

Ashford Board of Education
March 20, 2008
7:00 p.m.

Call To Order

L. Olson, Board Chair, called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. in the Ashford School Library.

Board Present

L. Olson, K. Warren, D. Wesson, D. Polsky, A. Breault, Superintendent, N. Johndrow, Principal, M. Giardi, Assistant Principal/Director of Special Service, J. Barsaleau, Recording Secretary

Persons to Be Heard

Catherine Rupert read a letter to the Board concerning special education and the needs of her child. Discussion followed between the Board and Mrs. Rupert.

Cathryn Silver-Smith also addressed the board in support of Mrs. Rupert citing her own past experience with special education.

Motion by D. Polsky to add discussion of a student matter to executive session, item #11 on the agenda, seconded by K. Warren and carried unanimously.

Communications

The Board agreed to review a letter prepared by Mr. Breault to address/clarify items in the 08-09 budget presented to the Board of Finance on March 6, 2008 at this point in the meeting instead of item 10 as listed on the agenda, as Mrs. Silver-Smith was present. Mrs. Silver-Smith was given a copy to review as well.

Motion by K. Warren to send the document as presented to the Board of Finance, with the addition of a detailed breakdown of insurance costs, motion seconded by D. Polsky and carried unanimously.

Mrs. Silver-Smith requested that all Board of Finance members be sent this document.

Approval of Minutes

Motion to approve the minutes of February 28, 2008 made by K. Warren, seconded by D. Wesson and carried unanimously.

Special Education Presentation – Jaclyn Garrison

Special Education teacher Jaclyn Garrison gave a brief presentation on the ABA program, an overview of what the program encompasses and the typical student that would be part of this program. She emphasized that all students progress is data driven, and shared some samples of student progress. The program has been very successful since its inception and she thanked the Board for supporting this program.

Committee Reports

- Water

Mr. Breault reported that the water committee had met and reviewed plans for the treatment system. Invitation to bid notice was placed the week of 3/3/08, a pre bid meeting was held on March 14, and bid opening is scheduled for March 25th at Town Hall at 10 AM.

- Long Range Planning – No Report
- Other – No Report

Hot Lunch Report

Mr. Breault reported that food service director, Beth Gankofskie,, agreed to attend the April 3rd meeting to give the board a summary of the cafeteria program.

Administrative Reports

- **Principal**
 - Fundraising
 - World Language at E.O. Smith

Mrs. Johndrow distributed her monthly report to the Board and spoke to a successful CMT week and the RTI Initiative that she and Mrs. Giardi and some staff member will be working to put in place. As a follow up to the 2/28 meeting, she discussed the magazine drive fundraiser and asked teachers Kathy Bryce and Donna Backhaus to provide information and answer any specific questions the Board may have about the event, how it is administered,

student incentives and how it benefits the student activity fund. This year, this one fundraiser contributed approximately \$4,000.

Mrs. Johndrow followed up with E.O. Smith and Ashford staff about Ashford grade 8 students that may wish to take a world language at E.O. Smith for high school credit in the mornings. Criteria and student expectations for both schools were highlighted in order for this option to be viable (see attached). Mrs. Johndrow sent out a survey to Grade 7 students to see if there was any interest. Two students responded.

Motion made by D. Polsky to adopt the world language option document and criteria as presented, with the exception that Grade 8 Spanish instruction may be continued by choice. Motion seconded by K. Warren and carried unanimously.

- **Assistant Principal/Pupil Personnel - No Report**

Superintendent's Report

- Veggie Grant

The Ashford district received word it did not receive the "Love Your Veggie's" grant

- Request for Leave of Absence

Mr. Breault presented a request for an unpaid leave of absence for Susan Kozey upon the expiration of her Family and Medical leave, until such time she is able to return to duty.

Motion to grant unpaid leave of absence to Susan Kozey as presented made by L. Olson, seconded by D. Wesson and carried unanimously.

A request for Family and Medical leave was received by Kathy Makray commencing March 11, 2008 for a period of up to twelve weeks.

Motion to approve the Family and Medical leave request of Kathy Makray made by K. Warren, seconded by D. Wesson and carried unanimously.

March is "Board Appreciation" month, Mr. Breault expressed his thanks to the Board for their efforts throughout the year and told them to enjoy the flowers that were provided. Also, a thank you note was received from Mrs. Saegaert for the Board's get well gift to her.

2008-2009 Budget

- **Board of Finance Information/Deliberations**
- **Any Updated Information**

The Board addressed both of these items under "Communications".

Possible Executive Session

- Pending Claims and Litigation
- Non Union Negotiations
- Superintendent Evaluation
- Discussion of Student Matter

Motion to enter into executive session (9:07 p.m.) for the purpose of discussing Non Union negotiations, Superintendent Evaluation and a Student Matter and to invite Mrs. Giardi and Mr. Breault, made by K. Warren, seconded by D. Wesson and carried unanimously. Present in executive session were L. Olson, D. Polsky, K. Warren, D. Wesson, M.Giardi and A. Breault.

Mrs. Giardi left the executive session at 9:37 p.m.

The Board exited executive session at 9:40 p.m.

Motion to allow for a student evaluation at Yale University made by K. Warren, seconded by D. Wesson and carried unanimously.

Adjournment

Motion by D. Wesson to adjourn at 9:50 p.m. Seconded by D. Polsky and carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Jennifer Barsaleau
Recording Secretary

