

Ashford Board of Education
Regular Meeting Minutes – April 16, 2015
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 7:32 PM. Present were J. Rupert, K. Rourke, J. Mozeiko, J. Lippert and D. Wesson. Also present were Superintendent J. Longo and recording secretary J. Barsaleau. Present in the audience was G. Leedie. Board members L. Donegan and K. Warren were unable to attend.

Persons to Be Heard

None

Communications

The April 2015 copy of “District Administrator” magazine was received.

Approval of Minutes: 03/19/2015; 03/26/2015

Motion made by J. Lippert to approve the regular meeting minutes of 03/19/2015, it was noted that the name of the auditing firm should be corrected to read “Mahoney Sabol & Company”, motion seconded as amended by K. Rourke and carried with one abstention (J. Rupert).

Motion made by J. Lippert to approve the special meeting minutes of 03/26/2015, motion seconded by K. Rourke and carried unanimously.

Distribution of Administrative Reports

Dr. Longo provided a report in the Board packet. Dr. Longo asked if there were any items in the report for discussion. J. Rupert asked that Dr. Longo send a written response summarizing action taken by the Board on March 19th concerning a segregation of duties in purchasing recommendation made in a letter from Mahoney Sabol & Company to the chair of the Board of Finance. Mr. Rupert asked for clarification of the services performed by the business office consultant. Dr. Longo responded that Mr. Miller is performing the duties required for oversight of the business office staff, however, as a part of that oversight he is also assessing district need in terms of available technology, software and capabilities. Dr. Longo informed the Board that the technology grant applied for a couple of months ago will have to be resubmitted by all applicants statewide due to an issue at the CSDE. Spring maintenance projects, security review and donations also discussed. Review of the security and safety audit will be added to a future meeting agenda.

New Business

a. Donations to Ashford School

Board members were very pleased to read about the “Donors Choose” program information they received in their board packets. They were overwhelmed at the number of project posts initiated by our teachers, and the number that have been successfully funded. Dr. Longo will periodically provide updates concerning this program.

Dr. Longo’s report noted that the newly created Hartigan Scholarship fund has been established. Funds for this scholarship are held in the student activity fund. Board members asked that more information be made available to the public to encourage donations. Dr. Longo asked that the board recognize a sizable donation made to this fund by the Hartigan family.

Motion made by D. Wesson to graciously accept a donation made by Tim Hartigan and the Hartigan family to the Hartigan Scholarship Fund in the amount of \$1,000. Motion seconded by J. Mozeiko and carried unanimously.

b. Decommission of School Bus from Service

Motion made by D. Wesson to remove from service Ashford School Bus #2. Motion seconded by K. Rourke and carried unanimously. The bus is presently parked at the maintenance garage and is not registered. Written notification of the board’s action to decommission this bus will be sent to the First Selectman.

Old Business

a. FY 16 Budget

Brief discussion concerning the budget was held. The Town Meeting will be held on April 21st and the budget referendum on May 5th.

b. MEUI Negotiations Update

Dr. Longo spoke with MEUI representative McMullen earlier in the day. She reported that MEUI negotiating team members will be meeting with her on April 21st, she would have proposals following this meeting.

Motion made by J. Lippert to add to the agenda as item 7c “Discussion of Unexpended Education Funds Account”. Motion seconded by K. Rourke and carried unanimously.

Mr. Lippert wanted to revisit what the fund is and how it works. Essentially, it replaces the non-lapsing fund whereby the Board no longer needs to direct the Superintendent to request that remaining educational funds be placed into a non-lapsing account. The fund allows for up to 1% per fiscal year of any remaining appropriated budget identified by annual audit be transferred into this fund for the Board of Education’s use to supplement or expedite projects listed in the approved five-year capital plan for Ashford School. The Board of Finance must authorize the use of the funds. Funds will carry over from year to year, but the fund total may not exceed 3% of the appropriated budget for that year. The board will need to revisit its five-year plan annually to prioritize the content of the plan.

Upon receipt of written regulations and procedures from the Board of Finance, the Board of Education will review them with legal counsel. Some present recalled that funds have been transferred to this account, however, there has been no notification made to the Board of Education or Dr. Longo to date.

Next Meeting Date/Agenda Items

The next meeting date is April 30, 2015. Next agenda items will include the unexpended educational funds account.

Adjournment

Motion to adjourn the meeting at (8:24 pm) made by J. Rupert seconded by K. Rourke and carried unanimously.

Recorded by:

Jennifer Barsaleau
Recording Secretary