

**AUBURN SCHOOL COMMITTEE
MINUTES from May 16, 2018
School Committee Room, 6:40 p.m.
REORGANIZATIONAL MEETING**

In attendance:

Jessie Harrington
Gail Holloway
Dottie Kauffman
Meghan McCrillis
George Scobie

Maryellen Brunelle
Kathy Lauzé
Joe Fahey

Call to Order and Pledge: Dr. Brunelle

Dr. Brunelle called the meeting to order at 6:44 p.m. and asked if anyone else was recording it; there being none, she asked that everyone join her in the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

Reorganization of School Committee:

Dr. Brunelle asked for nominations for Chairperson. Mrs. Holloway made a motion to nominate Mr. Scobie as Chairperson; Mrs. Kauffman seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved.

Mr. Scobie then asked for nominations for Vice Chairperson. Mrs. Kauffman made a motion to nominate Mrs. Harrington as Vice Chairperson; Mrs. McCrillis seconded the motion. Mrs. Holloway expressed an interest in being nominated; however, there was no second. The motion was unanimously approved.

Special Recognitions:

Daughters of the American Revolution

Dr. Brunelle recognized Megan Corey, AHS Class of 2018, for being the Daughters of the American Revolution's Colonel Timothy Bigelow Chapter essay winner. Guidance Counselor, Amy Sampson, noted that Megan's "phenomenal" message was read during the Award Ceremony on April 30th. Dr. Brunelle asked that everyone join her in congratulating Megan.

Citizens' Comments: None

Student Representatives' Report: Ryan Garabedian and Isabella Lourie

Isabella and Ryan were in attendance and reported that Kindness Week had been held recently; an AHS alumnus with autism returned to AHS to speak to the students about autism awareness; spring sports were doing well with playoffs now taking place and Senior Awards Night had been held on May 17th. Monday, May 21st is the last day of classes for seniors with final exams taking place during the remainder of the week. AP exams had also been taking place and the Annual Festival of Arts, STEM and Wellness had taken place on May 10th.

Approval of Regular Meeting Minutes:

May 1 and 2, 2018 Minutes

Mrs. Harrington made a motion to approve the minutes from both the May 1st and May 2nd School Committee meetings; Mrs. Holloway seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved.

Superintendent's Report:

Buildings and Grounds Update: Mr. Joe Fahey

Mr. Fahey was in attendance to give an updated report on buildings and grounds:

Pakachoag: now has a brand new roof with no leaks!; new HVAC equipment; and gas in two of the roof top units which was all part of the MSBA roof project. On the exterior, the outdoor fence was replaced outside of tree line this time to help corral the children to stay on the playground area; a third basketball hoop was taken down which allowed for the addition of a couple of parking spaces; and PAK was given a little curb appeal.

Bryn Mawr: similar curb appeal provided and trimmed up all the trees along the recess area/fields to provide more sunlight. The exterior of the building is in good shape and steam traps were installed.

SWIS: again similar curb appeal provided; upgraded the courtyard a little and added patio blocks under the picnic tables. Pumps inside the building were replaced over the winter.

AMS: no curb appeal improvements needed yet! Mr. Fahey was happy to report that AMS is now officially complete which has been a long time coming. There were a lot of things behind the scenes to be finalized and Mr. Fahey gave credit to Dr. Brunelle, Mark Imse, the School Building Committee and the project team for that.

AHS : Mr. Fahey reported that all the burners are now obsolete (even though the building is only 12 years old). They have been replaced with auto flame burners which is a more energy efficient system.

Mr. Fahey noted that the pillars out in front of the AHS building were showing age and the fear was that they would tip over. With the help of Bay Path students, under the direction of Mr. George Scobie and Mr. Michael Green, they were replaced with new masonry work. The job was done in two weeks with the kids doing a phenomenal job and gaining a real-world experience at the same time. The repairs were paid for through the parking lot fund. All the curbing was repaired, too.

AHS Baseball Field: working on the final punch list. A company from Maine won the bid and did a lot of work; however, some did not meet our criteria hence the punch list. The company has responded well and has returned to fix the problems. This was done to turn the baseball field into a multi-purpose field to be used by unified sports, lacrosse, soccer, etc. It can be used right up until it snows. It was also done for safety purposes.

Mr. Fahey reported that all key systems for all buildings have been upgraded as a safety measure, noting that from the police station, one key will give them access to all doors in all buildings.

Mr. Fahey reported on a new electrostatic sprayer being used to disinfect all surface areas in all buildings. One spraying lasts for 28 days before a re-spray is needed.

Mr. Fahey noted that it was an extremely busy time for his custodial crew and he was excited for the year to end and to start the summer cleaning.

Mrs. Harrington asked about the streaking on the brickwork at AMS and it was explained by both Mr. Fahey and Mr. Scobie that it was the lime drying out and was of no harm to the building. It can be power washed and it cleans up pretty well. There is no stopping or preventing it and Mr. Fahey indicated he was keeping an eye on it for now.

Mr. Fahey ended by stating that it was an honor to work with his custodial team who always put the kids first!

Mr. Scobie stated that it was a true team effort and kudos were given to Mr. Fahey and his staff by Dr. Brunelle and the Committee.

Worcester County Superintendents' Association

Dr. Brunelle informed the Committee that she would be serving as the President of the Worcester County Superintendents' Association for the 2018-2019 school year, this following her year as Vice President in 2017-2018 and Secretary/Treasurer in 2016-2017.

Assistant Principal at SWIS

Dr. Brunelle was happy to share that Marie Mahan, current K-8 Job Coach for the District, has been appointed Assistant Principal at Swanson Road Intermediate School next year, replacing Mr. Michael Lavelle who resigned.

Assabet Valley Collaborative Amended Agreement

Mrs. Kauffman made a motion to accept the AVC Amended Agreement; Mrs. Holloway seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved.

Reconfiguration of Special Education Staff

Dr. Brunelle informed the Committee that the District was moving away from a one-to-one model in substantially separate classrooms, this to make Special Education students more independent, keeping their safety as a top priority. She indicated that this had come about in response to a consultant the District had been working with and under DESE's guidance. It will have no financial impact as it means the elimination of 4 or 5 support staff members and replacing them with two professional staff members, certified in Severe Disabilities, using some grant funds. Dr. Brunelle sought the Committee's approval of this change.

Mrs. Harrington made a motion to approve the reconfiguration of Special Education staff; Mrs. Holloway seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved.

SBC Update

Dr. Brunelle noted that an SBC meeting had been held on May 3rd and it was the last official one prior to the fall after the project audit has been completed. She thanked the SBC members for their time and expertise. The Committee concurred and thanked Dr. Brunelle for her time, too.

Unfinished Business:

New AEA Contract for FY 2019; 2020 and 2021

Dr. Brunelle, thanking Dr. Lauzé and Mrs. Wirzbicki for working with her on the AEA contract, provided the Committee with the key updates to that contract. She noted that the negotiating team came to the table with a desire to negotiate in good faith and the outcome of the negotiations keeps the District in good comparison with neighboring districts.

Thanking the teachers for their willingness to bargain in good faith, Mrs. Holloway made a motion to approve the new AEA contract for the FY 2019, FY 2020 and FY 2021 school years; Mrs. Harrington seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved.

Bus Applications

Noting that this was the final School Committee meeting prior to the bus application deadline, Dr. Brunelle reminded the audience that bus passes should be completed prior to June 1st. She noted that as of May 10th, 602 applications had been received.

New Business:

Class of 2018 Graduation

Noting that formal invitations would be forthcoming, Dr. Brunelle reminded the Committee that the Class of 2018 Graduation was scheduled for Friday, June 8th beginning promptly at 6:30 P.M.

AMS 8th Grade Graduation

Again noting that formal invitations would be forthcoming, Dr. Brunelle reminded the Committee that the 8th Grade Graduation was scheduled for Thursday, June 14th and would be held at Auburn Middle School.

Upcoming Events

Dr. Brunelle noted that there are lots of things taking place in buildings including Mother Earth at Swanson Road on Saturday, May 19th, the annual Memorial Day programs on May 24th and 25th and a variety of other end-of-year events.

Teaching & Learning:

Festival of Arts, STEM and Wellness Update

Dr. Lauzé provided an update on the May 10th district event, now an annual favorite, the Festival of Arts, STEM and Wellness. She noted that it is amazing to see the growth of students from Kindergarten to 12th grade. It was a very impressive event with a vast array of art work on display, music and dance taking place, robotics and engineering presentations, and CPR events. It is one of our largest events and displays lots of talent.

Listing of Colleges/Universities Accepting our Class of 2018 Students

Noting that it was an extensive list which speaks to how capable our students are, Dr. Lauzé shared the listing of colleges and university accepting our Class of 2018 students which is testament to their capabilities.

SBIRT Update

Dr. Lauzé provided an update on the SBIRT screenings for at risk behaviors at AMS and AHS noting that one student at each school had reached out to speak to their guidance counselor after the screening.

Suicide Prevention Training

Dr. Lauzé noted that all professional staff have to do 2 hours of suicide prevention training every three years.

Science Curriculum

Dr. Lauzé informed the Committee that the Science Curriculum Committee had made a decision on the new Science curriculum and that Pearson's Elevate Science had been chosen.

Business & Financial:

Year to Date Budget Report

Mrs. Wirzbicki provided a year-to-date budget report dated May 8th. Dr. Brunelle noted that she and Mrs. Wirzbicki meet on a regular basis as FY 2018 is being closed out.

Transfers

Mrs. Harrington made a motion to approve the transfers between the Series as presented by the Business Manager; Mrs. Kauffman seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved.

Omnibus Transfers Request

Mrs. Kauffman made a motion to approve Mrs. Wirzbicki's Omnibus Transfers request; Mrs. Holloway seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved.

There being no further business to conduct, at 7:32 p.m. Mrs. Harrington made a motion to adjourn for the evening; Mrs. Kauffman seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved.

Respectfully submitted,



Ailaine Zautner
Recording Secretary

Referenced Documents:

Minutes from May 1st and 2nd
Assabet Valley Collaborative Amended Agreement (Electronic only)
Listing of College and Universities
Year to Date Budget Report
Transfers
Omnibus Transfers Request Memo