

Ashford Board of Education
May 15, 2008
7:00 p.m.

Call To Order

L. Olson, Board Chair, called the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m. in the Ashford School Library.

Board Present

L. Olson, D. Wesson, T. Lucier, J. Sterling-Folker, A. Breault, Superintendent, N. Johndrow, Principal, M. Giardi, Assistant Principal/Director of Special Services, J. Barsaleau, Recording Secretary. Absent were D. Polsky, K. Warren and J. Lipker.

Persons to Be Heard

Teacher Michelle Bibeault thanked the Board for their support of full day kindergarten.

Communications

L. Olson read a letter from Charlie Wilcox, grade 6 teacher, announcing his retirement effective June 30, 2008.

Motion to accept the letter of retirement from Mr. Wilcox with thanks and best wishes made by D. Wesson, seconded by T. Lucier and carried unanimously.

L. Olson read a letter of resignation from Meg Devlin, Business Manager, effective August 4, 2008.

Motion to accept the letter of resignation from Mrs. Devlin with thanks and with regret made by J. Sterling-Folker, seconded by D. Wesson and carried unanimously.

L. Olson read a letter of resignation from Special Education teacher Ashley Capozzoli effective at the end of this contract year.

Motion to accept with regret the resignation of Ashley Capozzoli made by T. Lucier, seconded by D. Wesson and carried unanimously.

A. Breault informed the board of a letter of resignation from Raymond Santor, 2nd shift lead custodian, effective May 22, 2008.

Motion to accept with regret the resignation of Raymond Santor made by D. Wesson, seconded by J. Sterling-Folker and carried unanimously. The Board extended thanks to Mr. Santor for his contribution of plants to the school.

L. Olson told the board of communications received for the Safe Roots Program. Mrs. Olson read a letter received from the Board of Selectmen concerning custodial duties during community events held at the school.

The board directs Mr. Breault to send a letter to the selectmen clarifying the duties and responsibilities of the custodial staff during community events.

Approval of Minutes

Motion to approve the minutes of April 24, 2008 made by D. Wesson, seconded by T. Lucier and carried unanimously. The board referred back to the fuel cell car presentation made at the meeting and asked if it was possible to demonstrate the car at the CABA convention. Mr. Breault stated that he had e-mailed teacher Rick Rossi, and received a reply, but believes the deadline has already passed for notification to CABA. Mr. Breault will follow up.

Committee Reports

- **Water**
- **Cafeteria**
- **Other (Special Ed., Long Range Planning, Policy)**

The Water Committee met on May 8, 2008. T. Lucier gave the board a summary of the meeting.

Motion made by J. Sterling-Folker to award the contract for the water project to VMS in the amount \$290,000 and to authorize the superintendent to be the agent, seconded by D. Wesson and carried unanimously.

The Cafeteria Committee also met on May 8th. Discussion followed concerning the hiring of a cafeteria manager and the possibility of having two current cafeteria employees, who are union members, serve as co-managers for one year and then re-evaluate. The committee agreed to interview the current employees for the position of cafeteria manager if the position is approved by the board. Mr. Breault proposed the cafeteria manager position be a salaried position versus hourly if approved. The committee will meet to discuss lunch and milk prices, as well the cafeteria manager position. Mr. Breault will get a legal opinion from counsel concerning a cafeteria manager position and the co-manager possibility utilizing union personnel.

J. Sterling-Folker reported that the special education committee will be talking with CREC in mid to late June.

The timeline for a consultant review of the special education program will have to be put off until next school year.

Award of Contract for Water Project

The board acted on the award under Committee Reports.

Administrative Reports

- Principal

Mrs. Johndrow's monthly report was distributed. She spoke about the success of recent school events. Two Ashford students have been accepted to the ACT Magnet School. Ashford received a silver medal at the Jazz Festival held in Colchester. Students Lily C. and Hailey C. were named "Outstanding Musicians". BEST portfolios for Year 2 teachers are complete. Mrs. Johndrow is completing staff evaluations, working on scheduling and completing formal observations. Letters were sent out to kindergarten parents explaining how the lottery will work.

- Assistant Principal/Pupil Personnel

Mrs. Giardi reported that she has been completing annual student reviews, working on staff evaluations, extended school year planning continues, and that interviews to fill the special education teacher vacancies has begun. Extended school year positions have been posted in-house.

Superintendent's Report

- Personnel

Mr. Breault reviewed the current staff vacancies and there are some anticipated resignations. The cafeteria manager position and the lead custodian and business manager vacancies were discussed. Discussion was held about the possibility of combining the business manager position with a town position, and creating a director of facilities position.

- Graduation Dates

Ashford's graduation date is June 17th and invited Board Members to attend. The E.O. Smith graduation date is June 18th.

Budget

- 2007-2008 Monthly Budget Report

Mr. Breault reported there is presently \$73,000 remaining in the budget at this time. However, there are invoices still to come and he cannot yet project if there will be any funds remaining at the end of the year. He presented a list of items that could be purchased, bus repairs and repairs to the school building that should be made if there are funds remaining in June. L. Olson spoke of the need for fencing along the ball field and behind the soccer goal near the woods.

- 2008-2009

The budget passed with an 11% voter turnout. Discussion followed about whether or not the Town allocated funds for community building use in their budget. Mr. Breault will follow up with the Town.

Possible Executive Session

- Pending Claims and Litigation
- Board Self-Evaluation
- Superintendent Evaluation
- Bicknell Scholarship

Motion to enter into executive session (9:36 p.m.) for the purpose of discussing Pending Claims and Litigation, Board Self Evaluation, Superintendent Evaluation and Bicknell Scholarship, and to invite Mr. Breault to attend, made by T. Lucier, seconded by D. Wesson and carried unanimously. Present in executive session were L. Olson, D. Wesson, J. Sterling-Folker, T. Lucier and A. Breault.

The Board exited executive session at 9:58 p.m.

Adjournment

Motion by T. Lucier to adjourn the meeting at 10:03 p.m. Seconded by D. Wesson and carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Jennifer Barsaleau
Recording Secretary