

AUBURN SCHOOL COMMITTEE
MINUTES from Wednesday, October 3, 2018
School Committee Room, 7:00 p.m.

In attendance:

George Scobie
Jessie Harrington
Gail Holloway
Dottie Kauffman
Meghan McCrillis

Maryellen Brunelle
Cecelia Wirzbicki

Call to Order and Pledge:

At 7:00 p.m., Mr. Scobie 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.

Citizens' Comments: None

Student Representatives' Report: Ryan Garabedian and Ali Schoenfeldt

Alli reported on Homecoming Week; that there had been lots of participation and there was a special assembly with unified athletes participating which was filmed by Channel 5. Ryan reported that the Rockets lost their Homecoming game; however, the Marching Band won first place in their competition again; the Math Team won 2nd place in their competition and the girls' soccer team was doing well.

Approval of Regular Meeting Minutes:

September 19, 2018

Mrs. Harrington made a motion to approve the minutes of the September 19, 2018 School Committee meeting; Mrs. Holloway seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved.

Superintendent's Report:

National School Lunch Program Administrative Review 2018-2019

Dr. Brunelle informed the Committee that Mrs. King was recently notified that Auburn Food Service Department has been randomly selected for an Administrative Review by DESE's Office for Food and Nutrition Programs during this school year. She will have to participate in training to review the process prior to the review taking place. Dr. Brunelle will keep the Committee apprised.

Increase to LTS Sub Rate

Dr. Brunelle noted that in a recent review of the long-term substitute rate for a person covering the same teacher for 30+ continuous days, Auburn's rate of \$95 per day is low compared to neighboring districts. A long-term substitute in a position for 30 plus days would be expected to do daily planning for lesson delivery; meet with grade level/department colleagues to implement curriculum and to communicate and /or meet with parents. A daily sub is not expected to do the same but rather is required to implement lessons planned by the full-time teacher. It was Dr. Brunelle's recommendation that the rate be raised to \$150 per day for subs in a position for 30 plus days.

Mrs. Kauffman made a motion to approve the new rate of \$150 per day for long-term substitutes in the same position for 30 plus days; Mrs. Holloway, noting that it is hard to find good subs, seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved.

October 1st Enrollment

Dr. Brunelle shared the October 1 Enrollment and noted that the District continues to grow.

John E. and Ethel E. Riley Award Committee

Having been asked by the Town Clerk to have an educator volunteer to serve on the John E. and Ethel E. Riley Award Committee, Dr. Brunelle asked the AEA members if they would be willing to serve in this capacity. Mrs. Doreen Guittarr and Mrs. Denise Collins both volunteered, as they do every year. This year is Mrs. Collins' turn to serve and this is fitting as it is her last year teaching prior to retirement in August 2019.

Mrs. Holloway made a motion to nominate Mrs. Denise Collins to serve on the John E. and Ethel E. Riley Award Committee; Mrs. Kauffman seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved.

Unfinished Business:

Fall Special Town Meeting Reminder

Dr. Brunelle reminded the members of the upcoming Fall Special Town Meeting, scheduled to take place on Tuesday, October 23, 2018 at 7:00 p.m. in the Auditorium of Auburn High School. Dr. Brunelle recommended scheduling a brief School Committee meeting for 6:30 p.m. that evening in case there was any business to discuss prior to the Town Meeting. Mrs. Kauffman made a motion to schedule a School Committee meeting at 6:30 p.m. on Tuesday, October 23, 2018, to be held in the Guidance Office Conference Room at Auburn High School; Mrs. Holloway seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved.

Negotiations with Cafeteria Workers

As requested by the Chair, this item remained on the agenda to determine if any member wished to serve on the negotiating committee with Dr. Brunelle, Dr. Lauzé and Mrs. Wirzbicki. There were no volunteers as the Committee is comfortable with the administrators negotiating and seeking guidance, as needed, from the Committee.

FY 2020 Budget Priorities

Dr. Brunelle asked the Committee to let her know if they had any budgeting priorities they would like considered for the FY 2020 budget, with Mrs. Harrington having previously requested consideration be given to adding a Guidance Counselor at the intermediate level.

Mrs. Holloway asked about the ratio of counselors across our schools. Dr. Brunelle shared that we try to maintain ratios of 1:250 students, with AHS having 4.8, AMS having 3.0; SWIS currently having 2.0, and BM and PAK each having 1.0. With the enrollments of AMS and SWIS being very similar (600+ each), Mrs. Holloway agreed Mrs. Harrington's recommendation to add one at SWIS made sense.

MA Preparatory Academy for Children

Learning from Attorney Henry Clark, lawyer for the MA Preparatory Academy for Children, that "School Committee approval is neither an evaluation of program quality nor an endorsement of the school. And further that, "DESE, and not the Auburn School Committee, is fully responsible for the oversight of the MA Preparatory Academy for Children," Dr. Brunelle recommended that the Committee approve the establishment of the school, noting that DESE will then assume full responsibility and oversight.

Dr. Brunelle did indicate that Dr. Lauzé, Mrs. Reidy and she had reviewed the curriculum and it appeared to meet the DESE standards.

Mrs. Kauffman made the motion to approve the establishment of the MA Preparatory Academy for Children in Auburn, with MA DESE now assuming full responsibility and oversight; Mrs. Harrington seconded the motion and it was approved 4-0 with 1 abstention from Mrs. Holloway who remains very concerned about the location of the school.

New Business:

Governor's Roundtable

Dr. Brunelle shared with the Committee that she had recently been outreached by Colleen Quinn, Communications Director of the Executive Office of Education, Secretary Peyser's office, that Governor Baker is interested in hosting a Safety Round Table in Central Mass and Tom Scott, Executive Director of the Massachusetts Association of School Superintendents, recommended that Ms. Quinn reach out to Dr. Brunelle for such a meeting to be held at Auburn High School.

While no date has been set yet, the meeting will be held during the day in the Media Center at AHS with 100-150 expected to be in attendance to observe. Governor Baker is seeking to invest \$150,000,000 in school safety so this Round Table will positively benefit all schools in regard to school safety. Dr. Brunelle will keep the Committee apprised.

CIP Review

Dr. Brunelle thanked Mr. Fahey and Mrs. Wirzbicki for meeting with each principal regarding their CIP needs in order to keep buildings in the best shape possible for their longevity. From those meetings, Dr. Brunelle, Mr. Fahey and Mrs. Wirzbicki met and recommend that you approve the FY 2024 CIP, as presented.

Adjustments were also made to the FY 2020 CIP while keeping the bottom line the same.

Mrs. Harrington made a motion to approve the FY 2024 CIP as presented and to approve the amendments to the FY 2020 CIP; Mrs. Holloway seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved.

The Committee asked how CIP funds could be used, with Mrs. Kauffman noting that SWIS seems to be "bursting at the seams." Dr. Brunelle noted that a modular or any new structure would come out of CIP at a cost of approximately \$500,000, to include the cost of a new sprinkler system for the building. Mrs. Harrington wanted to ensure that the electrical upgrade to BM did not negatively impact the temperature of these classes as it had for a period at Pakachoag and Dr. Brunelle noted her concern and assured her that would not be the case. Mrs. McCrillis asked about the possibility of adding more iPads at the primary levels to cut out germ sharing. Dr. Brunelle noted that when we lease new iPads for AHS and AMS, the existing ones will be given to the primary grades.

Upcoming Events

Mrs. Harrington noted that the AMS Curriculum Night was very well run and Mr. Scobie concurred. Dr. Brunelle reminded the Committee of the upcoming presentation of "The Secret Lives of Teens and Tweens," aimed at the parents of grade 5 to 12 students. It is scheduled for October 11th at 6:30 p.m. in the AHS Auditorium.

Business/Financial:

Year to Date Budget Report

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

Transfers

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

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

Grants Update

Mrs. Wirzbicki provided an update on the various grants received and what the monies are put towards. She recognized Dr. Lauzé and Mrs. Reidy for their hard work in applying for grants.

Circuit Breaker Update

Mrs. Wirzbicki provided a Circuit Breaker Update noting that \$440,874 had been received in Circuit Breaker reimbursement for out-of-district tuitions, with the payments being received quarterly. In FY 2020, we will receive \$291,554, at a 72% rate for reimbursement. As we keep more students in-district, we reduce our funding eligibility as we are spending less on out-of-district tuitions, therefore less can be reimbursed.

Medicaid Training Update

Mrs. Wirzbicki informed the Committee that Rosemary Reidy, Kate Flynn, Sharil Morin and she had recently attended Medicaid Training. The training was very good and they learned of potential ways to substantially increase the Medicaid reimbursement in FY 2020, with pertinent parents needing to sign on in approval. A team from the District will work to outreach parents, personally, if necessary as our goal is to get 100% of them to comply.

Policies:

GBEBD, Online Fundraising and Solicitations – Crowdfunding on 2nd Reading

ILD, Student Submission to Education Surveys and Research on 2nd Reading

Mrs. McCrillis made a motion to approve the above-named policies on 2nd Reading; Mrs. Harrington seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved.

GBGB, Staff Personal Security and Safety for Review and Update

GCG, Substitute Professional Staff Employment for Review and Update

GCIA, Philosophy of Staff Development for Review and Update

GCO, Evaluation of Professional Staff for Review and Update

GCOE, Retirement of Professional Staff Members for Review and Update

GDA, Support Staff Positions for Review and Update

GDB, Support Staff Contracts and Compensation Plans for Review and Update

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

There being no further business to discuss, at 7:43 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 9-19-18

Letter from DESE re National School Lunch Program Review and Training

October 1 2018 Enrollment

Letter from Lawyer for MA Preparatory Academy for Children

Press Release re Governor Baker's Safety Roundtable

FY2024 CIP; FY 2020 on amendment

Year to Date Budget Report

Transfers

Grants Update

Parental Notice Form

Policies