

**AUBURN SCHOOL COMMITTEE**  
**MINUTES from Wednesday, October 17, 2018**  
**School Committee Room, 7:00 p.m.**

**In Attendance:**

George Scobie  
Gail Holloway  
Dottie Kauffman  
Meghan McCrillis

**Absent:**

Jessie Harrington

Maryellen Brunelle

**AHS NEASC Team:** Casey Handfield          Spencer Kennard          Melissa LaBeaume

**Visitors:**                      Danya Tang with mother

**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 of Allegiance to the Flag.

**Special Recognitions:**

Certificate of Excellence: Danya Tang

Danya Tang was in attendance, along with her mother, to receive the M.A.S.S. Certificate of Academic Excellence from Dr. Brunelle. Some of the reasons that Danya rose to the top for this award: her grade point average is 4.586; she is President of the AHS National Honor Society and is a member of the following clubs: Math Team; Rockets to Rockets; and the Literature Club. She has taken 6 AP classes and plans to major in Mathematics (actuary) or Engineering (chemical or mechanical). Danya was congratulated by the Committee who stated that she was very well deserving. Danya's mother, in turn, through the School Committee thanked the Auburn Public Schools for always taking care of her child, referring back to a period when Danya was in the 4<sup>th</sup> grade and had to be hospitalized. Teachers and students sent cards and meals, etc. to help the family out and worked with Danya to get her caught back up with her school work.

Auburn Middle School Field Hockey Team

Dr. Brunelle shared with the Committee that the prior day, the Auburn Middle School field hockey team had displayed extraordinary sportsmanship when the opposing team showed up with not enough players to man a team. AMS players volunteered to play for the other team, which was Oxford, a fierce rival, and one even scored a goal for the opposition with the score ending tied 1-1. The Committee gave kudos to the team and stated that they showed that it is more about sportsmanship than winning.

**Citizens' Comments:** None

**Student Representatives' Report: Ryan Garabedian and Alli Schoenfeldt**

Alli reported that NEASC (New England Association of Schools and Colleges) will be visiting AHS next week and there had been an all school assembly to let the students know what to expect. Some students volunteered to shadow NEASC members who will be holding workshops with students during the visit. Alli also reported that there had been a band ceremony with students inducted into the Tri M Music Honor Society. Tri M members played musical pieces at the ceremony. Alli noted that she had spoken with Mr. Handfield regarding lockdown procedures. She added that senior nights are coming up for fall athletics and on Monday, October 22nd there will be a Humanities Scholars meeting.

Ryan reported that AHS clubs and athletic teams will be participating in the NEASC visit on Sunday, October 21st, setting up booths in the cafeteria to show NEASC what Auburn High is all about. He also noted that the first Unified Basketball game of the season had taken place last week.

### **Approval of Regular Meeting Minutes:**

October 3, 2018

Mrs. Kauffman made a motion to approve the minutes of the October 3rd meeting; Mrs. Holloway seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved.

### **Superintendent's Report:**

NEASC Update from AHS

Dr. Brunelle opened the presentation by stating that it was a pleasure to share with the members that the NEASC visit starts on Sunday, October 21st and will continue through Wednesday, October 24th. She then invited Mr. Handfield to the podium. He noted that the year was off to a great start and very busy!

He then introduced the Co-Chairs of the NEASC Steering Committee, Mrs. Melissa LaBeaume and Mrs. Spencer Kennard, both Social Studies teachers at AHS, and they provided an overview of the process. They noted that the NEASC visit will be a valuable experience that will benefit Auburn High School greatly.

They noted that in preparation for the visit, the faculty was broken up into committees, one for each of the seven NEASC standards: Core Values (led by Vin Benacchio), Instruction (led by Nicole LePrevost); Curriculum (led by Karen Ballway); Assessment of Student Learning (led by Andrew Martin); School Culture and Leadership (led by Karyn Ferdella); School Resources for Learning (led by Dave Cutler) and Community Resources for Learning (led by Erik Berg). Teachers Annette Lemerise and Andrew Niedzwiecki served on the Steering Committee with Melissa and Spencer.

They noted that it was a three step process: Self Study; Peer Review; and Follow-Up. The Self Study was presented as a formal written report telling the story of how well the school meets the NEASC standards for good schooling. This process led to the creation of the AHS Core Values which are Community, Academics and Respect.

The Peer Review is what is taking place from October 21st through 24th when faculty members from schools throughout New England volunteer to serve on the Visiting Committee and will have read the completed Self Study report and will formulate an objective assessment of the conclusions given in the Self Study, "Are we doing what we say we're doing?"

The Follow Up is after the visit when AHS will prioritize the recommendations made in the Visiting Committee's Report and identify groups responsible for making these changes. They will create an action plan and establish a timeline for its completion. They will develop strategies, adopt and adapt them, and assess the results. Then the cycle will start all over again with a two year follow up report and a five year report, etc.

The Committee thanked the AHS team for their presentation and stated they looked forward to meeting with the Visiting Team on Sunday, October 21st.

### M.A.S.S. Executive Committee

Dr. Brunelle shared that she has been invited to serve on the M.A.S.S. Executive Committee to fill a vacant seat due to the retirement of Andre Ravenelle, former Superintendent of Fitchburg Public Schools. She will serve until June 2020 when there will be an election to fill his seat. She noted that the M.A.S.S. Executive Committee meets 8-10 times annually and discusses statewide issues impacting Massachusetts Superintendents.

## **Unfinished Business:**

### CPR-AED Update

Dr. Brunelle noted that the last meeting of the CPR-AED team was held on October 10th with seven members in attendance. The team remains hopeful that many individuals across the Auburn community will take advantage of the CPR-AED certification program offered by the Auburn Fire Department. After a meeting with Blair Young of the American Heart Association, the focus will be on hands-only CPR and AED training, hoping to engage citizens from across the Auburn Committee. Auburn High School juniors and seniors will be available to help with this hands-only training as each junior/senior graduates with a full certificate in CPR training.

Dr. Brunelle reported that there are now accessible AEDs at the Pappas Recreation Complex, as well as at Upper Lemansky field and at Auburn High School. Two more have been donated, one through Jeff LaBonte and the Jason Thibodeau Helping Hearts and one from Auburn Little League. Dr. Brunelle noted that 8 AEDs were still needed and the Fundraising Committee would be coming up with ideas on how to do that. Dr. Brunelle will continue to keep the Committee apprised.

### Reminder: MASC/MASS Joint Conference

Dr. Brunelle reminded the members of the upcoming MASC/MASS Joint Conference on the Cape from November 7th to 10th. She will be in attendance too.

### Reminder: Next School Committee Meetings

Dr. Brunelle reminded the Committee that the next two School Committee meetings are Budget Hearings and scheduled for the second week in November on the 13th and 14th, both starting at 6:30 p.m.

## **New Business:**

### Upcoming Events

Dr. Brunelle reported that she and Mr. Fahey had attended the SEPAC meeting on October 16th as the topic was Emergency Preparedness for Students on 504s and IEPs. They were able to provide information showing that those students will be well taken care of in the case of any emergency situations that may arise, along with all students.

## **Teaching/Learning:**

### Youth Opioid Prevention Team Update

Reporting that Dr. Lauzé was home with pneumonia, Dr. Brunelle provided an update on the Youth Opioid Prevention Team. She noted that a meeting had been held on Monday, October 15th to review the status of the grant which officially ends in the spring of 2019. She noted that more workshops for students and families are planned.

### Best Practices Grant Update

Again reporting on behalf of Dr. Lauzé, Dr. Brunelle noted that the Best Practices Grant Team is due to meet again on October 30th. They have nearly depleted the funds received through the grant but still plan to offer some additional training for staff and some other cultural programs for preschoolers.

### Secret Lives of Teens and Tweens

Dr. Brunelle noted that the October 11th presentation of, "The Secret Lives of Teens and Tweens," had gone extremely well with well over 100 parents in attendance. The presenter infused his talk with humor and the time went by very quickly. It was an excellent, no frills presentation which was really well delivered. He spoke of his personal experiences with his own children and the audience was able to take a lot from it. This is the first in a series of Start the Conversation presentations planned for this school year.

**Business/Financial:**

Transfers

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

**Policies:**

BA, School Committee Operational Goals

BAA, Evaluation of School Committee Operational Procedures

BBBC, School Committee Member Resignation

BBBE, Unexpired Term Fulfillment

BCA, School Committee Member Ethics

BDB, School Committee Officers

IJ-R, Reconsideration of Instructional Resources

Mrs. Kauffman made a motion to approve the above-named policies as updated; Mrs. Holloway seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved.

With no further business to be discussed, at 7:47 p.m., Mrs. Kauffman made a motion to adjourn for the evening; Mrs. Holloway seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved.

Respectfully submitted,



Ailaine Zautner

Recording Secretary

**Referenced Documents:**

Minutes from 10-3-18

NEASC Schedule and letter from NEASC

Transfers

Policies: BA; BAA; BBBC; BBBE; BCA; BDB; IJ-R