

Ashford Board of Education
Special Meeting Minutes – February 2, 2012

7:00 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

Chairperson D. Wesson called the meeting to order at 7:02 pm.

Board Present

Present were members D. Wesson, K. Rourke, J. Lippert, K. Warren, B. Supina and L. Donegan. Also present were Superintendent Dr. J. Longo, Principal N. Johndrow, Business Manager T. Clements and recording secretary J. Barsaleau. In the audience were MEUI representatives S. Fletcher, D. Atkinson and G. Leedie, as was AEA representative G. Burnham. Unable to attend was board member J. Rupert.

Approval of Minutes: 01/19/2012

Motion to approve the minutes of 01/19/2012 made by L. Donegan, seconded by K. Rourke. J. Lippert noted to strike the word “a” in the first sentence of the Business Manager report. Motion carried unanimously with one abstention (K. Warren).

Budget

a. Review and Projections for FY 11-12 Budget

Business Manager T. Clements distributed a year to date detail budget and expenditure report. She reported that many lines have been encumbered, but there are some areas that will be refined after further review. Members asked for details of various account codes. Mrs. Clements reported that the audit cost came in \$5,000 under budget, maintenance line items will be reviewed for correct distribution, and special education transportation numbers need further verification. The board requested that account 01-2550-390-01255 “*Transportation Purchased Services*” be renamed. It will be known as “*Fleet Maintenance*” going forward.

Dr. Longo reminded the members that the board of finance requested a half-year update concerning outplacement tuition and special education expenses. Mrs. Hartigan will review those line items.

T. Clements left the meeting (7:52 p.m.)

b. FY 12-13 Budget Worksession

c. Discussion of Budget Presentation

These items were addressed together. Dr. Longo began with a brief Power Point presentation of the budget template that will be used for this year. Members asked that a particular slide be placed earlier in the presentation, and suggested other format changes. A discussion followed that included certified staff, their assignments, enrollment, roof maintenance and high school transportation. Transportation represents a significant amount of the school budget, Dr. Longo that some savings that could be realized in the Board of Education budget if Region #19 assumed high school transportation operations. Board members shared their concerns, as did some in the audience. Dr. Longo stated that if, after discussion, it is not a viable option, then staff layoffs are certain to follow. The board directed Dr. Longo to discuss high school transportation with Selectman Fletcher and Supt. Bruce Silva.

Agenda items for the meeting on February 16th will include an update of year-end budget projections, grants and a follow up report from Dr. Longo concerning high school transportation.

Dr. Longo and board members expressed ideas for future budgets: teacher mini-grants, addition of a curriculum specialist, guidance counselor and improvements to the library space and technology, i.e. an electronic card catalog system, beginning world language instruction at grade 3 and related options. Also mentioned was a “facelift” for the building such as painting, and upgrading the school entry area. This along with library renovations will be directed to the Ashford School Ad Hoc committee.

Adjournment

Motion to adjourn the meeting (8:46 p.m.) made by K. Rourke, seconded by J. Lippert and carried unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted,

Jennifer Barsaleau
Recording Secretary

