

Ashford Board of Education  
**Regular Meeting Minutes – February 4, 2016**  
**7:30 pm**

*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.*

Chair J. Rupert called the meeting to order at 7:43 pm. Present were members K. Rourke, L. Donegan, J. Lippert and J. Calarese (7:47 pm). Also present were Supt. Dr. J. Longo and recording secretary J. Barsaleau. Unable to attend were member K. Warren and M. Matthews. Present in the audience were B. Duffy and S. Morytko.

**Persons to be Heard**

S. Morytko discussed the Board concerning special education and excess cost, technology spending and reductions to middle school writing staff in the 1.2% FY 17 budget proposal. Board members reviewed these items and shared that the FY 17 percentage increase was further reduced at its last meeting to a .50% increase over the current year due to a reduction in healthcare premium costs for next year.

**Communications**

A memo from Business Manager D. Neel concerning financial software options, an email meeting confirmation regarding architectural services and an anticipated educational revenue update from the CSDE were distributed.

**New Business**

**a. Superintendent Report**

Dr. Longo's written report was reviewed with discussions concerning budget, capital planning, gym floor treatments, lighting assessment, lunch program review by the CSDE and Region #19 transportation bid.

It was reported that lighting above the lower lobby doors are not currently working at night.

**Old Business**

**a. Approval of 2016-2017 Ashford School Calendar**

The draft calendar had been distributed at a prior meeting. Discussion followed concerning the state requirement to be a non-session day for students on Election Day.

***Motion made by L. Donegan to approve the 2016-2017 Ashford School calendar as presented, seconded by K. Rourke and carried unanimously.***

**Board Roundtable**

**a. Capital Improvement Plan**

J. Lippert reviewed notes from the capital expenditure committee meeting. Requests to utilize funds from the unexpended educational funds account must pertain to items on the five-year plan provided by the Board and approved by the BOF. Discussion concerning acoustical ceiling installation, tech ed space design and other on the plan and methods of funding such projects and regional services collaboration followed. An ad hoc town wide committee to address building and grounds matters has been proposed.

**b. Budget Worksession**

Members discussed the current FY 17 working budget draft. Dr. Longo suggested the Board consider accelerating technology purchasing in the current fiscal year to aid in further reduction to the FY 17 budget. Discussion followed concerning adjustments to the technology plan and the budget narrative to address acceleration.

***Motion made by J. Rupert to direct the Superintendent to reduce the FY 17 proposed budget by \$45,000 through accelerated purchasing of technology in this fiscal year. Motion seconded by L. Donegan and carried unanimously.***

K. Rourke left the meeting (9:24 pm)

**Second Opportunity for Public Comment**

None

**Next Meeting Date/Agenda Items**

The next regular meeting is 2/18/16. Items for discussion include but are not limited to Route 89 traffic signs, FY 17 budget and narrative.

***Motion to adjourn (9:33 pm) made by L. Donegan, seconded by J. Lippert and carried unanimously.***

Recorded by:

Jennifer Barsaleau, Recording Secretary

*Approved by the Ashford BOE:*

Unapproved