

AUBURN SCHOOL COMMITTEE
AGENDA for Wednesday, February 28, 2018
School Committee Room, 7:00 p.m.

In attendance:

George Scobie
Wayne Page
Jessie Harrington
Dottie Kauffman

Absent:

Gail Holloway

Maryellen Brunelle
Cecelia Wirzbicki

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

Special Recognitions:

Scholastic Award Winning Artists

Dr. Brunelle asked the Committee to join her in congratulating four AHS art students for winning awards from the Boston Scholastic Art and Writing Awards. Those students were Obiamaka Igwenagu; Lindsay Gauthier; Brigid Campbell; and Rebecca Chamberland. Obiamaka and Lindsay won Gold Key awards and will be including in the National Judging in NYC. She offered her congratulations to all.

Citizens' Comments: None

Student Representatives' Report: Isabella Lourie and Ryan Garabedian

Isabella Lourie was not available as she is the director/choreographer of the AHS Mr. Auburn contest and the dress rehearsal is this evening.

Ryan reported that a lot has been happening at AHS since his last report: both Tri 2 and winter sports are winding down with the Boys' Varsity Basketball team winning against the 1st seed in Division 1 at the Clark Tournament; the We The People team had won second place and the MA wild card spot sending them to Washington, DC for the national competition in April; the Math team finished 3rd in their division after their final competition; the Winter Carnival had been held the week before vacation; AHS hosted Chinese exchange students for a week after vacation which was an amazing cultural experience ; the AP Government students had a field trip to the Edward M Kennedy Institute for a mock senate session ; Art and French students had a field trip on February 27th to an art museum; there is a Model UN conference this weekend and the Mr. Auburn contest on March 1st.

Approval of Executive Session Minutes:

For Approval and Release

- December 16, 2015
- January 6, 2016
- February 3, 2016
- March 15, 2016
- March 28, 2016
- April 15, 2016
- April 6, 2016

- May 18, 2016
- June 1, 2016
- December 7, 2016
- January 4, 2017
- February 8, 2017
- February 22, 2017

Mrs. Harrington made a motion to approve the above-named Executive Session minutes for approval and release; Mrs. Kauffman seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved.

For Approval Only

- March 6, 2016
- June 15, 2016
- October 5, 2016
- June 7, 2017

Mrs. Harrington made a motion to approve the above-named Executive Session minutes for approval only; Mrs. Kauffman seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved.

Approval of Regular Meeting Minutes:

February 13, 2018

Mrs. Harrington made a motion to approve the minutes from the February 13th meeting; Mrs. Kauffman seconded the motion and it was approved 3-0 with one abstention from Mr. Page who was not in attendance at the meeting.

Superintendent’s Report:

Update on Buildings and Grounds

Tabled as Mr. Fahey was not available to attend.

Clean Energy Grants

Dr. Brunelle announced that Auburn Middle School had been awarded a Clean Energy Activity Day grant in the amount of \$8,000 and will host a Clean Energy Activity Day at a date yet to be determined in the spring. She recalled that the weather had not cooperated last year but it should be an excellent day! She recognized Nicholas Hunter and Nicholas Palumbo, two students who were instrumental in securing the grant funds. The Middle School was also awarded the amount of \$1,050 for students to attend the Ecotarium.

Projected Enrollment FY 2019

Dr. Brunelle provided the projected enrollment for next year, noting that the kindergarten numbers in particular are expected to increase as we are receiving several registrations each week.

Chamber of Commerce 50:50 Raffle

Dr. Brunelle reported that the Auburn Chamber of Commerce made a donation to the District in the amount of \$345.42 which will be split evenly among the five schools to enrich classrooms. Mrs. Kauffman made a motion to accept this donation with gratitude; Mr. Page seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved.

Webster First Federal Credit Union Donation to Pakachoag

Dr. Brunelle reported that Webster First Federal Credit Union filled Pakachoag's "Wish List" with all sorts of items to enrich the students' time at school. It was her recommendation that the Committee accept this donation. Mrs. Kauffman made a motion to accept the "Wish List" items with gratitude; Mrs. Harrington seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved.

AMS Principal Search Committee

Dr. Brunelle informed the Committee that she was putting together a search committee to interview candidates to replace Mr. Gagnon, who was retiring, and asked if any School Committee member was interested in joining the interview team. After some discussion, Mr. Page made a motion to nominate Mr. Scobie and Mrs. Kauffman to serve in this capacity; Mrs. Harrington seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved.

Quality Counts

Dr. Brunelle provided a Quality Counts article in which it was noted that Massachusetts' schools once again scored at the top of the list.

Unfinished Business:

Special Education Stabilization Fund Policies Working Group

Another productive meeting of this working group had been held on February 27th with everyone leaving with an understanding that we are very close to finalizing the policy. Dr. Brunelle stated that whenever we get together with any groups, we feel very much supported. Everyone around the table was supportive of both the fund and everything we do.

FY 2019 Draft Budget

There were no changes to report. Dr. Brunelle and Mrs. Wirzbicki are tentatively scheduled to attend the Finance Committee meeting on March 14th to seek their support of the FY 2019 Budget.

Citizens' Leadership Academy

Dr. Brunelle provided more information on the Citizens' Leadership Academy. She noted that there are now 17 citizens interested and all will be accommodated for the class. She reminded the Committee that the School Department will present to the class on April 12th, first at Auburn Middle School and then at Auburn High School.

New Business:

Office for Civil Rights Case No. 01-18-1055

Dr. Brunelle reported that she had recently received a letter from the Office for Civil Rights (OCR) indicating they had received concerns regarding websites and the challenges of people with disabilities being able to fully access pages. Our website was included. District personnel had held a conference call with Mr. Jacob Tabor, a civil rights attorney with the OCR, sharing that we are moving to a new website which will meet all ADA regulations. His recommendation was that we complete a 302 report indicating that the issues will be resolved with the new website.

Upcoming Events

Dr. Brunelle brought the Committee's attention to the upcoming SWIS Vex IQ Scrimmage and also noted that Tri 2 was coming to a close with report cards going home in mid-March.

Wayne Page

Mr. Page took a moment to thank the Town's people who sent cards, food, baskets during his recently surgery. He stated that it was outstanding how the Town has treated him. He also thanked the residents, the School Committee and other Committees in Town.

He noted that he will not be running for School Committee this year, but instead will be running for Board of Selectmen. He feels very good about where the District is at right now and knows the children are in the best of hands. He thanked the residents for letting him serve for the time that he has.

Business/Financial:

Year to Date Budget Report

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

Transfers

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

USDA Grant to Auburn Food Service

Mrs. Wirzbicki announced that a USDA Specialty Crops grant had been awarded to the Auburn Public Schools' Food Service Department in the amount of \$34,525. This grant will be used to pursue Food Service's mission of providing state-of-the-art enhanced food services and nutrition education for students and teachers in food systems, agriculture and nutrition education in the classroom through procurement of foods with our partner, "What's Good?" It will also provide culinary training for our school food services team and students. Mrs. Wirzbicki gave a shout out to Mrs. King and her team for their hard work in obtaining this grant.

Amendment to FY 2019 CIP

Mrs. Wirzbicki sought the Committee's approval of the transfer of \$25,000 from the Food Service line in the FY 2019 CIP to the Bryn Mawr Building Repair line, this money to be used for the installation of a sprinkler system. She noted that the Food Service program is self-supporting and has ample funds to cover the \$25,000 equipment purchase.

Mrs. Kauffman made a motion to approve this transfer; Mrs. Harrington seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved. FS line in FY 2019 to the BM

Mrs. Harrington asked if all of the schools have sprinkler systems and Dr. Brunelle indicated that neither PAK nor SWIS do as they are grandfathered in at this point. Changes and increases in size to either of those buildings could change that. She also indicated that the BM one came at a cost of \$300,000.

Annual Town Meeting Warrant Articles

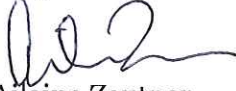
Mrs. Wirzbicki noted that the Board of Selectmen had voted to open the warrant for the May 1, 2018 Annual Town Meeting. Warrant articles have to be submitted to the Town by Friday, March 2nd. She included the District's proposed articles and sought the Committee's approval of them. Mrs. Harrington made a motion to approve them; Mrs. Kauffman seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved.

Mrs. Wirzbicki announced that the Bus Registration form is out for next school year with the deadline being June 1st.

Executive Session: At 7:26 p.m., Mrs. Harrington 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. Kauffman 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

Executive Session Minutes

Minutes from February 13th

Thank you from Pakachoag to WFFCU

Quality Counts Article

Office for Civil Rights Letter

Year to Date Budget

Transfers

Amendment to FY 2019 CIP

Warrant Articles