

AUBURN SCHOOL COMMITTEE
MINUTES from Tuesday, February 13, 2018
School Committee Room, 7:00 p.m.

In attendance:

George Scobie
Gail Holloway
Jessie Harrington
Dottie Kauffman

Absent:

Wayne Page

Maryellen Brunelle
Kathy Lauze
Cecelia Wirzbicki

Casey Handfield
Joe Gagnon
Karyn Ferdella

Visitors: Chloe Norwood and parents

Call to Order and Pledge: Mr. Scobie called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. and asked if anyone else was taping the meeting; there being none, he asked that everyone join him in the Pledge to the Flag.

Special Recognitions:

Chloe Norwood: Project 351 Ambassador

Chloe was in attendance to share an update regarding her Project 351 experience. She did an outstanding job and was a terrific representative of the Auburn Public Schools.

Project Bread Holiday Spoons Project

Dr. Brunelle reported that the kindergarten classes at Pakachoag participated in the Project Bread Holiday Spoons Project along with as winning second place, they were awarded the first every "Spirit Award." She asked that the Committee members join her in congratulating the Pakachoag kindergarten students and teachers.

AHS Artists: Dartmouth Exhibitors

Dr. Brunelle announced the names of the AHS art students whose works were accepted to the Emerging Young Artists 2018 Juried Exhibition at U-Mass Dartmouth: Obiamah Igwenagu and Rebecca Chamberland. She asked that the members join her in congratulating the students.

AHS Artists: New England Secondary School Art/Design Competition at Anna Maria College

Dr. Brunelle also asked the members to join her in congratulating Erica Garand, Jackie Jacques and Sen Miglin, whose works were accepted to the New England Secondary School Art/Design Competition at Anna Maria College.

Athletic Director, Brian Davis, Inducted into MA Baseball Coaches Association Hall of Fame

Dr. Brunelle asked that the members join her congratulating Mr. Brian Davis, Athletic Director, who was recently inducted into the Massachusetts Baseball Coaches Association Hall of Fame. He was honored at a dinner on January 27th.

We the People Team

Dr. Brunelle shared the exciting news that AHS's "We The People" students had come in second place at the competition held at the Edward M. Kennedy Institute in Boston on January 27th. She noted that even

more exciting was the fact that they learned that they had earned a wild card slot at the national competition scheduled to be held in Washington, D.C. in the spring. She asked the members to join her in congratulating the team and their advisors, Mr. Benacchio and Mr. Kennard.

Moment of Silence: Bernie Holloway

Dr. Brunelle asked that everyone join her in a moment of silent reflection in memory of Mr. Bernie Holloway, a long-time Auburn educator, who passed on January 27th.

Citizens' Comments: None

Student Representatives' Report: Isabella Lourie and Ryan Garabedian

No report available.

Approval of Regular Meeting Minutes:

January 3, 2018

Mrs. Kauffman made a motion to approve the minutes of the January 3rd meeting; Mrs. Holloway seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved.

Superintendent's Report:

Mr. Joseph Gagnon to Retire June 30, 2018

Dr. Brunelle announced to the Committee that Mr. Joseph Gagnon, Principal of Auburn Middle School, had made the decision to retire at the end of this school year. She noted that plans are underway to post the position. She asked the Committee to join her in thanking Mr. Gagnon for his dedication to the Auburn Public Schools and to Auburn Middle School in particular.

AHS Program of Studies

Mrs. Kauffman made a motion to approve the changes and updates to the Auburn High Program of Studies for 2018-2019; Mrs. Holloway seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved.

AHS Trip to France in April 2019

Ms. Karyn Ferdella, French teacher at AHS, was in attendance to seek permission to take a group of her French students to France, from April 12-20, 2019. This is a trip that has been successfully undertaken many times, most recently in 2017 and with France at a Level 2 out of 4 levels; it was Dr. Brunelle's recommendation that the Committee approve it. Mrs. Kauffman made a motion to so do with Mrs. Holloway seconding it, with the understanding that should safety issues arise, this could be revisited. The motion was approved unanimously.

AHS Senior Class Trip to Brownstone Park, CT

Mrs. Kauffman made a motion to approve the AHS Senior Class Trip to Brownstone Park, CT in May. Mrs. Harrington seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved.

Boys' Ice Hockey Team – Donation of New Jerseys

Mrs. Kauffman made a motion to accept with gratitude the anonymous donation of 48 new jerseys, at an approximate cost of \$5,500, to the Boys' Ice Hockey team. Mrs. Holloway seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved.

BCBA

Mrs. Kauffman made a motion to approve the addition of a BCBA for the remainder of the FY 2018 school year utilizing circuit breaker and/or 240 grant funds. Mrs. Holloway seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved.

Preschool Tuition for FY 2019

Mrs. Kauffman made a motion to approve keeping the Preschool tuition rates the same for the 2018-2019 school year as they were in 2017-2018, with the sliding fee available; Mrs. Holloway seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved.

Before and After School Programs: Tuition for FY 2019

Mrs. Kauffman made a motion to approve keeping the Before and After School tuition rates the same as the prior year also; Mrs. Holloway seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved.

School Calendar, 2018-2019

Dr. Brunelle presented the Leadership Team's draft calendar for the 2018-2019 school year, highlighting the changes. Mrs. Harrington made a motion to approve it with Mrs. Kauffman seconding the motion. It was approved unanimously.

New MA Commissioner of Education

Dr. Brunelle shared with the Committee that the new MA Commissioner of Education is Mr. Jeff Riley, current receiver in the Lawrence Public Schools with other MA educational experiences as well.

FY 2018 Chapter 70: Governor Baker's Recommendation

Dr. Brunelle shared that Governor Baker is recommending an increase in Auburn's Chapter 70 of \$881,543, which is fantastic news for the Town.

Unfinished Business:

Special Education Stabilization Fund Policies Working Group

The meeting was not held, but it will be rescheduled.

New Business:

"We The People" Trip to Washington, D.C.

Having just been awarded a place at the national competition to be held in Washington, DC in April, Mr. Benacchio and Mr. Kennard are requesting permission to take their students to it. Mrs. Kauffman made a motion to approve the trip; Mrs. Holloway seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved.

With the same motion, the Committee also approved the donation of \$1,000 to the group towards their travel expenses.

Students from Puerto Rico

Dr. Brunelle notified the Committee that La Quinta in Auburn has been designated by FEMA as a location for families displaced from Puerto Rico to be housed. So far, we have received only a handful of students but expect that more may be forthcoming. While happy to have these students in our District, Dr. Brunelle wanted to let the Committee know that it will come with a cost to the District.

Advocacy for Full Funding of Circuit Breaker

Dr. Brunelle provided letters she had sent to Senator Moore and Representative Frost advocating for full funding of the circuit breaker at 75%.

Superintendent's Mid-Year Goals

Dr. Brunelle provided the Committee with a copy of her mid-year goals update. Mrs. Kauffman made a motion to accept them; Mrs. Holloway seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved.

Upcoming Events

Dr. Brunelle noted that the Kindergarten and Preschool registration had been rescheduled from February 7th to the 13th due to the snow day on the original date.

Teaching/Learning:

Chinese Exchange Program

Dr. Lauzé shared with the Committee that we will be hosting 35 students from China for approximately one week beginning on February 22nd. These 9th and 10th graders will be staying with local host families and will be attending classes and participating in extra-curricula activity at Auburn High School. She stated that this was a wonderful opportunity for all involved and she hoped that the exchange would grow and that eventually AHS students will have opportunities to visit China.

Learning Walks Update

Dr. Lauzé shared that the most recent Learning Walk was conducted at AHS in December and stated that the Team found the experience to be valuable and energizing, with the elementary principals being especially thrilled to get the opportunity to see teaching and learning at that end of the spectrum.

Early College Update

Dr. Lauzé noted that the District remains committed to providing student with early college opportunities with two courses being offered this semester for college credit: English Composition 1 and Introduction to Information Technology. Both are being taught by our own faculty members: Dr. Cynthia Bazinet and Mr. Eric Bouvier. The cost to the students is \$100 and they will earn 3 college credits upon the successful completion of the class.

Best Practices Preschool Grant Update

Dr. Lauzé noted that through the Best Practices Grant, the District continues to collaborate with 12 area preschool providers, meeting every other month at a different preschool. She noted that it has been a wonderful opportunity for all to see each other's facilities and to share ideas and best practices. Through the grant, Dr. Lauzé noted that a 6-session literacy training is currently being offered with approximately 30 staff including many from our own preschools in attendance. The grant has also allowed the ability to offer family events for preschool children.

SBIRT Initiative Update

As previously reported, Dr. Lauzé shared with the Committee that SBIRT (Survey, Brief Interview, Referral to Treatment) screenings were going to be offered to 8th and 9th grades. AMS has now conducted with screening. Thirteen families opted out but 198 students were screened in one day. The overall results were very promising and indicate that students are making good choices. AHS will administer the screen to grade 9 students on February 14th.

Business/Financial:

Year to Date Budget Report

Mrs. Wirzbicki provided a year to date budget report. There were no questions.

Special Education Reserve Fund

Mrs. Wirzbicki requested that the Committee vote to establish a line for the Special Education Reserve Fund. Mrs. Kauffman made a motion to do so; Mrs. Holloway seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved.

Transfers

Mrs. Wirzbicki provided a listing of transfers both within and between Series. Mrs. Kauffman made a motion to approve those between the Series; Mrs. Holloway seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved.

Bus Application for 2018-2019 School Year

Mrs. Wirzbicki sought the Committee's approval of the bus application for the 2018-2019 school year, noting that the fee remains at \$100 for those students who have to pay, with a family cap of \$250. The late fee remains at \$100 per child with no cap and the due date has been moved out to June 1st.

Mrs. Harrington made a motion to approve the 2018-2019 bus application; Mrs. Holloway seconded the motion and after Mrs. Kauffman requested that the option to have prorated funds returned if the pass was not needed emphasized, it was unanimously approved.

Bus Contract Extension for Two Years

Mrs. Wirzbicki reported that in researching what local bus contracts have settled for recently, it was determined that extending our current contract by two years - and option that was built into the original contract - was the most fiscally-prudent way to go.

Mrs. Kauffman made a motion to approve extending the current bus contract with AA Transportation for two years, reflecting an increase of 2.8% in year one and 3% in year two; Mrs. Holloway seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved.

Warrant Payables

Included in the packet, for information purposes, was the signature page for warrant payables that Mrs. Holloway signed on December 12th and 19th.

Special Municipal Employee

In an effort to eliminate even the appearance of an ethics violation, Mrs. Wirzbicki worked with Mr. Joseph Astrella, who is a long-time vendor of the District and who is now serving as the AHS Bowling Club Advisor. At the advice of the agency overseeing ethics issues, Mrs. Wirzbicki drafted a memo to the Auburn Board of Selectmen requesting that Mr. Astrella be named a special municipal employee. She wanted the School Committee to be aware of this request prior to sending it to Town Hall.

Policies:

DA, Fiscal Management Goals – no changes

DBG, Budget Adoption Procedures – no changes

DI, Fiscal Account and Reporting – with tracking

Mrs. Harrington made a motion to approve the above-named policies; Mrs. Holloway seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved.

There being no further business to discuss in Open Session, at 8:08 p.m. Mrs. Kauffman made a motion to enter Executive Session per MGL Chapter 30, Section 21(a) (2) to conduct strategies for negotiations with union and non-union personnel. Mrs. Holloway seconded the motion and a roll call vote was taken:

Mrs. Harrington - Yes; Mrs. Kauffman - Yes; Mrs. Holloway - Yes; Mr. Scobie - Yes

Respectfully submitted,



Ailaine Zautner
Recording Secretary

Referenced Documents:

AHS Program of Studies – Changes
2018-2019 School Calendar
Transfers
Policies

T&G Article re Brian Davis
AHS Field Trip to France
Supt. Mid Year Goals Update
Bus Application 2018-2019

Minutes from 1/3/18 SC Meeting
AHS Field Trip to Brownstone, CT
YTD Budget
Warrant Payables