

Ashford Board of Education
Meeting Minutes – April 26, 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 7:03 pm.

Board Present

Present were members K. Warren, D. Wesson, K. Rourke, J. Rupert, L. Donegan and J. Lippert (7:40 pm). Also present were Superintendent Dr. J. Longo, Principal N. Johndrow, Technology Coordinator M. Roy, EASTCONN consultant A. Drowne, and recording secretary J. Barsaleau. In the audience were MEUI members S. Fletcher, D. Molnar, G. Leedie, D. Atkinson, K. MaKray and MEUI representative D. McMullen. Also present were AEA representatives M. Hardisty and C. Imhoff. Unable to attend was board member B. Supina.

Chair D. Wesson asked for a motion to change the order of the posted agenda, moving item 11, “Grievance Hearing” to this point in the meeting.

Motion to move item 11, Grievance Hearing, to be heard at this point in the meeting made by K. Warren, seconded by J. Rupert and carried unanimously.

Chair D. Wesson began by stating the first portion of the grievance will be evidentiary, and that Dr. Longo will not be speaking during this segment. He stated that following the presentation of evidence by the grievant or a representative, board members and Dr. Longo will convene a non-meeting to review the issue. While it reserves the right to render a decision at the conclusion of the meeting, the board is not obligated to do so.

The chair asked that all who have interest in this hearing state their names and titles for the record:

Responses:	James Longo, Superintendent	Donald Wesson, Board Chair
	Kay Warren, Board Secretary	Kimberley Rourke, Board Vice-Chair
	Lisa Donegan – Board member	James Rupert, Board member
	Danielle McMullen, MEUI Representative	

MEUI Representative D. McMullen spoke on behalf of the grievant Kathy MaKray, citing the grievance filed is in violation of the terms of Article IX of the current collective bargaining agreement, “*Authorized Personal Leave*”, and that wage payment is sought for two holidays that were not paid to the employee.

The board adjourned to an anterior room for the non-meeting portion (7:15 pm) at the conclusion of the presentation by representative McMullen. It was estimated that the board would reconvene in 15-20 minutes.

John Lippert arrived (7:38 pm)

The board and Dr. Longo returned and reconvened the meeting at 7:50 pm. Chair D. Wesson stated that the board would not act at this time, recommending that Dr. Longo and Representative McMullen meet next week to revisit the matter and attempt to reach a conclusion. If agreement cannot be made, then the board will craft a response within the time limits stated in the collective bargaining agreement.

Consultant Presentation: Amy Drowne, EASTCONN

Mrs. Drowne distributed an overview of Ashford’s timeline of the required implementation of the Common Core of Standards and aligning the standards to curriculum. She has been working with our school staff throughout the year by attending faculty and team meetings and leading professional development activities for our staff. She highlighted key components of the Common Core in that many states have committed resources to the same, creating curricular alignments on a national level. CMT testing will end in 2014, for 2014-15 computer based testing based on the Common Core will be given over a 12-week window. The state’s initial goal of this new testing will be to have all students score a minimum of 50%. CMT scoring terminology will no longer be applicable and she strongly urges the community and parents be made aware of this before the new testing begins and that the board be mindful of technology funding to support the requirements of the testing.

Persons to Be Heard

K. MaKray stated her mother had written a letter to the BOE dated 3/27 and there had been no acknowledgment of that letter. She gave the chair copies of the letter for the members.

Communications

Chair D. Wesson reported that he had been handed a letter prior to the start of the meeting from a staff member. He will not read it in public session, as the contents involve matters that can be resolved by direct communication of the parties involved.

Approval of Minutes: 04/05/2012

Motion made by K. Warren to approve the minutes of 04/05/2012 with one correction, page 2 “Personnel Matter”, the word “exceed” to be inserted to read as follows; “the total number of days in this bank may not *exceed* 30 days.” Motion seconded by J. Lippert, and carried with one abstention (J. Rupert).

Committee Reports

No reports. D. Wesson reminded those present of his statement at the last meeting, meetings should be held or scheduled concerning transportation operation.

Administrative Reports/Summary

a. Superintendent

1. Approval of the 2012-2015 Ashford Public School Technology Plan

Copies of the 2012-2015 technology plan were distributed to members at the start of the meeting. Dr. Longo praised the work of the committee membership and their exceptional work on this plan. This is a large and complex task. Dr. Longo asked that the board approve the plan as presented.

J. Rupert expressed concerns about the ability to achieve some of the goals in the plan, both financially and otherwise. Technology Coordinator M. Roy addressed this concern. The guidelines of the plan require that many goals and ideals that may not be readily achievable are included in the plan. This is necessary to qualify for potential grant funding that may be come available. If certain items or technologies are not identified in the 3-year plan, the grant opportunity will most often be lost to the district.

Motion made by J. Rupert to approve the 2012-2015 Ashford School Technology Plan in scope and concept, and to address the finances through the normal budget process. Motion seconded by L. Donegan and carried unanimously.

Dr. Longo noted that the Principal Search committee plans to meet on May 9th to begin paper screening of the applicants, and to formulate candidate questions. Interested board members should let Jen Barsaleau know if they wish to sit on the committee or receive information and updates on progress. Members D. Wesson and K. Rourke are already seated on the committee. Members K. Warren and L. Donegan expressed interest in participating. Member J. Rupert asked for informational updates.

b. Business Manager

1. Budget

There was no report. Dr. Longo shared that he had attended the April 24th annual budget meeting and that it was sparsely attended. There were no questions asked concerning the school budget.

K. Rourke requested that notice of the budget referendum be sent using the K12 alert system. A notice will be sent on the Friday before the referendum, and a reminder sent the evening before.

c. Principal

Mrs. Johndrow followed up on the presentation of Amy Drowne in that Ashford School students have been participating in CBAS (computer based assessment systems) for the past 3 years and are prepared for participation in computer based testing. She distributed new information to the members as to what the standardized requirements will be. She reminded the board of the need maintain and update the computer cart inventory at the school. There are currently 5 fully equipped carts, but more are needed.

d. Director of Pupil Personnel

No report

e. Cafeteria

Dr. Longo distributed a report of the second review by CSDE Child Nutrition Programs. The second review took place earlier in the month. The interviewer was very pleased with the lunch program and the dedication and enthusiasm of the cafeteria staff. There were a few minor issues noted, a corrective action response to address those items will be filed by the date specified.

Old Business

a. Bicknell Scholarship Update

Scholarship Management Services reported they had received 19 applicants for the Bicknell Scholarship.

New Business

a. Grant Authorization: IDEA, Parts 611 and 619

The Individuals with Disabilities Education grant is being prepared by the special education director and requires board action to approve its filing.

Motion to authorize filing of the 2012-2013 IDEA grant application on behalf of the Ashford Public School district made by K. Warren, seconded by L. Donegan and carried unanimously.

b. Request(s) for Leave of Absence

Dr. Longo has received request for leaves of absence from teachers Jason Horn, Krysta Parisen and Jennifer Zotti. Mr. Horn and Mrs. Parisen are each requesting a one-year leave, Mrs. Zotti is requesting leave from September to early December 2012. Mrs. Parisen has requested that she be allowed to attend, with pay, the professional development days offered by the district.

Motion made by K. Warren to approve the leaves of absences of Jason Horn and Jennifer Zotti as presented, and the leave request of Krysta Parisen with the stipulation that she may not attend the professional development days unless attendance is voluntary. Motion seconded by J. Rupert and carried unanimously.

c. Non-Certified Staff Resignation

Dr. Longo received a notice of the resignation of weekend custodian Caleb Rupert, effective April 14th.

Motion to accept the resignation of Caleb Rupert made by L. Donegan, seconded by K. Rourke and carried with one abstention (J. Rupert).

Next Meeting Date/Agenda Items

The next scheduled meeting date is May 3rd – the Financial Committee and the Building and Grounds Committees will meet.

The next regular meeting date is May 17th

Agenda Items: Student Presentation: Robotics; Committee Reports; Budget; Staff/Assignment Plans for 2012-13; Cafeteria Report

Grievance Hearing Matter (Executive Session Anticipated)

Addressed earlier in meeting.

Adjournment

Motion to adjourn the meeting (8:59 p.m.) made by J. Rupert, seconded by L. Donegan and carried unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted,

Jennifer Barsaleau
Recording Secretary