

Ashford Board of Education
Regular Meeting Minutes – October 2, 2014
7:30 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

Board chair J. Rupert called the meeting to order at 7:48 PM. Present were J. Rupert, D. Wesson, K. Warren, J. Lippert and K. Rourke. Also present were Superintendent J. Longo, Principal T. Hopkins and recording secretary J. Barsaleau. Unable to attend was board member L. Donegan. Present in the audience were J. Mozeiko, N. Rice, S. Morytko, AEA co-president M. Klock and Chronicle reporter A. McElveen.

Persons to be Heard

None

Communications

The October 1, 2014 enrollment report, an informational email concerning a freestanding portico for the front entrance of the school and an email communication from NAEYC were distributed. The preschool and kindergarten have received notice of continued program accreditation with NAEYC. The board was very pleased with this news and extends its thanks and congratulations to all who work to maintain Ashford's accredited status.

Approval of Minutes: 09/13/2014; 09/18/2014

Motion to approve the special meeting minutes of 09/13/2014 made by K. Rourke, seconded by D. Wesson and carried with one abstention (K. Warren).

Motion to approve the meeting minutes of 09/18/2014 made by D. Wesson, seconded by K. Rourke and carried with two abstentions (J. Lippert and K. Warren).

Committee Reports

No reports.

Administrative Report (attached)

a. Superintendent

It was noted by a board member that Dr. Longo's articles in the Ashford Citizen are well written. Dr. Longo deferred his report until the next meeting and asked Principal T. Hopkins to report on Student Assessment at Ashford School. Mr. Hopkins shared a PowerPoint presentation illustrating student CMT scores in Grade 8 over the past six years, and the 2013-2014 results of students currently enrolled in all grade levels. This information contains data derived from the use of STAR testing, Fountas & Pinnell, as well as CMT. Areas of focus identified by this data show that Grades 5-8 need to improve writing skills, and Grade 8 also needs improvement in math and reading. There was much discussion about providing immediate support for Grade 8. J. Rupert asked how we go about making a positive change this year, we often identify issues by using this data, but action can take too long. Mr. Hopkins and Dr. Longo reported that they have been discussing this and have some plans to address all areas of focus. D. Wesson requested frequent updates going forward on progress to date, what is working and what is not working.

Old Business

a. Appointment of Member to Fill Board of Education Vacancy

J. Rupert reported that two candidates for the vacancy had been interviewed prior to the start of this meeting. He stated that the board had a very difficult task at hand. J. Lippert echoed that statement noting both candidates would be well suited to the board, and thanked both for interviewing.

Motion made by J. Lippert to appoint Jennifer Mozeiko to fill the board of education vacancy for the remainder of the term. Motion seconded by D. Wesson and carried unanimously.

b. Staff Appointment – Technology Coordinator

Dr. Longo reported that he had followed up as requested at the last meeting, and that he had met with the appropriate people to address the matter. Legal counsel has provided the documentation and a contract has been structured and negotiated so that it does not exceed the line budgeted for the technology consultant, inclusive of wages and associated withholding.

c. Joint Boards Meeting: FY 16 Budget Planning

The chair of the Board of Finance has asked to meet to discuss budget format and content before the BOE begins construction of its budget this year. The BOE is available to meet on either October 23rd or November 6th. There has been no meeting date scheduled as of this date.

New Business

a. Non-Certified Staff Resignation

Dr. Longo reported that he had received a letter of resignation from Amanda Robinson, part time office secretary, effective 10/3/2014.

b. Non-Certified Staff Appointments

Dr. Longo requested the board act on two part time employee appointments; Kimberly Johnston to fill the cafeteria vacancy and Jennifer Sprague to the position of driver. Both candidates were recommended by their supervisors and are appropriately certified and licensed.

Motion made by K. Warren to approve the part time appointment of Kimberly Johnston to the cafeteria, seconded by D. Wesson and carried unanimously.

Motion made by D. Wesson to appoint Jennifer Sprague as part time bus driver. Motion seconded by K. Rourke and carried unanimously.

Next Meeting Date/Agenda Items

The next regular meeting date is October 16th. Agenda items to include second reading of amended policies, quarterly budget transfer review and website update. The board will have a special meeting on October 9th for superintendent evaluation.

Adjournment

Motion to adjourn the meeting at (9:38 pm) made by D. Wesson, seconded by K. Rourke and carried unanimously.

Recorded by:

Jennifer Barsaleau
Recording Secretary