

Ashford Board of Education
Meeting Minutes – September 15, 2016
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

Vice- Chair K. Rourke called the meeting to order at 7:36 pm. Present were members J. Calarese, M. Matthews, J. Lippert and L. Donegan. Also present were Superintendent Dr. J. Longo, Business Manager D. Neel, Administrators T. Hopkins, C. Ford and G. Dukette, Transportation Coordinator J. Celotti and recording secretary J. Barsaleau. Unable to attend were board members K. Warren and chairperson J. Rupert. Present in the audience was AEA co-president J. Horn.

Persons to be Heard

None

Communications

The September enrollment report, employment law newsletter from Shipman & Goodwin and the September copy of “District Administrator” magazine were received. K. Rourke is planning to participate in an upcoming CUBE webinar concerning effective board meeting practice.

Approval of Minutes: 08/25/2016

Motion made by J. Lippert to approve the regular meeting minutes of 8/25/2016. Motion seconded by M. Matthews and carried with one abstention (J. Calarese).

Previous opportunities for the board to approve the 6/23/16 minutes had been unsuccessful as there had not been a quorum of those present at that meeting to consider approval. This item will be added to the next agenda.

Status Report: Transportation and Fleet Maintenance

A list of the vehicles in fleet service was distributed. Transportation coordinator J. Celotti gave an overview of operations. With a recent driver resignation, she will be driving a regular route until a permanent solution is found. Opening day went well, each driver met with her to review and drove test routes prior to the opening of the school. She reported that mechanical concerns are being attended to in timely fashion as Seth Lyman is doing a great job maintaining the fleet. She and Mr. Lyman feel that having three spare buses is necessary for a number of reasons. The new van is in service and the new school bus is expected in October-November. Mrs. Celotti requested the board seek in its capital proposals a two-position lift bus for next year. Brief discussion followed with members asking questions about length of the runs, late bus times, etc. Members thanked Mrs. Celotti for her efforts noting that much improvement that has been made over the past 4-5 years and has not gone unnoticed.

Superintendent Report

Dr. Longo’s report was provided in the board packet. Brief discussion of the report contents followed. Dr. Longo reported that the “Wolf Pack” program began during the last school year in a club format and stipends were to be paid to the club advisors/mentors as is spelled out in the FY 17 Ashford BOE budget narrative. A memorandum of agreement was distributed for review, followed by discussion of the program.

Motion made by J. Lippert to approve the Memorandum of Agreement for the payment of up to three Wolf Pack stipends for FY 17 in the amount of \$1,500 each, not to exceed \$4,500 in total. Motion seconded by L. Donegan and carried unanimously.

Business Manager Report

D. Neel reviewed mechanical maintenance proposals received. The amounts proposed fall under the threshold stated in the board’s purchasing policy. The board directed Mr. Neel to execute a maintenance and service contract with Mechanical Maintenance for FY 17.

a. Approval of Financial Reports through August 2016

Motion made by J. Calarese to approve the financial report through August 2016, noting no purchases were made for or on the behalf of the Superintendent. Motion seconded by L. Donegan and carried unanimously.

b. Discussion of Bicknell Trust

D. Neel recommended review of the fund’s rolling average prior to the board’s determination of scholarship amounts for 2017.

Administrative Reports (Principal, Asst. Principal, Director of Pupil Personnel)

Each of the administrators provided reports prior to the meeting in agenda packet and reviewed their content with the board. Discussion of the report contents followed.

New Business

a. Approval of Medical Standing Orders

Motion made by J. Lippert to approve the 2016-2017 medical standing orders provided by school medical advisor Dr. Ronald Kelly. Motion seconded by J. Calarese and carried unanimously.

Old Business

a. Ashford Education Association Negotiations

The next scheduled date for negotiations is Sept. 21st.

b. NASA Satellite Project Follow Up

An initial meeting is scheduled for Sept. 19th.

c. Review/Update Capital Projects

A list of capital items was included in Dr. Longo's report. Board representative J. Lippert will present these items to the committee. The list should be revisited for prioritization.

d. Superintendent Evaluation

Members chose assignments to begin the evaluation process.

Next Meeting Date/Agenda Items

The next meeting is scheduled for 10/6/16 beginning at 7 PM. Agenda items include NASA satellite project, negotiations, superintendent evaluation, first policy reading(s), audit update.

Prior to adjournment, member J. Calarese thanked the board for its kindness in sending a plant and for their messages of condolence upon the recent loss of a family member.

Motion to adjourn the meeting (9:32 pm) made by J. Calarese, seconded by L. Donegan and carried unanimously.

Recorded by:

Jennifer Barsaleau
Recording Secretary