

Ashford Board of Education
Special Meeting Minutes – October 19, 2017
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. Rupert called the meeting to order at 7:09 pm. Present were members J. Lippert, L. Donegan, K. Warren, J. Calarese, K. Rourke and M. Matthews. Also present were Superintendent Dr. J. Longo, Principal T. Hopkins, Asst. Principal G. Dukette, Director of Pupil Personnel C. Ford, Business Manager L. Dyer and recording secretary J. Barsaleau. Present in the audience was AEA member J. Zotti.

Persons to Be Heard

a. Comments Concerning Items on the Posted Agenda

None

Communications

A letter from the Teacher of the Year Council was shared congratulating Ashford teacher Rebecca Aubrey for being named a semi-finalist for 2018 Teacher of the Year. Board members extended their congratulations to Ms. Aubrey and noted this is a great accomplishment for her and for Ashford School. J. Rupert noted that he had received communication from the probate court concerning the Bicknell Trust. The triennial report was filed with the court earlier this month. The YMCA after school program has requested board action concerning temporary program management until their program license is granted.

Approval of Minutes: 09/21/2017; 10/12/2017

Motion by J. Lippert to approve the regular meeting minutes of 09/21/2017, motion seconded by L. Donegan and carried with three abstentions (J. Rupert, J. Calarese and K. Rourke).

Motion by J. Lippert to approve the special meeting minutes of 10/12/2017, motion seconded by K. Rourke and carried unanimously.

Distribution of District Office Reports (Superintendent, Business Manager, Cafeteria)

a. September 2017 Financial Reports

Dr. Longo distributed copies of his most recent Ashford Citizen article and L. Dyer distributed and reviewed the Business Manager's report. A cafeteria report was included with the board agenda packet. Members asked Mrs. Dyer about the state of cafeteria finances. She indicated they are in the black and have a balance of approximately \$5,000-\$7,000 at this time. Other items discussed were the UCOA grant, financial software, budget, composting and food waste.

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

All reports were included in the board packet. Members asked Mr. Hopkins about the teacher Argonaut Program and how it is funded. Mr. Dukette was asked to explain what the Ashford Writing College is. This refers to Ashford teachers who have attended writing classes at Columbia University and are leading professional development in writing with their peers.

New Business

a. Custodial Search Committee

A custodial vacancy has been reposted for a 32-hour position that includes Saturdays. Upon receipt of applications, interviews will be held. J. Calarese and J. Rupert will participate in the interview process.

Motion made by J. Lippert to add to the agenda as item 7b, Request Authorization of Temporary YMCA Program Management. Motion seconded by J. Rupert and carried unanimously.

The after school program at Ashford School requires an annual license. The application is currently in process and the state requires program management oversight until the license is granted.

Motion made by L. Donegan to provide Board of Education oversight and administration of the Indian Valley Family YMCA after school care program through March 1, 2018. Motion seconded by K. Warren and carried unanimously.

Old Business

a. "CORR" Area Space Renovations and Facility Management Update

The town building official inspected the renovated space on 10/17 and will issue a certificate of occupancy. The official will not sign off on Certification of Completion for the contractor until final review by the BOE and the Superintendent. J. Rupert expressed concern about lack of insulation in exterior doors. Mr. Rupert and Dr. Longo will discuss this further with counsel if necessary.

Dr. Longo expressed his appreciation to Mike Mellady for his hard work in bringing this project to the final stages for a certificate of occupancy. Mr. Mellady spent a great deal of time not only physically working in this space, but also communicating with the contractors, the Town and fire marshal. The board expressed its thanks and appreciation to Mr. Mellady as well.

b. Second Reading: Non-Resident Student Tuition Policy

The policy as presented by counsel requires the board to determine a reasonable period of time to allow for non-resident student attendance in the case of future occupancy or residency within Ashford; and the period of time that permits a student who moves from Ashford, to remain at Ashford School.

Motion made by L. Donegan to stipulate the period of 90 school days be added to the above policy sections III – A and III-B. Motion seconded by J. Calarese and carried unanimously.

c. Capital Planning Priorities

Dr. Longo and Mr. Rupert met with Mike Sorano of Friar & Associates prior to this board meeting to discuss prioritization of needs. A quote for this service will be forthcoming.

d. Request Use of Unexpended Educational Funds

Dr. Longo has received board authorization to request release of unexpended funds. Dr. Longo will draft a letter of request for the next board meeting.

Next Meeting Date/Agenda Items

Friar & Associates quote, budget, building and grounds report. Committees on the next agenda will be finance and transportation.

Second Opportunity for Public Comment

L. Donegan attended this year's WINGS event at the Hole in the Wall Gang Camp. She spoke very highly of our students and staff that attended and shared great appreciation and admiration for the program. It is unique and very special to our school and she urged everyone who has not been there to attend.

Motion to adjourn the meeting (8:31 pm) made by M. Matthews, seconded by L. Donegan and carried unanimously.

Recorded by:

Jennifer Barsaleau, Recording Secretary