

AUBURN SCHOOL COMMITTEE
MINUTES from Wednesday, November 14, 2018
6:30 p.m. Budget Presentations

In attendance:

George Scobie
Jessie Harrington
Gail Holloway
Dorothy Kauffman
Meghan McCrillis

Maryellen Brunelle
Kathy Lauze
Cecelia Wirzbicki
Rosemary Reidy
Joe Fahey
Eric Bouvier

Janice King
Casey Handfield
Eileen Donahue
Gregg Desto
Matt Carlson
Susan Lopez

Marie Mahan
Beth Chamberland
Jenn Stanick
Alison DeLuca
Sami Kozik
Nicole LePrevost

Student Representatives:

Ryan Garabedian

Ali Schoenfeldt

Visitors:

Jared Sargent
Mercadante
Mrs. Ganley

Elyse Whittemore
Emma Ganley
Mr. St. Pierre and Tristan

Bryna St. Pierre Sydney
Mrs. Sargent

Call to Order and Pledge:

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

Special Recognitions:

Worcester County Superintendents' Scholar

Jared Sargent was in attendance to be recognized as the Worcester County Superintendents' Scholar for Auburn. He is currently the valedictorian of the Class of 2019 with a GPA of 4.844 and is interested in a career in biology-centered research. The Committee offered their congratulations. Jared will attend the Worcester County Superintendents' Scholars Luncheon on January 8th at Holy Cross College, accompanied by Mr. Handfield and Dr. Brunelle.

Project 351 – 8th Grade Representative to Visit the State House

This year's Project 351 8th Grade Ambassador from Auburn Middle School is Sydney Mercadante, who was recommended by her NJHS advisors, Student Council advisors, teacher and Mr. Carlson. Mr. Desto, AMS Principal, stated she is a tremendously positive force in the school, always involved in good things and will represent Auburn incredibly well. Sydney was congratulated for earning this honor and was asked to return to a School Committee meeting in January to tell the members of her experience.

AHS Special Olympic Ambassadors

Emma Ganley and Bryna St. Pierre were in attendance to be recognized as they have been selected by the Special Olympics MA organization to travel to Washington, D.C. to represent Special Olympics

Massachusetts for “Hill Day” to share their impact stories about what it means to play Unified Sports at AHS and to be a part of the Unified Champion Program with their representatives and legislators.

Also, Elyse Whittmore was in attendance to be recognized as one of an inclusive group of twelve national youth ambassadors chosen to represent their region as advocates, advisors, and participants in a brand new, unique leadership development training opportunity. Elyse and one other student will represent the Northeast Region and will travel to the West coast for training in February of 2019. This is a two year commitment for Elyse.

The Committee congratulated all three girls on this wonderful opportunity that has come their way through their hard work and dedication to Unified Sports and the Special Olympic program.

Student Representatives’ Report: Ryan Garabedian and Ali Schoenfeldt

Ryan reported that there had been a field trip to the New England Aquarium. Ali noted that after a meeting with Mr. Handfield, the sub folders were going to be updated to include lockdown procedures. She also noted that A.L.I.C.E. Training had taken place in PE classes.

Citizens’ Concerns/Comments: None

Superintendent’s Report:

MSAA Judging for Assistant Principal of the Year Nominees

Dr. Brunelle shared that Mr. Gregg Desto has been selected by the MSAA to be a part of the interview/judging process for the Assistant Principal of the Year nominees. Mr. Desto, who was in attendance at the meeting, was thanked for his willingness to do this and for his professionalism as the leader of AMS.

MSLA 2019 Conference Presentation

Ms. Sarah Connell, Library/Media Specialist at Swanson Road Intermediate School has been approved to present a 50-minute workshop titled, “Deep Digital Reading on Device-Based Tests, “ at the 2019 Massachusetts School Library Association Conference in March 2019. Dr. Brunelle noted her appreciation for Sarah’s willingness to do this and thanked her for her ongoing professionalism and innovative spirit as a dynamic teacher at SWIS.

Budget Presentations:

The evening’s budget presentations were started with the elementary principals presenting their individual budgets. Staffing requests for FY 2020 included, at SWIS, a 1.0 FTE 5th Grade Classroom teacher to keep class sizes under 25 students; a 1.0 FTE Guidance counselor at SWIS to meet the social-emotional needs of the students; 3.0 FTE ABAs at Bryn Mawr School to meet the needs of incoming students; and a 0.5 FTE Permanent Sub at both Pakachoag and Bryn Mawr Schools, this to provide stability and consistency when teachers are absent.

Mr. Gregg Desto then presented the Auburn Middle School’s budget, first detailing the AMS 5-Point Plan for Building an Unbreakable Culture:

“As members of the AMS Community, we will:

- 1. Treat everyone with civility and respect*
- 2. Help others when we know they need it*
- 3. Seek help for ourselves when we know we need it*

4. *Try our best to improve each day*
5. *Participate in school activities”*

Mr. Desto went on to present a level-funded budget with no personnel requests. If he were to add any, it would be social-emotional staff, he noted.

Mr. Handfield then presented a level-funded budget for Auburn High School with no personnel requests.

Dr. Brunelle closed the evening’s budget presentations with a Budget Summation PowerPoint, noting once again that budget priorities are student safety; student achievement; class size; technology; textbooks; educator evaluation; professional development and Strategic Plan implementation.

She noted that the District’s draft budget is \$26,909,863, which represents an increase of \$1,060, 301 or a 4.1% increase over the approved FY 2019 amount of \$25,849,562.

Dr. Brunelle noted that the next steps in the budget process are:

- The Town’s Budget Kick-Off is being held on November 28, 2018
- The Governor’s budget and preliminary Chapter 70 figures are not anticipated until mid-winter
- The budget will be added to the agendas of the School Committee meetings in December, as well as that of January 9, 2019.
- The draft budget needs to be submitted to the Town Manager by the second Monday in January, this year that being January 14th, therefore the School Committee will need to take a vote at the January 9th meeting to send a draft budget forward.

Unfinished Business:

MCAS 2.0 Update

Dr. Lauze provided a brief update on the 2018 MCAS 2.0 and Legacy MCAS testing. She noted that the state is moving towards 100% computer-based testing, which we have been doing since its inception. With the Legacy MCAS testing, APS scored at or above state levels in all grades and subjects. With the new MCAS 2.0 test, Auburn scored above the state average in 9 of 12 tests. Our 3rd grade students had more students scoring at the “exceeding expectations” level in ELA than 52 of the 56 districts reported in the Telegram. Grade 4 had more students scoring “exceeding expectations” in ELA than 45 of the 56 districts reported and in Grade 5 Science, we have more students scoring “exceeding expectations” than 50 of the 56 districts.

New Business:

Town of Auburn Tree Lighting Ceremony

Dr. Brunelle, on behalf of the Town Manager, invited all the Committee members to attend the 7th Annual Tree Lighting ceremony to be held at the Drury Square Fire Department on Friday, November 30th at 6:00 p.m.

School Committee Tour of Schools

Dr. Brunelle provided some dates for a potential tour of the schools for the School Committee and since there is a meeting again on December 5th, the members opted to check their calendars and get back to Dr. Brunelle at that time. The dates offered were December 11th, 12th or 13th.

Upcoming Events

Dr. Brunelle noted that it is always busy in our schools and this month is no exception with literacy nights being held as well as Trimester 1 band and chorus concerts for AMS/AHS. She wished everyone a Happy Thanksgiving.

There being no further business to be discussed, at 8:35 p.m., Mrs. Kauffman made a motion to adjourn for the evening; Mrs. McCrillis seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved.

Respectfully submitted,



Ailaine Zautner

Recording Secretary

Referenced Documents:

Budget Presentation PPTS