

Date: January 8, 2015

To: The Ashford Board of Education

From: Joan E. Bowley, Taxpayer and 47-year resident of Ashford

Re: Board of Education Meeting – January 8, 2015

Regarding the motion made by D. Wesson at your Board of Education meeting of December 18, 2014 to allow the Superintendent to **use the \$1,500 professional development allotment of his current employment contract** toward lodging accommodations on board meeting and negotiations nights for the remainder of this fiscal year.

I take exception to your motion. How can the board take this kind of action when there is **no professional development allotment** in the Superintendent's current employment contract? There is, however, under Compensation: h. **Professional Memberships**, in the amount of \$1,500 per year. This was an arbitrary decision by the majority of the board without thought of repercussion.

According to the Superintendent's contract he was aware when he signed it what his duties were: The Superintendent **shall attend all meetings of the Board and shall participate in all Board deliberations etc.** The Superintendent requested the board consider allowing him to arrange overnight accommodations on board meeting nights and during negotiations is absurd. This was **based upon** the length of time of his commute following late running meetings **and his recent medical leave** according to your minutes.

There seems to be two issues here, one of which I have already addressed. However, the other is the Superintendent's recent medical leave as stated above. Don Wesson felt it would be a good benefit to pay as **it reduces risk**. What risk or should I say, who's risk? Does it have to do with the Superintendent? Has he returned to work too soon? If so, this risk is not the responsibility of the board of education. It is the responsibility of the Superintendent and not to be taken out of the pockets of the taxpayers of Ashford

One last comment, making decisions regarding your budget should be based on the betterment of all the taxpayers of Ashford and not for your own volition or political party you represent.