Wilson
Recording Secretary