

Ashford Board of Education
Ashford, Connecticut
Meeting Agenda
June 7, 2018
7:00 pm*
Ashford School
Library/Media Center

****Meeting To Be Called to Order Following a 6:15 pm Reception in Media Center***

1. Call To Order
2. Communications
3. Opportunity for Public Comment
4. Approval of Minutes: 05/17/2018
5. District Administrative Reports (Superintendent, Business Manager, Director of Pupil Personnel)
 - a. Business Manager
 1. FY 18 Budget Transfers
 2. District Office Staff Reorganization
 3. Audit Update
6. New Business
 - a. Staff Resignation
7. Old Business
 - a. Ashford School Staffing Plans
 - b. Capital Projects Meeting
8. Next Meeting Date/Agenda Items
9. Second Opportunity for Public Comment
10. Negotiations: Non-Union Staff Wages and Benefits (Executive Session Anticipated)
11. Superintendent Evaluation and Negotiations (Executive Session Anticipated)
12. Adjournment

Ashford Board of Education Goals

The Ashford Board shall:

1. Initiate policies and practices, as well as devote appropriate resources towards the improvement of Ashford students on Connecticut standardized testing.
2. Promote instructional practices rooted in the individual skills, talents, needs and performance of the student.
3. Initiate mechanisms for improved and effective communication with the community as well as town leaders and other town boards and committees.
4. Develop a three-year school improvement plan that presents, and explains, an optimal path towards educational excellence in Ashford.

All meetings, conferences, programs and activities at Ashford School are available, without discrimination, to individuals with disabilities as defined by the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and/or Title II of the American with Disabilities Act. Individuals with disabilities requesting relocation of this meeting should call the Superintendent at 429-1927 or e-mail a request to jplongo@ashfordct.org not later than 2 working days prior to the meeting. Hearing impaired individuals may communicate their request for accommodations by using the e-mail address above, or calling the State of CT TDD relay service (800) 842-2880 or the national relay service number (800) 855-2880.

Enclosures: Minutes 05/17;

Enrollment Summary: Federal Ethnicity and Race Report as of 06/01/2018 (D1)

Ashford School

View:

Federal Ethnicity and Race

Students:

- All Active Enrollments
- Current Selection

Date:

06/01/2018

Grade Level	Total in Grade	(I) American Indian or Alaska Native	(A) Asian	(B) Black or African American	(P) Native Hawaiian / Other Pac Islander	(W) White	Hispanic/Latino	Two or More Race Categories	Unspecified
-2	18 8 / 10	0 0 / 0	1 1 / 0	0 0 / 0	0 0 / 0	14 5 / 9	1 0 / 1	2 2 / 0	0 0 / 0
-1	33 20 / 13	0 0 / 0	1 1 / 0	0 0 / 0	0 0 / 0	28 16 / 12	2 2 / 0	2 1 / 1	0 0 / 0
0	41 24 / 17	0 0 / 0	0 0 / 0	0 0 / 0	0 0 / 0	37 21 / 16	1 1 / 0	3 2 / 1	0 0 / 0
1	34 19 / 15	0 0 / 0	0 0 / 0	1 0 / 1	1 1 / 0	27 16 / 11	4 1 / 3	1 1 / 0	0 0 / 0
2	42 22 / 20	0 0 / 0	1 0 / 1	1 1 / 0	0 0 / 0	35 18 / 17	1 1 / 0	4 2 / 2	0 0 / 0
3	37 22 / 15	0 0 / 0	0 0 / 0	1 0 / 1	0 0 / 0	26 16 / 10	5 3 / 2	5 3 / 2	0 0 / 0
4	44 20 / 24	0 0 / 0	0 0 / 0	0 0 / 0	0 0 / 0	39 18 / 21	3 1 / 2	2 1 / 1	0 0 / 0
5	31 16 / 15	0 0 / 0	0 0 / 0	2 2 / 0	0 0 / 0	24 13 / 11	5 1 / 4	0 0 / 0	0 0 / 0
6	40 19 / 21	0 0 / 0	2 0 / 2	0 0 / 0	0 0 / 0	36 19 / 17	1 0 / 1	1 0 / 1	0 0 / 0
7	42 13 / 29	0 0 / 0	0 0 / 0	1 1 / 0	0 0 / 0	37 11 / 26	4 1 / 3	0 0 / 0	0 0 / 0
8	47 26 / 21	0 0 / 0	0 0 / 0	2 0 / 2	0 0 / 0	37 23 / 14	6 1 / 5	1 1 / 0	1 1 / 0
Total	409 209 / 200	0 0 / 0	5 2 / 3	8 4 / 4	1 1 / 0	340 176 / 164	33 12 / 21	21 13 / 8	1 1 / 0

The Federal Ethnicity and Race view displays aggregate student data as required by the Federal Ethnicity and Race Categories from the U.S. Department of Education. See the help for more information.

Legend

Icons  - Date Entry

Ashford Board of Education
Regular Meeting Minutes – May 17, 2018
7:00 p.m.
District Office Conference Room

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. Lippert called the meeting to order at 7:07 pm. Present were members J. Urban, S. Gamache, K. Warren, M. Matthews (7:16pm) and L. Donegan (7:37pm). Also present were Superintendent Dr. J. Longo, Business Manager L. Dyer, Principal T. Hopkins and recording secretary J. Barsaleau. Audience present: R. Haeger, C. Trotta, J. Leczynski, K. Kouatly, J. Mozeiko, and AEA members C. Busse and J. Horn. Unable to attend was member J. Calarese.

Communications

- Ms. Gamache read aloud email communications between her and Mr. Caldwell, teacher and student council advisor concerning a student survey about cafeteria recycling, composting and food choices
- A invitation to attend Ashford School's 5th grade "Revolutionary War History Day"
- The CT Association of School's press release announcing Troy Hopkins as the CT Elementary Principal of the Year

Opportunity for Public Comment

- A letter from parent Jesse Burnham was read and distributed to members at his request. The letter addresses the recent resignation of a 5th grade classroom teacher and his concern that the vacancy it has created is filled by a classroom teacher, keeping with three classes in grade 5 as was presented in the FY 19 budget.
- Mrs. Haeger thanked members of the BOE for their support of the Spring Jamboree. They received tremendous help from the Ashford School staff, Mr. Hopkins and Mr. Dukette. She noted that this was an unusual year with two budgets being worked on at the same time, but wished to remind the BOE of some items mentioned at previous meetings. These include tracking physical temperatures in the classrooms, establishment of a BOE curriculum committee and grade 6-8 book discussion groups. She inquired about Spanish teacher grade assignments for next year and echoed the sentiments in Mr. Burnham's letter; a reduction in the number of grade 5 classroom teachers would be detrimental.
- Mrs. Kouatly has three children in Ashford School, one moving into 5th grade. She is sorry to hear that Mr. Hills is leaving, but is hoping that any rumors or conversation about not having three grade 5 classes next year stops. Class sizes of 22 would be too much and she agrees with Mr. Burnham's letter. The BOF has stated that class sizes are too small, perhaps that spawned the need for this discussion tonight. She asked, "Have needs changed since the budget passed?" She spoke of creative use of the staff, concerns about trimester rotations, asking that it be reconsidered for next year. Many kids love music, art etc., having those specials all year long might be really important to that child.
- Mrs. Trotta has 2 children at Ashford School. She spoke of her own experiences with small class sizes here and then moving out of state where the classes had 22-24 students, this prompted the need for parents to come to the school several times per week and help in the classrooms. She also agreed with Mr. Burnham's letter and said that she and her family came back to Ashford because of the school.
- Mrs. Leczynski echoed the comments of the other speakers and Mr. Burnham. She stressed that people voted on the budget that was presented, which included class size information. She is researching the effects of class size on children up to grade 5 and finding that it can be harmful to students struggling with academics or those with disabilities. She agrees it is a transitional year in a child's education.
- Ms. Mozeiko had nothing to add, saying she loved Mr. Burnham's letter and is on the small class size team.
- Mr. Busse has a child in middle school and noted that enrollment numbers change throughout the year. His child's class started with 24 in a class and it's now 27 per class, and this is important and has to be a consideration in class size discussions.

Mr. Lippert thanked everyone for their comments and stressed that the administration must consider options and will bring forward recommendations to the Board. The item will be on the next agenda for discussion.

Approval of Minutes: 05/03/2018

Motion by K. Warren to approve the regular meeting minutes of 05/03/2018, motion seconded by J. Urban and carried with one abstention (S. Gamache).

District Administrative Reports (Superintendent, Business Manager, Director of Pupil Personnel)

Superintendent

Dr. Longo did not provide a written report. Included in the BOE packet was his request for consideration of contract extension, as is required. Dr. Longo spoke to the concerns expressed by the audience tonight. The resignation of the classroom teacher affords the opportunity for the administrative team to review and revisit needs. He agrees that 22 students per class in Grade 5 are too many. Any changes to the number of classes in that grade would be contrary to the published budget, and we want to honor our budget as presented. To respond to one comment made earlier, the need for a school counselor has been identified in the past. Discussion of needs and a review of a counselor position has resurfaced. Ms. Matthews asked Dr. Longo about the status of the capital committee. He responded that we have not heard anything from the committee that is expected to meet about choosing an architect for CORR space drawings to date. Friar & Associates has completed a 10-year capital improvements plan list for the board based on what they see as priorities. Members may access the Friar & Associates website portal to view the plan.

Business Manager

Mrs. Dyer distributed and reviewed her written report and the accounts payable list. She will have year-end projections for the next meeting. At this time she anticipates a small surplus. The budget had been frozen to allow for budget review to address the need to transfer funds to the outplacement tuition lines. She noted the audit is underway.

Mrs. Dyer left the meeting (8:25pm)

Director of Pupil Personnel

Mrs. Ford provided a written report that was distributed to members. Any questions concerning the report should be directed to Mrs. Ford.

Administrative Reports (Principal, Asst. Principal)

Principal

Mr. Hopkins reviewed the content of his report placing emphasis on some of the special things happening at Ashford School including the contributions of art teacher Danielle Boulanger.

Asst. Principal

Mr. Dukette provided a written report that was distributed to members. Any questions concerning the report should be directed to Mr. Dukette. Mr. Hopkins spoke highly of Mr. Dukette's spotlight staff member, Sara Dingler.

Distribution of Department Reports (Cafeteria, Health Room, Technology, Transportation)

Mr. Lippert acknowledged receipt of the cafeteria, health room and technology reports. Mrs. Barsaleau noted that a maintenance report was included in lieu of the transportation report, the report will be included in the next agenda packet. Members were impressed with the health room report and the many ways that the school nurse works with agencies that offer services to our students and families, such as the flu clinic and mobile dental van. Dr. Longo noted that the technology committee had met earlier in the day and they will be working in groups with each reviewing/revising a section of the plan.

New Business

a. Schedule Annual BOE Retreat

After brief discussion, the annual BOE retreat meeting will be held on 8/2/2018 from 2-8pm. Location has yet to be determined.

Old Business

a. MEUI Negotiations Update

Negotiations were held last night resulting in a tentative agreement. BOE members who participated noted it was an interesting process and thanked Dr. Longo for facilitating the negotiations.

Next Meeting Date/Agenda Items

The next regular meeting of the BOE is 6/7/18. There will be a brief reception prior to the BOE meeting beginning at 6:30 Agenda items: 5th grade class size, capital plans, budget transfers, transportation report, executive session (supt. evaluation).