

AUBURN SCHOOL COMMITTEE
MINUTES from Wednesday, March 21, 2018
AHS Auditorium, 6:00 p.m.

In attendance:

George Scobie
Wayne Page
Gail Holloway
Jessie Harrington
Dorothy Kauffman

Maryellen Brunelle
Kathy Lauzé
Cecelia Wirzbicki
Rosemary Reidy
Joe Fahey

Eric Bouvier
Casey Handfield
Eileen Donahue
Joe Gagnon
Matt Carlson

Susan Lopez
Beth Chamberland
Jenn Stanick
Janice King

Visitors:

Ryan Tillery and Family
Wendy Quirion
Sarah Gilrein
Shauna McManus

Jacob Landry
Kayrin Brower
Jacob Stokes
Ana Pietrewicz

Kyle Powers
Matt Bregman
Bill Wright, Jr.
Renee Ordway
Allen Rafferty

Call to Order and Pledge: Mr. Scobie called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. and asked if anyone else was recording the meeting; there being none, he asked that everyone join him in the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

Special Recognitions:

Former APS Student: Ryan Tillery

Ryan Tillery was in attendance with his family to be recognized as the first AHS Lifeskills student to graduate from the program and immediately be hired by the Auburn Public Schools' Food Service Department. Kudos to Ryan!

AHS Art Students Honored

Dr. Brunelle recognized several AHS Art students who had received awards recently.

Citizens' Comments: Mrs. Shauna McManus was in attendance and spoke during Citizens' Comments. She is the mother of a child currently in Kindergarten at Pakachoag and voiced her concern regarding class sizes for first grade next year. Dr. Brunelle responded that she is closely monitoring the situation and should things change, she will bring forward a recommendation to the School Committee that staffing be increased. They were very supportive of adding a first grade teacher at Bryn Mawr for this school year and Dr. Brunelle indicated that she expected the Committee would be as supportive if this was needed at Pakachoag.

Student Representatives' Report: Isabella Lourie and Ryan Garabedian

Ryan reported that the Model UN had recently had two conferences; the Science Olympiad was held on March 17th, the Chorus concert was held on March 6th and the All-Town Band Concert was held on March 19th. He noted that Tri II had recently ended; the English MCAS was scheduled for March 27th and the National Honor Society Induction on March 29th. Lastly, he reported that spring sports had begun, with tryouts currently taking place.

Approval of Regular Meeting Minutes:

February 28, 2018

With an amendment to the roll call vote – adding Mr. Page and deleting Mrs. Holloway – Mrs. Kauffman made a motion to approve the minutes from the February 28th meeting; Mrs. Harrington seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved.

Superintendent's Report:

Leading the Nation

Dr. Brunelle informed the Committee that Massachusetts continues to "Lead the Nation" in educational ranking coming in at #1 in the National Assessment of Education Progress (NAEP), known as the nation's report card, this for the sixth straight year. She noted that a *Leading the Nation* section has been added to the District's website.

Graduation Rate and Drop-Out Rate

Dr. Brunelle provided the 2017 graduation and drop-out rate as presented by DESE.

Per Pupil Expenditure

Dr. Brunelle provided the FY 2017 per pupil expenditure data which shows how much Auburn spends in comparison to other local communities, further evidence of the fiscally responsible manner in which the District is run, with a great return on investment as indicated by the achievements of our students and the dedication of all members of the APS Team.

Invitation to AHS to Participate in Study of STEM AP and English Program

Dr. Brunelle reported that AHS has recently notified that they have been selected to participate in an evaluation of the state's AP STEM and English programs which will be conducted by the UMass Donahue Institute (UMDI), a third-party, independent evaluator. This first year they are focused on documenting and exploring key differences in participating schools and their approaches to sustaining the program. The findings of this evaluation will be summarized in a final report intended to inform the ongoing implementation of the program as well as future policy and program decisions by ESE. It will not be specific to AHS.

Donation from Auburn Rotary

Dr. Brunelle was recently notified by Dr. Lopez that the Auburn Rotary Club had donated \$3,000 to SWIS to be used to purchase trees for the arboretum as well as signage to identify existing and future trees in the arboretum. Mrs. Kauffman made a motion to accept this donation with gratitude; Mr. Page seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved.

Donation of Table Talk Pies

Dr. Brunelle reported that Dr. Lopez informed her that Table Talk had donated pies to SWIS for their PI Day activities. Mrs. Kauffman made a motion to accept the donation; Mr. Page seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved.

Donation of Items to Pakachoag Satellite Program

Dr. Brunelle noted that Mrs. Stanick had recently notified her of a donation of various items to enrich the Satellite program at Pakachoag from Hometown Bank. Mrs. Kauffman made a motion to accept the donation; Mr. Page seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved.

Unfinished Business:

Special Education Stabilization Fund Policies Working Group

Dr. Brunelle noted that the work of this group was complete with the policy being put before each of the three boards for approval. She thanked Mrs. Harrington and Mr. Scobie for serving as the School Committee representatives, also thanking Ken Holstrom and Dan Carpenter from the Board of Selectmen and Kim Holstrom and Kevin Kennedy from the Finance Committee. Mr. Page thanked them also, as well as the rest of the group.

Strategic Plan Update

Dr. Brunelle noted that the Design Team had met on February 12th and would be meeting again on March 29th. She reported that excellent progress was being made and she will continue to keep them apprised.

Teaching/Learning:

Youth Opioid Prevention Grant Update

Dr. Lauzé provided an update on the work of the Youth Opioid Prevention Grant committee, noting that they have purchased a new curriculum for middle school students and the appropriate staff members have been trained in the program. She noted that Chris Herren is coming on April 30th to present to AMS students during the day and to parents and community members that same evening. Chief Coleman will create a survey to assess the outcomes of the presentation.

Dr. Lauzé noted that next year the plan is to purchase a parent/student program to further enhance the prevention focus. She noted that she would continue to update the Committee as they move forward.

Staff Development Day: March 12, 2018

Dr. Lauzé reported that the Annual March Menus of Professional Development had successfully taken place on March 12th. She provided a copy of the menu showing 50 different sessions available throughout the day, with something for everyone. She noted that the keynote speaker was Chad Hymas, an inspirational, world-wide speaker, author and world-record holding wheelchair athlete whose story of breaking his neck and his journey back to a purposeful life sent the message that there are no challenges that can't be overcome, even within our classrooms.

Start Time and Homework Teams

Dr. Lauzé noted that these two teams have been established with the first meeting of the Homework Team having taken place on March 15th. Due to a reschedule because of a snow day, the Start Time Team will meet for the first time on March 27th. Dr. Lauzé also noted that Dr. Brunelle is heading the Start Time Team with her chairing the Homework Team. Each team is made up of administrators, teachers and parents, as well as a few AHS students as appropriate. She will keep the Committee apprised of their work.

Business/Financial:

Year to Date Budget Report

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

Transfers

Mrs. Wirzbicki provided a listing of transfers both within and between the Series. She asked for the Committee's approval of those between the Series. Mrs. Kauffman made that motion; Mrs. Holloway seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved.

Revolving Account Update

Mrs. Wirzbicki provided a revolving account update.

Grants Update

Mrs. Wirzbicki provided a grants update.

Warrant Payables

Mrs. Wirzbicki provided a listing of dates when Mrs. Holloway signed off on warrant payables.

Clean Energy Activity Day Grant and Brodeur Foundation Grant to Class of 2019

Mrs. Wirzbicki sought the Committee's acceptance of two grants recently awarded. AMS was the recipient of a Clean Energy Activity Day Grant in the amount of \$8,000 and the Class of 2019 was awarded a grant in the amount of \$500 from the Brodeur Foundation to purchase outdoor movie screens.

Mrs. Harrington made a motion to accept both grants and establish accounts as needed; Mrs. Holloway seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved.

Policies:

DIBA, Special Education Stabilization Fund on First Reading

Mrs. Harrington made a motion to approve policy DIBA, Special Education Stabilization Fund on first reading; Mr. Page seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved.

ICB, Extended School Year, High School Remedial Summer School Regulations with Tracking

IK, Student Progress Reports to Parents/Guardians with Tracking

IKE, Promotion and Retention of Students with Tracking

IN, Every Student succeeds Act (ESSA) 2015 with Tracking

Mrs. Harrington made a motion to approve the above-mentioned policies as updated; Mr. Page seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved.

Executive Session:

At 6:52 p.m., 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; Mr. Page 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

At 7:00 p.m., Mrs. Page made a motion to exit Executive Session; Mrs. Holloway seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved.

New Business:

School Committee Public Hearing on the FY 2019 Budget

At 7:03 p.m. the moderator, Mr. Chet Stencel, called the Public Hearing to order. In attendance were Tom Kies, Bill Westerlind and Gwen White.

Each administrator read his/her budget line items. Mr. Westerlind asked one question of Mr. Fahey regarding the safety/security line and one of Dr. Brunelle, seeking assurance that ample funds were set aside for negotiations.

There being no further business to discuss, at 7:52 p.m., Mrs. Kauffman made a motion to adjourn the Public Hearing; Mrs. Harrington seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved.

Respectfully submitted,



Allaine Zautner
Recording Secretary

Referenced Documents:

Graduation and Drop Out Rates
Per Pupil Expenditure Chart
Thank you for Table Talk Pies
Thank you to Hometown Bank
Letter to TMM re FY 2019 Budget/Public Hearing
Staff Development Day Agenda
Year to Date Budget Report
Transfers
Revolving Account Update
Grants Update
Warrant Payables
Policies; DIBA, Special Education Fund on First Reading; ICB, IK, IKE and IN for update
FY 2019 Draft Budget