Ashford Board of Education Meeting Minutes – April 7, 2022 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 7:08 p.m.
- Present were members Tess Grous, Kim Kouatly, Jennifer Leszczynski, Jon Laughlin, Al Maccarone, and Ex-Officio member Bill Falletti. Marian Matthews was present via Zoom.
- Also present were Superintendent Craig Creller, Business Manager Deana Chrzan, Zoom meeting host Scott Waddell, and approximately 20 other members of the school staff. There were approximately 77 other members of the school staff and the public present via Zoom.

Pledge of Allegiance

Opportunity for Public Comment

- Jen Lindsay, copresident of the Ashford Education Association: I am here to request that the Board of Education look beyond staff cuts to meet the budget that was set by the town. At the Board of Finance meeting on Tuesday, many community members spoke in favor of Ashford School. Those who spoke suggested a variety of cuts that do not include our valuable staff who work directly with children. It has been stated by a loud minority that we are overstaffed, that we should increase class sizes, that the teachers and paraprofessionals are overpaid. This has been refuted many times by people who have spent hours digging into the budget line by line. It is not true. The AEA has significant research about why small class sizes are essential to learning. We have heard from families who chose Ashford School because of our commitment to keeping class sizes down. We are not overstaffed. If anything, our children need greater contact with our staff. The termination of our reading interventionist in November harmed children. The upheaval related to staff turnover this year has been detrimental to the mental health of children and staff, Because of this, we need more mental health providers and more staff, not less. I would like to take a moment to specifically address the importance of our regular education paraprofessionals. In another larger school district, paras might simply be helpers or teacher's aids. Here at Ashford School these people are far more than cutters of construction paper and washers of hands. These paraprofessionals have served as instructional assistants by providing reading and math intervention. They are entrusted with the development of children as they conduct reading groups, administer formative testing and benchmarks, and are responsible for makeup testing when children miss statewide testing. During the pandemic, our valuable paraprofessionals were substitute teachers, often pulled last minute from their role to serve in an unfamiliar capacity. When we say that paraprofessionals matter, we really mean it. As you consider cutting paras, please consider this: catching kids early is a key to ensuring reading success. Research shows that far more time is required to catch kids up when they have fallen behind. Even with extra time and effort on the part of children and teachers, many students will never recover from early reading loss. K-3 is a crucial window for students to achieve reading success long term. Cutting this position harms kids. We have submitted to you, the Board of Education, per your request, a list of ideas the association generated to find money where seemingly there was none to be had. Surely there is money to be found in ways that do not impact and harm our most important asset, the kids. As you work tonight, please do your due diligence, fact check every line, ask for clarification about each cut. In a larger district with more than one school, these positions might be seen simply as spaces in budget, but here at Ashford School, they are our family, our friends, our colleagues, and our neighbors. As you work tonight, please keep in mind the goals of the Ashford Board of Education. We have been given parameters of how to be fiscally responsible to taxpayers. Now, let's develop a budget that ensures the best possible education for the kids. Let's promote a culture where we indeed foster an environment of physical and emotional health and wellness for all, where we support a community that recognizes professional expertise and provides diverse opportunities that enhance teaching and learning. The AEA respectfully requests that no staffing cuts be made for those who directly impact the teaching, learning, support of, and care for children. Thank you again for all that you do. We need you. We appreciate you, and we depend on you and so do our kids.
- Christina Davis (Squaw Hollow Rd): Thank you to the Board of Education. This is a really hard job. There is a lot of pressure, and I know this board is up to the task. The superintendent's proposed cuts are just that, proposed. There are two positions that are vacant and can go unfilled. The principal is leaving, which is a big loss, but what

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opportunities does that represent? Consider the number of days the superintendent is working. Is that the right number for next year? Consider what positions are grant funded for this next year. What are the opportunities for administrative cuts, cuts that would not impact instruction? Consider the expense for the business office. Is that number where it should be? The town hall is adding a person if the proposed budget is passed. Is there an opportunity to share something like payroll processing between the school and the town? The budget with a 4.21% increase is not a done deal. There is a referendum on 05/03/2022. If the budget, as proposed, fails, then the 4.21% will be decreased, and we will be back to this uncomfortable position. I would encourage everyone to use the calculator on the town's website to see what your taxes will be based on the proposed budget.

- Melissa Knight (Westford Rd.): My daughter attends preschool. I am also an elementary teacher. I see firsthand the importance of paraeducators. I was really disheartened to see the proposed cuts. They directly impact our students. If we are trying to close the learning gap, especially from COVID, we need people working with students one-on-one and in small groups. I urge the Board of Education and the superintendent to spend time in the classrooms and see what they are doing. Without the paras, we are not going to see the gains that we want to see. Look for other ways to cut the budget that do not directly impact who is working with our students.
- Timothy Rhodes (Ference Rd.): I thank the Board of Education for your service. My expertise is in engineering. I am against operating the school as if were a business; however, there are many comparisons we can make. When forced to make cuts in manufacturing due to a budget shortcoming, you do not eliminate machine operators. Without them, there is no product. There is no way to make money for the business. You look higher in the organization and eliminate redundant administration and executives that don't add to the bottom line. In the current situation, our operators are the teachers and paraeducators, the product is our students, and the value that they are creating for this organization is the success of those students. I have reviewed the budget line by line. My professional job is to do cost analysis for large corporations that have budgets larger than this in some situations. There is little to no fat to trim. If we were to eliminate the business manager position, the assistant principal position, and reduce the superintendent to part time or to share with another school district in region 19, we could save almost all of these jobs. I find eliminating executive positions much more feasible than eliminating the people who deal with the kids directly. When you remove the paras, you are not removing the responsibility of these individuals, only shifting it up the chain. Our teachers already do so much for these children. I do appreciate that the principal, the executive assistant, and the business manager have a lot of responsibility, but they get paid enough to handle a little bit more when necessary. I would rather ask them to shoulder a little bit more responsibility in this tough time, than to ask our teachers to take on more.
- Meghan Smith (Turnpike Rd.): I have two girls in the school, in kindergarten and second grade. What exactly does the business manager do? I was a little surprised to see the salary for that position on the budget line.
- Rebecca Haeger (Pembroke Dr.): I would like the board to consider not making final decisions tonight in order for perhaps some line-by-line entries to verify some of the information that is coming out of the business office. I have always encouraged the administration and how important it is. In these times, the significant amount of the cuts really need to come from the people who are not directly, day-by-day, hand-in-hand working with these children. It took many years to finally get back some of the extra help with reading and math for the junior high section of the school. These are crucial things. In the past, several of our classes suffered from those cuts. The paraprofessionals are amazing. They help re-dress kids who have accidents. They help with the noses. At the same time, they are helping to teach math, reading, and kindness. Several of us moved here because of the small class sizes as well as the kindness and the family atmosphere. It really seems like we are top heavy. We had a part time superintendent. We certainly needed the help with the assistant principal, but you need to take a harder look at sharing some of the work in the business office with the town.
- Secretary Kim Kouatly shared some highlights from letters by Melanie Birdsey, Stephanie Ellis, and Katherine Duval. All letters received will be attached to the minutes.

Board of Education Work Session - FY23 Budget

• Jane Urban: On 04/05/2022, the Board of Finance finalized their recommendations. The town budget books are available to the public starting 04/08/2022. The annual budget town meeting will be on 04/19/2022. The town budget referendum is on 05/03/2022. At the Board of Finance meeting on 04/05/2022, the Board of Finance kept the Ashford Board of Education budget at a 4.21% increase. There was a lot of discussion about the test scores at Ashford School. It is a metric to be looked at, but it is not the final result of an education. The reason colleges are moving away from SATs and standardized tests is because they realize it has nothing to do with academic achievement. There was discussion about the amount of money that was returned to the town last year. Last year

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- was not a regular year in any way. One-third of our students were remote learning, we had limited sports, we had no field trips, we had no after school activities, and there were fewer kids riding the bus. There was discussion about the number of paraeducators added. The added paras were in special education, and that is a legal obligation.
- Al Maccarone: It was disappointing that the Board of Finance did not increase the funding for the Ashford School. We heard from a lot of parents, and overwhelmingly they supported the school. In terms of staffing, we are going to be in the same position next year. If there is a better way of doing it, we are open to that.
- Jennifer Leszczynski: I have been on the Board of Education since December. I have two children at the school currently. We moved to Ashford for the preschool program. Professionally, I am a developmental psychologist, and I teach college classes to future teachers, school counselors, and school psychologists. These roles will inform everything that I do on this board. Adverse childhood experiences are stressful events that happen in a child's life that influence their mental and physical wellbeing for the rest of their lives. Dealing with a pandemic for two years is definitely considered one of these stressors. Psychologists have found that having stable, responsive relationships with committed adults is the single most common factor in children who develop the capacity to overcome hardship in life. Our superintendent is putting budget cuts in front of us that will take away these supports. Nationally, we know that children are in a mental health crisis. Our kids at Ashford are no exception. I have also heard clearly from parents about bullying concerns at the school, and we need to address those. We received Craig's proposed budget cuts at 9:00 p.m. the night before the last Board of Education meeting, and I was shocked personally. Removing paras from the classroom who are bridges to teachers, the school counselor, and the school psychologist should be the last proposal in front of us. I watched the Board of Finance meeting on Tuesday. Pat Wilson made a statement that stuck completely with me: Your budget reflects your values. I value the people in our school community. A textbook does not teach. A highly educated and caring adult teaches. These people, not supplies, make our school. I am struggling with the fact that we are even in this position because I don't believe there has been enough transparency. At the Board of Finance meeting, Craig said that we would save by changing insurance and that we would get to 5.21%. At the last meeting, we were told that the savings were not realized and we had to cut \$247,000, which is actually a 7.3% increase. I struggle with this fact because we had not locked in a rate for insurance. As I stated before, we ask for what we need, and we don't apologize. I feel that it is absolutely necessary to go line by line and ask every question that comes to our minds tonight. We need to listen to the suggestions of the teachers who know the school and our children better than anyone. We have been elected to do the hard work, and we do what we think is best for our school community. These are our kids.
- Jon Laughlin: I can tell by the number of people in this room how important this is to you and how passionate you are. This is challenging. I will do my best to be respectful of everyone in this process. I don't take any of these decisions lightly.
- Bill Falletti: Many parents look at the school's rating as a report card on the school. Many have expressed their concerns with the ratings we have had. They seem to be on the decline. We want to improve. We don't want to be in the second half of the percentile. It behooves all of us to keep as open-minded as we can. I applaud all of your efforts. Our children are our most precious commodity, and our obligation is to care for them in the best way that we can.
- Tess Grous: It is so encouraging to see all the staff members present. We have a passion for our kids, and that is why we are here. Seek to understand. We have some hard decisions before us. I don't want to make a decision without knowing all the facts. Be somebody that questions and seeks to understand. Assume pure motive. If you do that, then you will be able to rightly question facts and information that are out there. Thank you all for being here.
- Marian Matthews: At the Board of Finance meeting, we heard that we do not have enough money budgeted for curriculum materials. As a retired professor of education, I know that curriculum is very important, but the research has shown that what matters in the classroom is the teacher. We need to retain our teachers and our paraeducators because they are what makes a difference to the kids. The MEUI did meet with the superintendent. The AEA came up with some great ideas on how to meet this shortfall. I would like for us to consider their ideas. The more we take a look at this, the more we might be able to figure out how to do this with the least impact on our teachers and paraeducators.
- Superintendent Craig Creller thanked everyone for coming. He shared facts about other towns. The town of Mansfield cut two principals, 5.2 teachers, and 7.5 paras. In eastern Connecticut, the average number of paras in those districts is 12.3, and there are only three districts that have more than 11 (Ashford at 23, Willington at 21, and Canterbury at 18). These are difficult decisions. If we don't get our staffing under control, we will be facing another 7% or 8% next year with contractually mandated increases.

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- Budget cut scenario #1: Cut 4 paraeducators (tech, math, reading, and 1 special education position currently vacant), 1 special education teacher (currently vacant), and minor cuts to outside service providers.
- Budget cut scenario #2: Cut 5 paraeducators (tech, math, reading, 1 special education position currently vacant, and 1 kindergarten para), 1 special education teacher (currently vacant), and minor cuts to outside service providers.
- Budget cut scenario #3: Cut 6 paraeducators (tech, math, reading, 1 special education position currently vacant, and 2 kindergarten paras), 1 special education teacher (currently vacant), and minor cuts to outside service providers. This would restore \$47,424 to the curriculum/teaching and learning.
- Jane Urban: There has been a lot of discussion about the superintendent's salary. When Craig Creller was hired last year, the position was increased in the number of days. Discussion about possible \$11,271 savings based on contract, with 13 less days for superintendent next year. Craig Creller said this is something that needs to be discussed in executive session.
- Jane Urban: On the budget, the tech assistant is the paraeducator that is referred to.
- Jane Urban: Discussion about information Craig Creller provided about grants received. These grants are already reflected in the budget.
- Craig Creller: Most towns around us max out at 24 in preschool. We have 40 in preschool. We invest quite a bit of energy and money into the preschool. The grant covers less than half of the preschool cost. Jane Urban said attending preschool is an indicator of success in later school years, so it is money well spent.
- Jane Urban: Grant expenditure report for ESSER (3-year grant) includes \$87,000 for technology equipment. We have already spent \$32,000. Craig Creller said the first \$32,000 was for iMacs for the teachers. We would like to switch the middle grades over from MacBooks to Chromebooks. Jane Urban said ESSER report says it is being used for teachers and support staff. What amount is covering teachers and support staff? Craig Creller said it is covering math interventionist and reading interventionist that we no longer have as well as summer school. Jane Urban asked what para positions (\$74,000 for the first year) are being funded out of the ESSER grant. Deana Chrzan said that \$74,000 is being spent with PLAY, de-escalation training, curriculum revision, and professional development. Discussion about requirement for grant money to fund things that were not previously in the regular budget.
- Jane Urban: Can you describe the responsibilities of these paras? Tech para is assistant to Scott Waddell. If that position was cut, we would have to consider outsourcing our technology needs. The math and reading paras assist the math and reading interventionists.
- Tess Grous asked about Chromebooks. They would be for grades 2-4. Ashford purchases insurance for the Macbooks. Tess Grous asked how much that insurance is. Scott Waddell said it is \$269 for 3 years with 2 incidents per year. A Macbook costs \$799.
- Marian Matthews: Have you looked at the AEA budget ideas? In addition to those ideas, you originally mentioned forgoing administrative raises. That has not been presented in current budget scenarios. Craig Creller said they do agree with at least 3 of the 4 bullet points from the AEA (special education teacher, special education para, and library/media specialist), but they believe the savings would be more like \$68,000 rather than the \$164,000 predicted on the AEA document. We have to allow for other things like taxes and unemployment. Marian Matthews asked again about forgoing administrative raises. Craig Creller said that was included in the \$68,000. He said the cabinet looked at legal fees, water monitoring, boiler repairs, HVAC, principal salary, possibly sharing an employee with the town, outside providers, library books, supplies, principal's budget, curriculum, library specialist, and class trips. Discussion about possible discrepancy in budget for outside providers. Marian Matthews asked Craig Creller to collaborate with the unions, both AEA and MEUI, and asked why the numbers do not add up. Craig Creller said the Board of Finance meeting was only two days ago and that he does want to collaborate with the unions.
- Jon Laughlin: What was the principal's or assistant principal's concern for cutting the paras? Was there pushback from them or was this a consensus? Craig Creller stated these cuts were with cabinet input and consensus.
- Jane Urban asked about total for special education para, special education teacher, and library/media specialist vacancies. Deana Chrzan said those three positions would be \$145,202.
- Discussion about not filling the library/media specialist. Jon Laughlin said with no library/media specialist, we would need the tech para in the library.
- Discussion about cutting legal fees down. Craig Creller stated he feels strongly that we need to have an attorney present during negotiations with the union.
- Jane Urban asked about business office personnel. We currently have a fully staffed business office. There are two administrative assistants, one supporting the superintendent and one supporting the director of pupil personnel. Has there been any discussion about combining those two positions? Cindy Ford spoke to the amount of work that her administrative assistant does and that her job is a full-time job.

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- Tess Grous asked about what positions the school business office could share with the town. Bill Falletti said the discussion is ongoing.
- Judy Austin mentioned the June 2020 audit report. We have differences in outside services and equipment. Deana Chrzan asked Judy to send an email with her specific questions.
- Marian Matthews wants to indicate what the savings would be if the administration forgoes their raises and how they would figure in with what the AEA sent us. Craig Creller said if we froze administration raises it would save \$12,173. Marian asked for Craig Creller to talk with administration about freezing their raises and also to meet with the AEA on their proposals.
- Discussion about curriculum amount in budget and curriculum in plans for ESSER grant. The grant funding has to supplement our general budget and not supplant it.
- Craig Creller said possible line items under discussion include legal, water monitoring, boiler repairs, HVAC, principal salary, sharing accounts payable clerk with the town, and renegotiating OT/PT/speech.
- Al Maccarone asked if there are any pending retirements. Craig Creller said we do not have any pending retirements.
- Kim Kouatly thanked our business manager for being available to answer questions and knowing what we can and cannot do. If we have to cut personnel, who will be picking up those responsibilities?
- Deana Chrzan shared current energy pricing: \$3.1925 per gallon plus tax for heating oil; \$3.2324 per gallon plus tax for diesel.
- The health insurance numbers are expected to come in by the last week in April or first week in May.
- Discussion about timing of next meeting and voting on budget cuts. We need to have our budget book to the town clerk by 04/11/2022.
- Bill Falletti said surrounding towns are asking for an average of 2.7% to 2.8% increase. We need to pull together and settle our budget so we can push to get it passed.
- Jane Urban said the board is not afraid to make a tough decision but rather afraid to make an uninformed budget.
- Jennifer Leszczynski: Why would we consider scenario #1 when we have spent the evening discussing other options? Discussion about approving budget tonight and continuing to seek cost savings.
- Bill Falletti mentioned the town increasing the incentive to not take the health insurance.
- Jen Lindsay said the AEA has had conversations with the CEA and believes there are some misunderstandings about the ESSER grant.
- Tess Grous asked about part-time principal being a possibility. Craig Creller said we need a full-time principal.

MOTION made by Al Maccarone to approve FY 23 Ashford BOE budget cut scenario #1 as written. Motion seconded by Tess Grous. Jane Urban said this is not what we just discussed. Marian Matthews agreed with Jane. Kim Kouatly would like to see the library/media specialist in the budget cut scenario. Motion failed with 2 yes votes (A. Maccarone, T. Grous) and 5 no votes (J. Urban, M. Matthews, J. Leszczynski, J. Laughlin, K. Kouatly).

MOTION made by Kim Kouatly to cut 5 staff (3 paraeducators, including 1 currently vacant special education position; 1 special education teacher, currently vacant; and the library/media specialist, currently vacant), reduce legal fees \$20,000, and direct the Ashford School Superintendent to seek additional cost savings. Motion seconded by Marian Matthews. Jon Laughlin is not comfortable with reducing legal fees \$20,000. Tess Grous asked about bus route. Cindy Ford mentioned other line items Craig Creller discussed that would allow us to keep legal fees as is. Craig Creller said the cabinet will come up with the remaining needed cuts. Motion amended by Kim Kouatly to cut 5 staff (3 paraeducators, including 1 currently vacant special education position; 1 special education teacher, currently vacant; and the library/media specialist, currently vacant), and direct the Ashford School Superintendent to seek additional cost savings necessary subject to approval by Ashford Board of Education at a future meeting. Motion seconded by Marian Matthews. Jennifer Leszczynski mentioned public comments with the majority asking us to not cut paraeducators and look for administrative cuts. Jane Urban said we hope to get to a place where these two para positions are not eliminated from the budget. Motion carried unanimously.

Approval of the 2022-2023 Ashford School Calendar

• Based on letter from AEA regarding school calendar, we will table approving the school calendar.

Opportunity for Public Comment

• Jen Lindsay, co-president of AEA: Thank you for the work you have done.

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- Lisa Centola (Seckar Rd.): I have two kids in Ashford School. I appreciate the board's time in debating these issues. The part I have a really hard time with is why the superintendent is just meeting with the teacher's union today. That does not put the board in a good position to make an educated decision about what to do.
- Rebecca Haeger: Thank you to the Board of Education. I truly believe you have been trying to get clear, concise information. Unfortunately, you were put in a position where you had to vote based on timeline. I do appreciate the fact that there was some discussion as to reducing or analyzing different positions in the business office and in the administration. People have been saying for years that it is top heavy. Hopefully, some numbers will change.
- Kim Kouatly (Eastford Rd.): This is a tough budget season. We have a new superintendent, a new board chair, a new board chair for the Board of Finance, a new first selectman, and new members of the Board of Education. We do need to work together.

Superintendent Evaluation (Executive Session)

MOTION made by Kim Kouatly to enter executive session, inviting Superintendent Craig Creller and Business Manager Deana Chrzan, for superintendent evaluation. Motion seconded by Jennifer Leszczynski. Discussion about whether or not to enter executive session at this meeting or postpone. Motion failed with 3 yes votes (J. Urban, K. Kouatly, M. Matthews) and 4 no votes (J. Laughlin, J. Leszczynski, T. Grous, A. Maccarone).

Adjournment

MOTION made by Marian Matthews to adjourn the meeting at 10:59 p.m. Motion seconded by Kim Kouatly and carried unanimously.

Sara Wilson Recording Secretary



Communications Recid
Board Of Education < boe@ashfordct.org>

Public Comment

Fwd: FW: Budget

Marian Matthews <matthewsmariank@gmail.com>
To: AshfordBOE@ashfordct.org

Tue, Apr 5, 2022 at 3:57 PM

Hi, BOE members,

I am forwarding this message from a friend since she had trouble sending it to you.

Marian

----- Forwarded message -----

From: Maribeth Stearns <maribeth527@hotmail.com>

Date: Tue, Apr 5, 2022 at 2:49 PM

Subject: FW: Budget

To: Marian Matthews <matthewsmariank@gmail.com>

I am sending this to you, Marian, because the emails do not work. I have tried 3 times, so I don't know what the problem is. Makes it difficult to reach them, though! Could you send on to all members?

Thanks, mb

Sent from Mail for Windows

From: Maribeth Stearns

Sent: Tuesday, April 5, 2022 2:47 PM

To: jlippert@ashfordct.org; mmathews@ashfordct.org; tgrous@ashfordct.org; tfradette@ashfordct.org;

kkouatly@ashfordct.org; amaccarone@ashfordct.org; jurban@ashfordct.org

Subject: Budget

I am writing to all Board of Education members as I am very concerned about the proposed cuts for next year's budget. I have also written to the Board of Finance to ask them to reconsider such a drastic cut. I would urge all members to fight this cut, as well. Ashford School has been doing a wonderful job and I see great programs and results at the school. We cannot "afford' to make huge cuts and maintain the quality we have gained.

I am also very concerned about the morale at the school this year. It seems many staff are considering leaving and in the hiring climate that now exists, they will not have trouble securing other jobs. What is happening this year that has caused this issue? Please look at your Superintendent. First of all, I understand that an additional ½ day was added to his proposed contract – is this an expense that we can afford? Is it truly necessary? I also feel the cuts he proposed at the last meeting were not thought out and not even feasible, in terms of maintaining our excellent preschool program. Please remember, he works for the Board of Ed, not the reverse. I am afraid that what is happening in the school now and how things are going will adversely effect our school and town for many years to come.

Thank you for your consideration.

Maribeth Stearns



Budget cuts

Katie Duval <duvalkatherine@outlook.com>
To: "AshfordBOE@ashfordct.org" <AshfordBOE@ashfordct.org>

Wed, Apr 6, 2022 at 3:13 PM

I'm trying to understand how the Superintendent can propose the cut of 8 of Ashford schools most vital employees while asking for a \$37,277 raise. According to the minutes from the budget meeting, the cost of one Paraprofessional is \$30,430, so he is basically laying off one Paraprofessional so that he can have a raise. How dare any of those in the administration request raises when they plan to cut 8 positions.

Ashford school is small, the school administration is extremely bloated. If the Board is going to consider cuts, it should be there. This is a small school district and all of their, hours, salaries, and positions should reflect that.

Another thing to consider is who will make up for the work that these Paraprofessionals are doing? Will this lead to abuse of Special Education Paraprofessionals? As someone who has pulled a child from Ashford School because the school did not follow the child's 504 plan, I would be very worried that this will also lead them to denying more children the accommodations they need.

My husband has worked in EMS for many years, his observation has been since the pandemic started the number of calls relating to mental health and children have greatly increased. This pandemic has had a huge effect on the mental wellbeing of everyone, children included. Whether it be insecurities about their housing, food, or families. Many kids regressed during the shut-down because of lack of adequate services. Ashford school needs to have a full-time psychologist, that shouldn't even be a question. Children need to have a qualified professional they can see at the school. The process of getting a child evaluated for special services already takes way too long, creating a system where it will be more prolonged is detrimental to the students and their education.

As someone who has had to utilize outside resources for their child, I can say that they are few and far between because there aren't a lot of resources in this area. Speech, for example, is very difficult to find, if you do find it is very difficult to find one that is covered by insurance and then there are the waiting lists. Having adequate OT, PT, and Speech services are essential to providing an equal opportunity to all students.

Cut the school administration. Not vital personnel.

Katherine Duval



budget and leadership concerns

Bajger, Sarah <sbajger@crec.org>
To: "boe@ashfordct.org" <boe@ashfordct.org>

Wed, Apr 6, 2022 at 3:15 PM

Hello,

I have been a resident of Ashford since 2013 and I am the mother of two young children, one who attends Ashford's amazing preschool program. I am writing because I am deeply concerned about Ashford's Board of Education budget proposal; there is talk in the community about a proposal to cut 8 paraeducators. As an educator, I have first-handedly witnessed how vital paraeducators are to the school system in their ability to connect with students, establish relationships, and provide the necessary additional support that so many students require to succeed. As a parent, I have witnessed just how essential paraeducators are to the functioning of our early childhood classrooms. I am concerned that the loss of the paraeducator positions will have a significant negative impact on student performance and the quality of our preschool and kindergarten programs.

Furthermore, I am shocked that the superintendent is requesting a substantial \$37,277 raise!!! This is unimaginable to me... I'm also wondering why the business manager's salary has practically doubled across 4 fiscal years; this seems rather unnecessary and fiscally irresponsible to me. When thinking about who in a school has the greatest impact on day to day student growth and success, it's the staff members working in the trenches and directly with the students, not those in the office. Funding such a substantial raise, as the superintendent has requested, will not improve student performance or help our children in any way. Cutting paraeducator positions WILL negatively impact student performance.

Additionally, I have concerns regarding the competence and effectiveness of our new superintendent. The mask survey that Mr. Creller sent out in February was poorly constructed and did not provide an appropriate or effective avenue for parents to share their opinions. I also do not understand why students in grades 5 through 8 were asked about whether my preschool child should wear a mask or not — it was an irrelevant question on the brief survey.

I am also concerned that it took Mr. Creller a total of 2 whole school days to notify families that a child had brought a kitchen utensil, which I am inferring was a knife, on the bus. I have worked for multiple CT school districts, and in all of my experiences families were notified the same day regarding similar incidents. In my opinion, Mr. Creller has not shown himself worthy of \$37,277 raise, especially at the expense of our children and the staff members who have a direct impact on the children's education. I am hoping that the Board will be able to find a solution to the budget problem by finding a way to continue to fund some of our most essential workers, the paraeducators.

Respectfully,

Sarah Baiger

Sarah Bajger, M.A., CCC-SLP

Speech-Language Pathologist

CREC Two Rivers Magnet Middle School

CREC (Capitol Region Education Council)

337 East River Drive, East Hartford, CT 06108

O: 860.290.5320 Ext. 3223

sbajger@crec.org | www.crecschools.org



Ashford BOE Budget

Erika DuPlessis <erikaduplessis13@gmail.com>
To: boe@ashfordct.org, Jane Urban <jurban@ashfordct.org>, AshfordBOE@ashfordct.org

Wed, Apr 6, 2022 at 6:36 PM

Hi Board Members,

You guys have a difficult task ahead of you. I was not able to attend the April 5th meeting and the minutes are not yet available online, but I have heard the rumblings of what occurred. I may not be able to attend the April 7th meeting either so I wanted to send along my thoughts and concerns.

I would hesitate to see the loss of our school's paras- especially as we try to help our students (and burnt-out teachers) navigate their post-pandemic education. Most students nationwide are behind in their reading and math, and behavioral problems are still rising as kids try to wrestle with their big emotions. I feel that paras- both certified and uncertified- are crucial to helping our students feel secure in this environment and to help them become better learners. Additionally, our teachers need the support in the classroom. The turnover rate is startling and I'd hate to see more wonderful teachers leave the profession due to inadequate staffing and a toxic work environment. How does not having paras affect more than just our ratios? What about the teacher's union? How will that affect the teacher's workflow? Their prep periods? Lunch coverage? Arrival/dismissal coverage?

We have already lost many wonderful positions throughout all of this, both in educators and support staff, and cannot lose anymore. Especially, when you consider our ratios and certifications which may potentially be lost due to this. I know that the BOE members stand for education and would hate to no longer be able to provide services to such vulnerable age groups as preschoolers.

Personally, I would rather have "boots on the floor" than "butts in an office." That is not to diminish the contributions that administrators can bring to a school setting (they do an amazing jobl), however we do qualify as a small rural town in the state of CT and therefore are not legally obliged to have a dedicated full-time superintendent here. It would be better to either use a regional superintendent (especially since we already pay in to being in region 19) or partner with another small school in the area to "share" a superintendent. I would recommend using EO Smith's superintendent or partnering with Willington perhaps? A superintendent is meant to oversee multiple schools, not one. We did well for years with a part-time super, I don't know what the reasoning was to convert the position to a full-time one for only one school- especially since we have both a Principal, Assistant Principal, and an Administrative Assistant at our school. Again, this is not meant to say that Craig isn't doing a good job, but if the budget is tight I would rather the extra positions go before the essential ones do.

At the very least, the administrators should not be getting an increase if we are eliminating positions. I am also unclear as to why the business manager position suddenly makes so much money, particularly in a town with only one school. This is another resource that could get used regionally or in a "shared" position with another small town vs having one dedicated full-time here in Ashford.

In summary, I think we should do all we can to support our educators, paras, and support staff because they are the ones working day-to-day with the students. They are the ones helping to nurture them through this difficult time. They are the ones working one-on-one with our vulnerable populations. They are the ones helping to foster a passion for learning in our children. They go out of their way to take on extra roles in the school. They help out in more ways than anyone can know. Especially, don't make cuts in math and reading. These kids are already behind thanks to the pandemic, and now we've lost our library/media center specialist.

You guys are elected to the BOE in order to advocate for our students and to maintain the mission of our town's school. I have faith that you will uphold your duties and find a solution that keeps the taxpayers in mind while doing what is right for our children.

Thank you for all you do! Erika DuPlessis



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Thank you for all you do! Erika DuPlessis



Budget cuts

Melissa Knight <mkaika@mpspride.org>
To: boe@ashfordct.org

Wed, Apr 6, 2022 at 7:00 PM

Board members,

My name is Melissa Knight and not only am I an Ashford resident but also an elementary teacher. I taught kindergarten for 5 years before teaching elementary STEM for the past 6 years. I was sad to see that paraprofessionals are planned to be cut for next school year. They are an integral part of a classroom, especially after students missed a third of their school year in 2020 followed by a school year that included many quarantines last year. I always talk very highly of Ashford school as my daughter is in her first year of pre-K here. Paraprofessionals directly help students and teachers. There is no way to replace a good teacher but paraprofessionals are an integral part of running a classroom such as by running learning centers or directly helping individual or small groups of students.

I urge you to spend time shadowing a para for a day or to spend time in Ashford's classrooms to see how they are utilized.

Respectfully, Melissa Knight 818 Westford Road

Sent from my iPhone



Budget concerns

Stephanie Ellis <shyannrain213@gmail.com>

Wed, Apr 6, 2022 at 10:52 PM

To: "boe@ashfordct.org" <boe@ashfordct.org>, AshfordBOE@ashfordct.org

Cc: "jurban@ashfordct.org" <jurban@ashfordct.org>

Dear members of the Board of Education i have many concerns about the budget purposal. I don't believe anyone who would prupose cutting any paraprofessionals from our school staff understands the significance of that action. A teacher having a paraprofessional or not is equal to the difference between raising your family alone or with a partner. It can be done either way but everyone makes out better when they have someone to offer help and support, imagine one of your children is having a bad day, your partner can help insure the other children's needs are being met. They can pick up the slack when your are feeling emotionally or physically unwell. They can keep an eye on things while you run to the bathroom or grab something to eat. That is just part of the support the Paraprofessionals provide for our school staff. As for the support they provide for our children that can not be summed up in a few words.

There are other options, cuts could be avoided if raises were only offered certain senior staff members. Our small town could eliminate its Superintendent and and save half of what we need to by terminating one position as opposed to a minimum of 5 as outlined in the current purposal. We will be looking for a new principal hiring within and replacing any positions left empty with younger applicants who require lower rates of pay could also provide savings. I am struggling to understand why each senerio has multiple positions being put on the chopping block all of witch provide paramount rolls in supporting our children. My child's future is not a business and their schools finances shouldn't be handled as though they are. Ashford School will not be a place i want my children to attend with out the support of paraprofessionals. We should be striving towards providing our kids with more support like that provided by Paras and mental health professionals.

Respectfully,
Mother to a future preK student, a 4th, 5th, 7th, 8th grader and a graduate of Ashford School.
Stephanie Ellis



Ashford CT Budget letter

To the members of the board,

In general, I am opposed to operating a school as if it were a business, ideally, we should not be concerned with the bottom line and focus more on the health, wellbeing and education of our young population. However, given the financial climate we live in, the necessity to micromanage our spending and balance maximum benefit over minimum spending is obvious and unfortunate.

I have spent the last several years of my professional life performing cost and savings analysis for large manufacturers on projects with similar budgets to that of the school and after reviewing the proposed budget with the 7.64% increase line by line, I will agree with the statements of Mr. Creller that "there is no more fat to trim" and the goal with this budget was to simply maintain the "Status-Quo". With that in mind it is staggering for me to try to understand the thought process that went into presenting this budget to the BOF on 2/24 claiming the need was actually 5.21% to achieve this. Furthermore, from reading through the minutes and watching the recording of the BOE meeting held on 3/31 it seems that this was done without consulting the board in advance. While I can appreciate the desire to be "Optimistic" regarding potential savings available it is foolish at best to include those projections into a final budget without strong confirmation of their validity. In my opinion at best his actions show negligence and at worst gross incompetence, and any merit-based increase in his salary should be removed from this budget proposal and a disciplinary evaluation by the board take place.

The conclusion I have drawn is this, unfortunately the poor planning of Mr. Creller has left us in a situation where we are going to be forced to make cuts, even if we do not pass this budget, we are unlikely to be able to return to the BOF and request the additional 3% that Mr. Creller has robbed us of. In light of that unfortunate truth, I would ask the board to consider more administrative positions with less direct impact on the education of the students of Ashford. If we are asked to balance the maximum benefit to our students with the minimum spending, the role of 8 paraeducators vastly outweighs the role of an assistant principal or full-time superintendent. This would lay more responsibility on those at the top of the school organizational structure instead of placing more stress on teachers. The goal of administration should be to set those below them up for success and any of the 4 proposed plans will only make it more difficult for those directly interacting with students.

Thank you for your time,

Timothy C Rhodes

Ashford's Estimated Budget 2022-23 at 4.21% Increase

Rationale? Cut 5 staff: 4 Paraeducators (Tech, Math, Reading, 1 Sp	Ed Current Vacancy), 1 Sp Ed Teacher (Current Vacancy) Nacretiations with Outside Providers	Maintains 2 DK and 3 K Paraedireators				Per Sp Ed Dir Ford, not necessary to fill one vacancy																			Cut 1 Reading, 1 Math para	Cut vacancy per Cindy (Para 23)	
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					Cut tech para														Reduction in Ins with P2 \$27,167 - \$40k para	Line 53/54 = \$1,051,051: Partnership plan and cuts: \$983,884						Elimination of 4 para positions				Reduction in Ins with P2 - Sp Ed Teacher Vacancy \$20,786	Line 64/65 = \$481,435: Partnership plan and cuts: \$460,649	
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	1	Ø	ű	69	CO	Payroll Processing	100.2510.340.02.1.10
	15,000	↔	15,000	()	O)	Auditor	100.2510.340.01.1.10
	4,500	Ø	4,500	⇔	(O)	Dues and Fees - CO	100.2500.810.00.1.10
	615	Ø	615	⇔	CO	Comm Advertising - CO & School	100.2500.530.04.1.10
	10,000	Ø	10,000	⇔	O	Comm Internet - CO & School	100.2500.530.03.1.10
	4,250	Ø	4,250	()	CO	Comm Postage - CO & School	100.2500.530.02.1.10
	15,250	Ø	15,250	G	(C)	Comm Telephone - CO & School	100.2500.530.01.1.10

4.21% 4.21% 7.64%

Ashford's Estimated Budget 2022-23 at 4.21% Increase

Rationale? Cut 6 staff: 5 Paraeducators (5 Reg Ed Para, 1 Sp Ed Current	Vacancy), 1 Sp Ed Teacher (Current Vacancy) Maintains 2	PK and 2 K Para. Negotiations with Outside Providers.	Restores \$16,828 to the classroom (Category 8)		Per Sp Ed Dir Ford, not necessary to fill one vacancy																			Cut 1 Reading, 1 Math, 1 K paras	Cut vacancy per Cindy (Para 23)			
Request 5P1T 4.21%		\$ 52,400	\$ 2,500	\$ 2,127	\$ 222,789	\$ 13,500	\$ 12,500	\$ 120,663	\$ 145,594	\$ 68,214	\$ 5,625	\$ 2,000	\$ 4,100	\$ 26,549	\$ 22,732	\$ 17,421	\$ 118,218	\$ 115,311	\$ 145,288	\$ 97,000	\$ 90,100	\$ 24,912	\$ 3,758,626		ຕາ	\$ 10,000		\$ 67,516
Request 7.64%	2,449,083	52,400	2,500	2,127	289,959	13,500	12,500	120,663	145,594	68,214	5,625	2,000	4,100	5 26,549	, 22,732	17,421	118,218	115,311	145,288	97,000	90,100	24,912	3,825,796	177,623	3 413,460	10,000	3 47,873	67,516
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	Cert Staff	Sub Teachers/Paras - Reg. Ed	Sub Workshop Pay	Cert Staff - CT TEAM Mentor	Cert Staff - Sp. Ed.	Sub Teachers/Paras Sp. Ed.	ESY Program Teachers	Cert Staff - Support Serv - Reg. Ed	Cert Staff - Support Serv - Sp. Ed.	Nursing Staff	Sub Nurse	ESY Program Nurse	Curriculum Development	Cert Staff - Library Specialist	Program Advisors	Program Dir. & Coordinators	Admin - Director - Sp. Ed.	Admin - Superintendent - CO	Admin - Principal	Admin - Principal - Assistant	Admin - Business Manager - CO	Athletic - Coaches		Paraeducator - Reg. Ed.	Paraeducator - Sp. Ed.	ESY Program Paraprofessionals	Secretary - Sp. Ed.	Admin Assistant - Superintendent - CO
4/4/2022	100.1000.111.10.1.10	100.1000.113.30.1.10	100.1000.113.31.1.10	100.1000.151.00.1.10	100.1200.111.10.2.10	100.1200.113.00.2.10	100.1200.152.10.2.10	100.2100.111.00.1.10	100.2100.111.00.2.10	100.2130.110.00.1.10	100.2130.113.00.1.10	100.2130.152.00.2.10	100.2210.151.00.1.10	100.2220.111.00.1.10	100.2290.151.30.1.10	100.2290.151.31.1.10	100.2300.100.01.2.10	100.2320.100.00.1.10	100.2400.100.30.1.10	100.2400.100.31.1.10	100.2510.100.00.1.10	100.2900.151.30.1.10		100.1000.110.00.1.10	100.1200.110.00.2.10	100.1200.152.11.2.10	100.2300.110.02.2.10	100.2320.110.01.1.10

Cut tech para.	Reduction in Ins with P2 \$27,167 - \$50k para Line 53/54 = \$1,051,051: Partnership plan and cuts: \$973,884 Elimination of para positions Reduction in Ins with P2 - Sp Ed Teacher Vacancy \$20,786 Line 64/65 = \$481,435: Partnership plan and cuts: \$460,649
515 77,687 111,726 91,403 239,299 1,500 3,000 2,500 64,200 45,118 123,850 8,000 6,000 1,204 53,560 1,204	973,884 - 45,000 31,175 13,979 136,500 28,300 78,600 10,000 5,000 6,000 6,000 7,000 6,000 7,000 7,000 1,07
515 \$ 77,687 \$ 35,294 \$ 91,403 \$ 239,299 \$ 1,500 \$ 3,000 \$ 2,500 \$ 45,118 \$ 1,204 \$ 8,000 \$ 6,000 \$ 6,000 \$ 1,204 \$ 8,11328 \$	970,551 80,550 81,175 81,175 82,600 82,600 82,600 82,600 84,000 84,000 84,000 84,000 85,000 86,000 87,000 87,000 88,00
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Community - CO Office Staff - Principal Office Staff - Business - CO Tech Assistant Tech Director Custodians Custodians - Emergency OT Sub Custodians Event Chaperones Drivers - Sp. Ed. Transport - Coordinator Drivers - Reg. Ed. Drivers - Substitutes ESY Program Drivers Medical - Driver Screening Transport - Mechanic	Medical/Dental Ins Reg. Ed. H.S.A. ER Contrib Reg Ed. Healthcare Waiver - Reg.Ed Medical Ins Retirement - Cert Group Life Ins Reg. Ed. SS/Medicare Cost - Reg. Ed. SS/Medicare Cost - Reg. Ed. Retiremt - Cert/403b - Reg. Ed. Retiremt - Non-Cert/403b-Reg. Ed. Tuition Reimbursement - MEUI Mileage Contracted - Reg. Ed Medical/Dental Ins Sp. Ed. H.S.A. ER Contrib Sp. Ed. Healthcare Waiver - Sp. Ed. Group Life Ins Sp. Ed. SS/Medicare Cost - Sp. Ed.
100.2320.110.02.1.10 100.2400.110.30.1.10 100.2580.110.001.110 100.2580.110.02.1.10 100.2600.110.30.1.10 100.2600.110.32.1.10 100.2600.113.00.1.10 100.2700.110.30.2.10 100.2700.110.32.3.10 100.2700.110.33.3.10 100.2700.110.33.3.10 100.2700.110.33.3.10	100.1000.210.01.1.10 100.1000.210.02.1.10 100.1000.210.03.1.10 100.1000.215.00.1.10 100.1000.220.00.1.10 100.1000.230.031.10 100.1000.230.031.10 100.1000.252.00.1.10 100.1000.252.00.1.11 100.1200.210.01.2.10 100.1200.210.03.2.10 100.1200.215.00.2.10 100.1200.210.03.2.10 100.1200.215.00.2.10

8,300 100 600 600	3,000	600 1,800 1,897,934	10,000 3,600 23,000 8,906 2,640 9,520	20,000 9,500 20,000 3,700 16,700 11,000 5,900 2,500 2,500 5000
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41,500 8,300 100 600	3,000	600 1,800 2,007,887	10,000 3,600 23,000 8,906 2,640 9,520	20,000 9,500 20,000 3,700 16,700 11,000 5,900 2,500 2,500
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Retiremt - Non-Cert/403b-Sp. Ed. Retiremt - Cert/403b-Sp. Ed. Mileage Contracted - Sp. Ed. Other Benefits - Sp Ed.	Other benefits - Superintendent Professional Dev. Admin - CO Tuition Reim - Administration Other Benefits - Principal	Other Benefits - Business Manager Clothing Allowance - Cust/Cafe	Transport - Fleet Maintenance Transport - Facility Usage Transport - Maintenance Supplies Transport - Class Trip Transport - Extracurricular Transport - After School Activities	Maintenance - Asbestos Monitoring Maintenance - Rubbish Maintenance - Painting Maintenance - Painting Maintenance - Sanitary System Maintenance - Water Monitoring Maintenance - Boiler Repairs Maintenance - HVAC Maintenance - Roof Maintenance - Generator Maintenance - Building - Grounds Upke Equip - Repairs - Non-Instruc. Equip - Repairs - Instruc. Sp. Ed.
100.1200.230.01.2.10 100.1200.230.02.2.10 100.1200.580.00.2.12 100.2300.290.00.2.12	100.2320.290.002.1.10 100.2320.330.00.1.10 100.2400.251.00.1.11 100.2400.290.30.1.11	100.2500.290.00.1.10	100.2700.430.00.1.14 100.2730.440.00.3.14 100.2730.600.00.3.14 100.2790.110.30.3.10 100.2790.110.31.3.10	100.2600.430.30.1.13 100.2600.430.31.1.13 100.2600.430.34.1.13 100.2600.430.34.1.13 100.2600.430.37.1.13 100.2610.430.37.1.13 100.2610.430.31.1.13 100.2610.430.31.1.13 100.2640.431.32.1.13

1,550 7,700 95,976	157,202	74,167 92,140 65,656 231,963	6, 6, 7, 7, 4, 6, 8, 8, 8, 8, 8, 8, 8, 8, 8, 8, 8, 8, 8,
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1,550 7,700 95,976	157,202	74,167 92,140 65,656 231,963	30 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00
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Equip - Repairs - Instruc. Reg Ed Maintenance - Safety - Fire Equipment	Tuition - Outplacement - Sp. Ed.	Building - Utilities Fuel - Building - Heating Oil Fuel - Transport - Gas/Diesel	Inst./Gen'l Supplies Copier - Paper Prof. Dev. Supplies - CO Equip - Copier Lease Equip - Tech - Elementary Equip - PE/Athletic ESY Program Supplies Supplies - Inst./Gen'l - Sp. Ed. Technology Spec. Text (NIMAS) - Sp. Equip - Sp. Ed. Supplies - Health Room Supplies - Library Subscriptions - Non-Technology - Print Library Books - Elementary Library Books - Elementary Library Books - Elementary Library Books - Middle School Tech - Supplies - Admin Tech - Supplies - Admin Tech - Supplies - Middle School Equip - Tech - Educ Reg. Ed. Tech - Supplies - Middle School Equip - Tech - General Assessments - Sp.Ed.
100.2640.431.33.1.10 100.2670.430.00.1.13	100.1200.561.00.2.12	100.2600.620.00.1.10 100.2600.624.00.1.10 100.2700.626.00.3.14	100.1000.610.10.111 100.1000.610.30.1.10 100.1000.730.01.10 100.1000.730.01.111 100.1000.730.30.111 100.1200.640.00.2.12 100.1200.640.00.2.12 100.2220.640.00.2.12 100.2220.640.00.111 100.2220.640.30.111 100.2230.610.00.111 100.2230.610.00.111 100.2230.610.00.111 100.2230.610.00.111 100.2230.610.30.111 100.2230.610.10.111

1.	Accounting for 5 para positions Reduction per CIRMA Negotiate Savings Negotiate Savings Negotiate Savings	
725 1,300 500 580 2,000 1,000 22,787 3,000 171,434	54,550 21,089 7,500 20,000 1,290 1,950 7,000 69,208 69,487 44,696 1,500 9,000 2,100 3,100 3,150	2,600 1,000 3,570 15,250 4,250
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725 1,300 500 2,000 1,000 22,787 3,000 154,606	22,199 27,500 20,000 1,290 1,3800 1,950 7,000 7,000 7,3,208 73,487 75,254 1,500 9,000 2,100 3,100 3,150	2,600 1,000 3,570 15,250 4,250
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niture	Ed Ed	<u> </u>
Supplies - BOE Supplies - Office - Princ's Office Principal - Discretionary Fund Grad Supplies - Middle School Supplies - Office - CO Supplies - Fin'l Forms - CO Building - Supplies Equip - Non-Instruc./Rentals/Furniture	Unemp. Comp Reg. Ed. Workers Comp. Ins Reg. Ed. Professional Dev Reg. Ed. Tuition - Out of District (Magnet & DCF Dues and Fees - Student Unemp. Comp Sp. Ed. Workers Comp. Ins Sp. Ed. Workers Comp. Ins Sp. Ed. Professional Dev Sp. Ed. Outsourced Prof/Tech Serv - Sp. Ed. Outsourced Speech - Sp. Ed. Outsourced Phy. Ther Sp. Ed. Outsourced Behavior Ther Sp. Ed. Outsourced Behavior Ther Sp. Ed. Coutsourced Behavior Ther Sp. Ed. Legal Expense - Reg. Ed.	Dues and Fees - BOE Substitute Calling Stipend Dues and Fees - School Comm Telephone - CO & School Comm Postage - CO & School

\$ 10,000	\$ 615	\$ 4,500	\$ 15,000	· •	\$ 700	ω	\$ 22,192	· •	ω	\$ 1,100	\$ 34,940 Reduction per CIRMA	↔	\$ 5,250	G	ω	\$ 5,280	\$ 100	\$ 539,032	Number to meet at 4.21% increase	8,611,639 \$ 8,337,427 \$8,337,427	6 4.21% 4.21%
10,000	615	4,500	15,000	ı	700	30,730	22,192	ĵ	4,000	1,100	35,705	8,404	5,250	240	110	5,280	100	499,215		8,611,639	7.64%
<del>M</del>	<del>(A)</del>	(A)	<del>(A)</del>	<del>(A)</del>	<del>M</del>	<del>(A)</del>	<del>(A)</del>	es On	<del>(A)</del>	<del>ഗ</del>	<del>(A)</del>	<del>(A)</del>	es On	<del>(A)</del>	<del>(y)</del>	es On	<del>ഗ</del>	ᡐ		Ø	
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School	CO & School					tions	erations	erations		S					arkin						
Comm Internet - CO &	Comm Advertising - C	Dues and Fees - CO	Auditor	Payroll Processing	Printing - CO & School	Software - Tech - CO Opera	Software - Tech - School Op	Software - Tech - Sp. Ed Ope	Equip - Tech Maintenance	Insur Student Accident - Trips	Insur Building/Liability	Insur Transportation	Insur Cyber Security	Due and Fees - Transport	Transport - Class Trip - Tolls & F	Athletic - Officials	Operating Transfers Out - Cafe	Ç.			

## Ashford's Estimated Budget 2022-23 at 4.21% Increase

Rationale?  Cut 7 staff: 6 Paraeducators (5 Reg Ed Paraeducators, 1 Sp	Ed Current Vacancy), 1 Sp Ed Teacher (Current Vacancy)	Maintains 2 PK and 1 K Paraeducator. Restores \$47,424	to the classroom (Category 8)		Per Sp Ed Dir Ford, not necessary to fill one vacancy																			Cut 1 Reading, 1 Math, 2K paras	Cut vacancy per Cindy (Para 23)			
Request 6P1T 4.21%	\$ 2,449,083	\$ 52,400	\$ 2,500	\$ 2,127	\$ 222,789	13,500	\$ 12,500	\$ 120,663	\$ 145,594	\$ 68,214	\$ 5,625	\$ 2,000	\$ 4,100	\$ 26,549	\$ 22,732	\$ 17,421	\$ 118,218	\$ 115,311	\$ 145,288	\$ 97,000	\$ 90,100	\$ 24,912	\$ 3,758,626	\$ 56,777	\$ 385,020	\$ 10,000		\$ 67,516
Request R	2,449,083	52,400	2,500	2,127	289,959	13,500	12,500	120,663	145,594	68,214	5,625	2,000	4,100	26,549	22,732	17,421	118,218	115,311	145,288	000,76	90,100	24,912	3,825,796	177,623	413,460			67,516
	<b>⇔</b>	<b>⇔</b>	s S	<del>⇔</del>	es S	69	€	69	69	69	<del>⇔</del>	69	₩	69	69	₩	<b>⇔</b>	69	<b>₩</b>	<del>()</del>	₩	₩	↔	69	8		2	
	Ĺ		*	-			_							.57.			-							1	777	3.4		
	Cert Staff	Sub Teachers/Paras - Reg. Ed	Sub Workshop Pay	Cert Staff - CT TEAM Mentor	Cert Staff - Sp. Ed.	Sub Teachers/Paras Sp. Ed.	ESY Program Teachers	Cert Staff - Support Serv - Reg. Ed	Cert Staff - Support Serv - Sp. Ed.	Nursing Staff	Sub Nurse	ESY Program Nurse	Curriculum Development	Cert Staff - Library Specialist	Program Advisors	Program Dir. & Coordinators	Admin - Director - Sp. Ed.	Admin - Superintendent - CO	Admin - Principal	Admin - Principal - Assistant	Admin - Business Manager - CO	Athletic - Coaches		Paraeducator - Reg. Ed.	Paraeducator - Sp. Ed.	ESY Program Paraprofessionals	Secretary - Sp. Ed.	Admin Assistant - Superintendent - CO
4/4/2022	100.1000.111.10.1.10	100.1000.113.30.1.10	100.1000.113.31.1.10	100.1000.151.00.1.10	100.1200.111.10.2.10	100.1200.113.00.2.10	100.1200.152.10.2.10	100.2100.111.00.1.10	100.2100.111.00.2.10	100.2130.110.00.1.10	100.2130.113.00.1.10	100.2130.152.00.2.10	100.2210.151.00.1.10	100.2220.111.00.1.10	100.2290.151.30.1.10	100.2290.151.31.1.10	100.2300.100.01.2.10	100.2320.100.00.1.10	100.2400.100.30.1.10	100.2400.100.31.1.10	100.2510.100.00.1.10	100.2900.151.30.1.10		100.1000.110.00.1.10	100.1200.110.00.2.10	100.1200.152.11.2.10	100.2300.110.02.2.10	100.2320.110.01.1.10

			Cut tech para														Reduction in Ins with P2 \$27,167 - \$60k para	Line 53/54 = \$1,051,051: Partnership plan and cuts: \$963,884						Elimination of para positions				Reduction in Ins with P2 - Sp Ed Teacher Vacancy \$20,786	Line 64/65 = \$481,435: Partnership plan and cuts: \$460,649			
515	77,687	111,726	1	91,403	239,299	1,500	3,000	2,500	64,200	45,118	123,850	8,000			53,560	4.	963,884					•			~			460,649				46,000
515	77,687 \$	111,726 \$	35,294 \$	91,403 \$			3,000 \$	2,500 \$	64,200 \$	45,118 \$	123,850 \$	8,000,8		1,204 \$		1,581,328 \$	970,551 \$	80,500 \$			13,979 \$	142,500 \$		82,600 \$						2,000 \$		48,000 \$
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Community - CO	Office Staff - Principal	Office Staff - Business - CO	Tech Assistant	Tech Director	Custodians	Custodians - Emergency OT	Sub Custodians	Event Chaperones	Drivers - Sp. Ed.	Transport - Coordinator	Drivers - Reg. Ed.	Drivers - Substitutes	ESY Program Drivers	Medical - Driver Screening	Transport - Mechanic		Medical/Dental Ins Reg. Ed.	H.S.A. ER Contrib Reg Ed.	Healthcare Waiver - Reg.Ed	Medical Ins - Retirement - Cert	Group Life Ins Reg. Ed.	SS/Medicare Cost - Reg. Ed.	Retiremt - Cert/403b - Reg. Ed.	Retiremt - Non-Cert/403b-Reg. Ed.	Tuition Reimbursement - AEA	Tuition Reimbursement - MEUI	Mileage Contracted - Reg. Ed	Medical/Dental Ins Sp. Ed.	H.S.A. ER Contrib Sp. Ed.	Healthcare Waiver - Sp. Ed	Group Life Ins Sp. Ed.	SS/Medicare Cost - Sp. Ed.
100 2320 110 02 1 10	100.2400.110.30.1.10	100.2510.110.00.1.10	100.2580.110.01.1.10	100.2580.110.02.1.10	100.2600.110.30.1.10	100.2600.110.32.1.10	100.2600.113.00.1.10	100.2900.151.31.1.10	100.2700.110.30.2.10	100.2700.110.31.3.10	100.2700.110.32.3.10	100.2700.110.33.3.10	100.2700.152.00.2.10	100.2700.340.00.3.10	100.2730.110.00.3.10		100.1000.210.01.1.10	100.1000.210.02.1.10	100.1000.210.03.1.10	100.1000.210.04.1.10	100.1000.215.00.1.10	100.1000.220.00.1.10	100.1000.230.01.1.10	100.1000.230.03.1.10	100.1000.251.00.1.10	100.1000.252.00.1.10	100.1000.580.00.1.11	100.1200.210.01.2.10	100.1200.210.02.2.10	100.1200.210.03.2.10	100.1200.215.00.2.10	100.1200.220.00.2.10

& & ¢	100 \$ 100		↔	↔	1,200 \$ 1,200	ı •	009 \$ 009	1,800 \$ 1,800	2,007,887 \$ 1,887,934	10,000 \$ 10,000	G	· ·	↔	↔		57,666 \$ 57,666	700 \$ 700	9,500 \$ 9,500	\$ 20,		ω	↔		69	εs	69		s	200 \$ 200
999	э <del>с</del>			<del>⇔</del>				8	↔	G	es es	G		69	4	↔	69	69	<b>⇔</b>	69	€ <del>)</del>	€÷	<del>()</del>		S	7.5	S	<del>⇔</del>	<del>()</del>
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Retiremt - Non-Cert/403b-Sp. Ed.	Mileage Contracted - Sp. Ed. Other Benefits - Sp Ed.	Other Benefits - Superintendent	Professional Dev. Admin - CO	Tuition Reim - Administration	Other Benefits - Principal	Tuition Reim - CO	Other Benefits - Business Manager	Clothing Allowance - Cust/Cafe	ú	Transport - Fleet Maintenance	Transport - Facility Usage	Transport - Maintenance Supplies	Transport - Class Trip	Transport - Extracurricular	Transport - After School Activities		Maintenance - Asbestos Monitoring	Maintenance - Rubbish	Maintenance - Gen'l & Repairs	Maintenance - Painting	Maintenance - Sanitary System	Maintenance - Water Monitoring	Maintenance - Boiler Repairs	Maintenance - HVAC	Maintenance - Roof	Maintenance - Generator	Maintenance - Building - Grounds Upke	Equip - Repairs - Non-Instruc.	Equip - Repairs - Instruc. Sp. Ed.
100.1200.230.01.2.10	100.1200.580.00.2.12	100.2320.290.00.1.10	100.2320.330.00.1.10	100.2400.251.00.1.10	100.2400.290.30.1.11	100.2500.250.00.1.10	100.2510.290.00.1.10	100.2600.290.00.1.10		100.2700.430.00.1.14	100.2730.440.00.3.14	100.2730.600.00.3.14	100.2790.110.30.3.10	100.2790.110.31.3.10	100.2790.110.32.3.10		100.2600.430.30.1.13	100.2600.430.31.1.13	100.2600.430.33.1.13	100.2600.430.34.1.13	100.2600.430.36.1.13	100.2600.430.37.1.13	100.2610.430.31.1.13	100.2610.430.33.1.13	100.2610.430.34.1.13	100.2610.430.35.1.13	100.2630.430.00.1.13	100.2640.431.31.1.11	100.2640.431.32.2.12

			Additional classroom materials (\$47,424)
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## 2022-2023

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## Session Days 14

## Grades Close:

T1 December 1st T2 March 10th

TBD

Date	Event
Aug.29-30 Aug. 31	Professional Development Days - NO STUDENTS All Staff Preparation Day - NO STUDENTS
Sept. 1	First Day of School for Students
Sept. 5	Labor Day - NO SCHOOL
Sept. 28	OPEN HOUSE - Grades 5-8
Sept. 29	OPEN HOUSE - Grades 1-4
Oct. 10	Columbus Day - NO SCHOOL
Oct. 11	Professional Development Day - NO STUDENTS
Oct. 24	Regional Staff Development - Early Dismissal
Nov. 14	Regional Staff Development - Early Dismissal
Nov. 21	Parent Teacher Conferences - Early Dismissal
Nov. 22	Parent Teacher Conferences - Early Dismissal
Nov. 23	Early Dismissal - Thanksgiving Break Begins
Nov. 24-25	Nov. 24-25 Thanksgiving Break - NO SCHOOL
Dec. 12	Regional Staff Development - Early Dismissal
Dec. 23	Early Dismissal - Winter Recess Begins
Dec. 26-Jar	Dec. 26-Jan.2 Winter Recess - NO SCHOOL
Jan. 16	Martin Luther King Day - NO SCHOOL
Feb. 17	Professional Development Day - NO STUDENTS
Feb. 20-Fel March 17	Feb. 20-Feb. 22 Winter Recess - NO SCHOOL  March 17 Professional Development Day - NO STUDENTS
March 20	Regional Staff Development - Early Dismissal
Apr. 7	Good Friday - NO SCHOOL
Apr. 10 -Ap	Apr. 10 -Apr. 14 Spring Recess - NO SCHOOL
May 15	Professional Development Day - NO STUDENTS
May 29	Metholiai Day - NO SO 100E
June 14	Last Day of School - Early Distrissar

## "Makeup days will be added to the end of the school calendar"

Early Dismisal Time is 12:25 PM including AM PreK students. on WTIC and WILl radio, K-12 Campus Alerts, and Channels Emergency Closing and Dismissals will be announced 3,30 and 61 and posted on the Ashford School website.

called. If this occus, PM PreK students will be picked up at class held. If so warranted, a 3 hour delay option may be Delayed openings will be 2 hours in duration with no AM the same time as K-8 students.