

AUBURN SCHOOL COMMITTEE
Minutes from Wednesday, September 6, 2017
School Committee Room, 6:30 p.m.

In attendance:

George Scobie
Wayne Page
Gail Holloway
Jessie Harrington
Dorothy Kauffman

Maryellen Brunelle
Kathy Lauzé
Cecelia Wirzbicki

Casey Handfield
Joe Gagnon
Susan Lopez

Beth Chamberland
Jennifer Stanick

Jennifer Hamilton
Tara Connor

Peggy Mehringer
Sherinda Trudell

Pam Brodin
Ester Kim

Anthony Camoreyt
Rebecca Griffin

Call to Order and Pledge:

At 6:30 p.m., Mr. Scobie called the meeting to order and asked if anyone was recording it. There being none, he asked that everyone join him in the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

Special Recognitions:

Amazing Students

Dr. Brunelle recognized two groups of “amazing students” who had gone above and beyond over the summer creating a Auburn School Supply Foundation (7th grade students at AMS) to collect supplies to give to students who could not afford them; and the Auburn Unified Arts Foundation (5th grade plus one 4th grade students at SWIS) to raise funds to enhance the Unified Arts Program at SWIS. She, as well as the Committee, gave kudos to all of them and to their families for raising such conscientious young children!

Shelter Box from AMS

The Rotary Club sent a letter of thanks to Mr. Joe Gagnon, Principal of Auburn Middle School, to thank the NJHS, Student Council, Band and Cheer Squad for holding fundraisers to purchase a shelter box. That shelter box has now been deployed and is being used to help survivors in Syria. This community service learning project was embraced by the entire school led by the aforementioned groups. Kudos to another group of caring students!

Auburn Public Schools’ ALICE Video

Officer Brian Kennedy recently informed Dr. Brunelle that the Hendricks County Sheriff’s Department in Danville, Indiana had requested permission to use our ALICE video in their school district. It was stated that after watching several videos via You Tube, ours had stood out and fit their district the best.

Mr. Scobie added that his school, Bay Path RVTHS, had also chosen to model their ALICE training on ours and that it was well underway this school year.

DESE Principal Advisory and State Science Standards

Dr. Brunelle recognized Dr. Lopez and Dr. Chamberland for serving as on DESE boards, Dr. Lopez on the DESE Principal Advisory Cabinet and both on DESE’s Elementary Principals’ Science Network. She thanked them for serving in that capacity and for making sure that Auburn Public Schools once again has a voice at the table.

Citizens’ Comments: None

Student Representatives’ Report:

Isabella Lourie, now a senior, was in attendance and noted that Auburn High was once again getting into the swing of things. She noted that iPad distribution, which started with the freshmen class, had been completed.

Approval of Regular Meeting Minutes:

Mrs. Harrington made a motion to approve the minutes from the June 7, 2017 meeting; Mrs. Kauffman seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved.

Superintendent's Report:

New Teachers

The building Principals were in attendance to introduce the new teachers in their buildings. Mrs. Stanick introduced Ester Kim, Speech and Language Pathologist for PreK-2, and Jennifer Hamilton, former AMS Secretary, now a preschool teacher at Pakachoag Preschool. Dr. Chamberland introduced Tara Connor, new Grade 1 teacher and Haley Dowd, replacing Kathy Bylund in Grade 2. School Nurse, Leah Gauthier also joins Bryn Mawr, replacing Margaret Collins. Dr. Lopez introduced Sherinda Trudell, Registered Nurse at SWIS this year. Mr. Gagnon introduced Anthony Camoreyt, Technology Engineering Teacher; Pam Brodin, new Math Interventionist, Margaret (Peggy) Mehringer, World Culture teacher; and Dominique Fowler Iff, LTS French teacher. Mr. Handfield introduced Rebecca Griffin, Biology teacher and noted that Gregory Walton would soon be joining his staff as Team Chair.

Update from Director of Facilities and Maintenance

Summer Projects:

Dr. Brunelle, noting that Mr. Fahey was unable to be in attendance, thanked him for the work he was able to accomplish over the summer while serving Jury Duty every day! Included in the packet was a listing of all projects undertaken.

Pakachoag Roof:

Dr. Brunelle noted that great progress had been made with the Pakachoag roof project having had a great team in place. She noted that there had been some delays early on but only few minor issues left to clear up.

Green Community Grant:

Dr. Brunelle shared that the Town of Auburn is one of 72 communities statewide that has been awarded a 2017 Green Communities Competitive Grant. Auburn was awarded \$213,804 to fund energy conservation measures at AHS, BM and the Auburn Public Library. Dr. Brunelle noted that the community was excited to continue to receive grants such as this as they enable us to continue our energy saving initiatives, reduce energy consumption, and decrease our energy costs. This is the largest amount of Green Community funding Auburn has received as we enter our 6th year of eligibility.

Solar Project on AHS/AMS Roofs:

Having met several times with Town Manager Jacobson, CFO Kazanovicz, Town Planner, Matt Benoit, Mrs. Wirzbicki, Mr. Fahey and herself, the team was now ready to seek the School Committee's authority to go out with Requests for Proposals (RFPs) to have solar panels placed on the roof at AHS and AMS. This would be at no cost to us but once the panels are in place, considerable savings will be realized in electricity costs and, therefore, makes great sense to do so.

Mr. Page made a motion to authorize Mr. Fahey moving forward in seeking RFPs to install solar panels on the roofs at AHS and AMS.

Infield Turf at AHS:

Dr. Brunelle shared plans to install turf in the infield and warning track of the AHS baseball field, along with turf in the softball field's batting cage. This will provide greater flexibility for the baseball field to be used throughout the year, to include for soccer during baseball's off season. Funding will be taken from the FY 2017 CIP (\$150,000); from the Baseball Field Revolving account (\$17,500); and \$59,262 from the school choice account. Based on bids that came in, the award was given to NET Sports Group.

Mrs. Kauffman made a motion to authorize Mr. Fahey and Mrs. Wirzbicki to enter into a contract for \$226,762 with NET Sports Group for the installation of infield and warning track turf at AHS. Mrs. Harrington seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved.

Mrs. Kauffman then made a motion to approve the payment of the AHS infield and warning track turf project from CIP, baseball field rental income and school choice funds as outlined above. Mr. Page seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved.

Multi Hazard Plans

Dr. Brunelle shared that she and the Chiefs of Fire and Police had reviewed and signed off on each school's multi-hazard plan for the 2017-2018 school year. She thanked the Principals and Safety Advisory Team for their help in getting these plans updated.

MASS Executive Institute, Mashpee High School

Dr. Brunelle thanked the Committee for supporting her attendance at the annual MASS Executive Institute in July. The theme of the Institute this year was "Leading and Creating Inclusive Schools: All Means All." Dr. Brunelle outlined the opening session which was given by Mr. Chad Hymas, bestselling author and world-class wheelchair athlete who has been rated as one of the ten most inspiration people in the world, as well as other sessions she attended over the three-day conference.

Appointment of Board Member to SWCEC

Mrs. Holloway made a motion to appoint Dr. Brunelle as the District's representative to serve on the Southern Worcester County Educational Collaborate Board; Mr. Page seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved.

Appointment of Civil Rights Coordinator

Mrs. Harrington made a motion to appoint Dr. Lauzé as the Civil Rights Coordinator for the District again this school year; Mrs. Holloway seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved.

Reappointments to School Building Committee

Noting that both their terms had ended on June 30, 2017, Dr. Brunelle recommended that Mr. Joseph Fahey and Mr. Wayne Page be re-appointed to the School Building Committee for another three year term. Mrs. Holloway made that motion and Mrs. Harrington seconded the motion. It was unanimously approved.

Class Size Update

Dr. Brunelle provided both a class size update and bussing update noting that 205 applications had been received after the due date (126 late and 79 new). She also noted we received an unusually high number of new registrations over the summer with Swanson Road Intermediate alone receiving 40 plus. Class sizes were still manageable at all grade levels.

Update Regarding Satellite/Galaxy/Asteroids Registrations

As with school registrations, Dr. Brunelle noted that registrations for the Satellite/Galaxy/Asteroids programs were at an all time high with a lot of last minute registrations having been received in the two weeks leading up to school starting.

Registrations for the Handling and Storage of Medication Administration in the APS

Dr. Brunelle provided a copy of the registrations for the Handling and Storage of Medication Administration in the Auburn Public Schools. Mr. Scobie signed these forms over the summer and they were being provided for information only.

News from DESE

Dr. Brunelle provided news from DESE noting that the death of Commissioner Chester had come as a shock to most. The interim commissioner is Jeff Wulfson and he had recently shared that due primarily to Massachusetts's strong public schools, U.S. News and World Report has recognized Massachusetts as the best state in the nation this year with a ranking of the #1 overall state, #1 in education, #2 in health care and among the top ten for economy, crime and corrections.

The Auburn Chamber of Commerce Golf Tournament

Dr. Brunelle shared that the 23rd Annual Auburn Chamber of Commerce Golf Tournament would be taking place at Heritage Golf Club on Monday, September 11th. Over the years, the Chamber has donated

\$277,500 to scholarships for Auburn students. She would attend the opening ceremony to thank the Chamber for this support.

Mrs. Kauffman also noted that the Chamber's Mini-Grant applications are due by September 27th.

Unfinished Business:

Superintendent's Evaluation

Noting that the 2016-2107 school year had been a successful one for the District and Dr. Brunelle, he read aloud the aggregate scores the Committee had given to her on her evaluation, with an overall score of 98.6 out of a 100 being received. The Committee noted that they were grateful and proud to have her as the District's Superintendent and that it was excellent working with her and her Leadership Team. They noted that Dr. Brunelle and the Leadership Team always go above and beyond and make their lives as School Committee members easy. They offered their congratulations on such a great score.

Dr. Brunelle thanked them all for their support and recognized her Leadership Team who is committed to the success of every student, not just the District as a whole.

New Business:

Special Fall Town Meeting: October 24, 2017

Dr. Brunelle shared that the Special Fall Town Meeting will be held on Tuesday, October 24th and provided warrant articles for the Committee's approval, noting that Articles 4 and 5 will now not be needed. Mrs. Kauffman made a motion to approve warrant articles 1, 2 and 3; Mrs. Harrington seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved.

Superintendent's Goals for 2017-2018

Dr. Brunelle provided a copy of her goals for 2017-2018 and provided highlights: we start the 2017-2018 school year with 83 new students (over and above new Kindergarten and Preschoolers); through the Best Practices Grant, the aim is to give all preschool age children access to programs; deal with chronic absenteeism which was 11% of our students in the 2016-2017 school year; expand on Learning Walks visiting each school in the District this year; take a hard look at what the benefits and implications of a later start time for high school students; establish a new strategic plan without hiring an outside consultant; ensure equal opportunities for all students, no matter their financial background; continue working to support students academically, physically, socially and emotionally.

The Committee asked that approval of these goals be tabled to the October 4th meeting.

Development of a New Strategic Plan

As stated in Dr. Brunelle's goals previously, the plan is to create a new strategic plan with the kickoff being held now, with your approval, on November 18th and not November 4th as that is the final day of the MASC/MASS Joint Conference, with some of you will still being in attendance that morning.

Mrs. Holloway made a motion to approve the date of Saturday, November 18th as the new strategic plan kick-off; Mr. Page seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved.

Food Service Internship Agreement with U-Mass Amherst

For informational purposes, Dr. Brunelle shared that an undergraduate from the nutrition program at U-Mass will be completing an 11-week dietetic internship rotation at APS, working with Mrs. King and Mrs. Leufstedt.

Sizer School Annual Report

As required by DESE statute because we have a student in attendance at it, a copy of the Sizer School report was shared with the Committee.

Budget Timeline and FY 2019 Budgeting Priorities

Noting that discussions have already begun by the Leadership Team, Dr. Brunelle shared the FY 2019 budget timelines and asked the Committee to share any budgeting priorities they would like included for the upcoming budget season.

MASC Delegate

With his agreement, Mrs. Holloway nominated Mr. Page as the School Committee's delegate to the MASC/MASS Joint Conference in November; Mrs. Harrington seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved.

Upcoming Events

Dr. Brunelle noted all the various Curriculum Night events coming up as well as the first half day for students on September 26th while staff engages in professional development.

Teaching and Learning:

New Teacher Orientation

Dr. Lauzé reported that the New Teacher Orientation had been held on August 22nd starting with a delicious breakfast provided by Food Service staff. Professional status teachers were also recognized. New teachers were paired with their mentors and took a school bus trip around the various schools participating in mini-workshops at each.

Opening Days Agenda

Dr. Lauzé shared a copy of the opening day agendas and provided an update on what took place during those two days.

Summer Professional Development Update

Dr. Lauzé provided an update on summer professional development, noting that a lot of curriculum work was undertaken. She thanked the teachers for giving up sunny days to come in and do that work!

Summer School and Summer Camp Update

Dr. Lauzé provided an update on summer school and camps that had taken place over the summer, all held at AHS. She noted that 50 special education students had participated in the Extended Year Program; 150 K-8 students participated in a remedial summer school; 36 students participated in the Middle School STEM Camp; 70 students – double the number from last year – participated in Camp Invention at grades K-5; and 25 high schoolers participated in a credit recovery program.

Youth Opioid Grant Update

Dr. Lauzé notified the Committee that the Youth Opioid Prevention Team were awarded the grant with the team meeting this summer and created a timeline of events which will kick-off on October 17th with a vigil. More information will be shared at upcoming meetings.

Donations for Youth Opioid Activity

Dr. Lauzé noted that one of the Youth Opioid Prevention activities the team is hoping to undertake is to have Chris Herren, who was so compelling when he spoke to our high schoolers last year, return to the District to speak to middle schoolers during the day with an evening meeting to address parents and community members. With the cost being \$12,500 for both events, letters were sent to local politicians and banks seeking donations. Thus far two have been received and Dr. Lauzé asked for the Committee's acceptance of them.

Mr. Scobie felt that, in his opinion, perhaps we could look at another motivational speaker to address the parents as it seems very expensive to have Chris Herren do both assemblies.

Mrs. Harrington made a motion to accept the donations from Webster First Federal Credit Union and Senator Michael Moore for the Youth Opioid Prevention activity, both in the amount of \$100. Mr. Page seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved.

Business & Financial:

Previous Year Account – FY 2017 Year End Close Out

For informational purposes, Mrs. Wirzbicki provided a copy of a memo to CFO Kazanovicz regarding the transfer of funds from the FY 2017 Appropriated School Budget to be carried over to FY 2018.

FY 2017 Omnibus Transfers – Final

For informational purposes, Mrs. Wirzbicki provided a listing of all the Omnibus transfers done since the last meeting on June 7th.

FY 2018 Budget Transfers

Mrs. Wirzbicki provided a listing of transfers both within and between the Series and asked for the Committee's approval of those between Series.

Mrs. Kauffman made a motion to approve the transfers between the 2000 Series to the 4000, 3000 and 1000 Series as presented by the Business Manager; Mrs. Holloway seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved.

FY 2018 Year to Date Budget

Mrs. Wirzbicki provided a year to date budget report as of August 30, 2017. There were no questions.

SPED Stabilization Account

Mrs. Wirzbicki provided a memo requesting the Committee's approval of the establishment of Special Education Stabilization account. Mrs. Kauffman made such a motion; Mrs. Holloway seconded it and it was unanimously approved.

School Committee Warrant Payables

For informational purposes, Mrs. Wirzbicki provided a copy of the schedule of Warrant Payables since the last meeting in June, along with the total amounts and the dates when the delegated member, Ms. Holloway, signed off on them.

Policies:

Building and Grounds Use: AED/CPR Initiative

Noting that two very beneficial meetings had been held over the summer with representatives of Auburn youth groups who use Town or School fields for their various activities, Dr. Brunelle provided copies of the notes from the two meetings. She noted that there was generalized agreement that this initiative of having an AED available at each field and AED/CPR training provided for all interested coaches made great sense. It was Dr. Brunelle's recommendation that we leave the policy that is in place as is for now. The next meeting of this team is scheduled for Tuesday, September 19th and she will continue to keep the Committee apprised of progress.

JJF, Student Activities Account Update

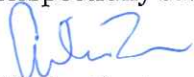
Mrs. Wirzbicki made some updates to the Student Activities Account, regarding graduating class funds, and requested the Committee's approval.

Mrs. Kauffman made a motion to approve the updates to JJF, Student Activities Account; Mrs. Holloway seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved.

At 7:50 p.m., there being no further business to be discussed in open session, Mrs. Holloway 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 and per Section 21 (a) (3) to discuss strategy with respect to litigation; Mrs. Kauffman seconded the motion and a roll call vote was taken:

Mrs. Harrington – Yes; Mrs. Kauffman – Yes; Mrs. Holloway – Yes; Mr. Page – Yes; Mr. Scobie – Yes.

Respectfully submitted,



Ailaine Zautner
Recording Secretary

Referenced Documents:

Minutes of June 7, 2017

Listing of Summer Projects
Registrations for Handling and Storage of Medication Administration
Superintendent's Evaluation Results
Warrant Articles
Superintendent's Draft Goals for 2017-2018
Sizer School Report (electronically only)
Budget Timelines
Opening Days Agendas
Memo from Mrs. Wirzbicki re Previous Year Account
Omnibus Transfers
FY 2018 Budget Transfers
FY 2018 Year to Date Budget Report
Memo re SPED Stabilization Account
Schedule of School Committee Warrant Payables
Notes from AED/CPR Youth Groups meetings in July and August
JFF, Student Activity Accounts Policy Update