

**AUBURN SCHOOL COMMITTEE**  
**MINUTES from Wednesday, March 6, 2019**  
**School Committee Room, 7:00 p.m.**

**In attendance:**

George Scobie  
Jessie Harrington  
Gail Holloway  
Dottie Kauffman  
Meghan McCrillis

Maryellen Brunelle  
Kathy Lauze  
Gregg Desto

**Visitors:** Sydney Mercadante and parents

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

**Special Recognitions:**

Project 351 Ambassador's Report

Sydney Mercadante was in attendance to update the Committee on her experience as the AMS 8th Grade Project 351 Ambassador. She did an outstanding job describing her day and experience and announced her project for this year of ambassadorship. She will be collecting new and gently used clothing and shoes for children as her spring service project in partnership with Project 351 and Cradles to Crayons to provide essentials to needy students.

The Committee commended her on her work thus far, offering their congratulations and letting her know she had their full support. Mr. Scobie stated that it was people like Sydney who make the world a better place.

Geography Bee

Before leaving for the evening, Mr. Desto notified the Committee that Thomas Maillett, AMS 8th grader won the AMS Geography Bee, earning the right to go to the state final in Chicopee. If he makes it to the next round after that, the national competition is in Washington, D.C.

**Citizens' Comments:** None

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

Ryan Garabedian was unable to be in attendance. Alli reported that the Rockets to Rockets Buddy Dance in a neighboring district had been for both unified and other students and it was, in her view, a very happy and fun evening. Rockets to Rockets is also helping out with Delia Shea's "Have a Heart" Toy Drive for Boston Children's Hospital. Alli reported that the All-Town Band concert was scheduled for Thursday, March 7th with Chorus having held their concert on Tuesday, March 5th. She reported that finals are taking place this week at Auburn High and course selection should be happening sometime soon.

**Approval of Regular Meeting Minutes:**

February 20, 2019

Mrs. Holloway made a motion to approve the minutes of the February 20th meeting; Mrs. Kauffman seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved.

**Superintendent's Report:**

Cafeteria Workers' New Contract

Stating that it was a quick and amicable process, Dr. Brunelle notified the Committee that the Cafeteria Workers had ratified their new contract for the years 2019-20, 2020-21 and 2021-22. She noted that some of the highlights were incentives for completion of required trainings; COLA raises of 2%, 1.5% and 1.5% with a new step added in each of the three years; updated Bereavement leave to bring the contract in line with others; added Sick Bank and the ability to accrue sick days up to 100 instead of 60.

Mrs. Kauffman made a motion to approve the Cafeteria Workers new contract for FY 2020, 2021 and 2022; Mrs. Holloway seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved.

The Committee thanked the team of negotiators for their good faith bargaining.

Job Description: Assistant Superintendent

With Dr. Lauzé's imminent retirement, she and Dr. Brunelle updated the job description of Assistant Superintendent to incorporate all the responsibilities related to the position. Dr. Brunelle stated that this updated job description reflects the exemplary work Dr. Lauzé has done during her tenure.

Mrs. Harrington made a motion to approve the updated job description for Assistant Superintendent; Mrs. Holloway seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved.

**Unfinished Business:**

School Calendar – 2019-2020

Dr. Brunelle provided a copy of the survey requested by the members to be shared with parents, staff and students. She asked if she should wait until after the March 18th day off to share it and the Committee agreed that made sense. They also asked the 4-day weekend in March be mentioned in the survey.

Mrs. Holloway made a motion to approve the survey with the additional language as agreed above; Mrs. McCrillis seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved.

Dr. Brunelle was asked to modify the survey and send it out to AHS students at the same time.

Enrollment Projection

Noting that it was good information to have, the Committee agreed to have an enrollment projection done.

Mrs. Kauffman made a motion to approve having NESDEC do an enrollment projection for the Auburn Public Schools at a cost of \$1.807; Mrs. Holloway seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved.

FY 2020 Draft Budget

Dr. Brunelle shared a copy of the memo to Town Meeting members regarding the Public Hearing and the FY 2020 draft budget.

### Town of Auburn Citizens' Academy

Dr. Brunelle shared the timeline and information with the School Committee on the 2nd Annual Town of Auburn Citizens' Academy, noting that the APS were scheduled to present to the group on April 25th. The agenda would be similar to that of the 1st Annual Citizens' Academy.

### **New Business:**

#### MSBA: The Story of a Building Program

Dr. Brunelle noted that a second meeting was scheduled for March 8th to discuss and plan this event to take place at Auburn Middle School on May 1, 2019. She will continue to keep the Committee apprised.

#### Upcoming Events

Dr. Brunelle noted that the Tri II Chorus Concert was exceptional the previous evening and that the All-Town Band Concert will be held on Thursday, March 7th in the Gymnasium to accommodate the number of audience members who will be in attendance in support of our ever-expanding band/music program.

### **Teaching/Learning:**

#### Youth Opioid Grant Update

Dr. Lauzé provided an update on the Youth Opioid Grant which was awarded to the District two years ago. She noted that we are in the final phase of this grant which focuses on establishing the family education tier. She shared that on March 1st a trainer from Montreal came to Auburn and trained 4 counselors and 2 school psychologists in the Strengthening Families Program. They in turn will run a 14-session program with parents and teens, with the curriculum focusing on strengthening skills such as speaking and listening, staying cool in conflicts, speaking for yourself, handling peer pressure and temptation, alcohol and drugs, solving problems, dating, managing emotions, etc.

#### SBIRT

Dr. Lauzé noted that SBIRT (Survey, Brief Interview, Referral for Treatment) was conducted at AMS with 8th grade students during the week of January 22nd. She noted that the results were positive overall with only 11 students needing to move to the brief interview phase and then only 2 needing further follow up with the School Psychologist. No outside referrals were needed. Dr. Lauzé also noted that SBIRT will be administered to grade 9 students on April 30th and she will provide an update at a meeting in May.

#### Project Lead the Way (PLTW) Grant

Dr. Lauzé shared that the District was recently awarded three Project Lead the Way (PLTW) grants, one at SWIS, one at BM and the other at PAK, for a total of \$25,000. The PLTW curriculum provides hands-on, project-based learning experiences in computer science, engineering and biomedical that are tied to real-world problems. She noted that as part of the grant, the schools will receive the curriculum and will be able to purchase the necessary materials and equipment, as well as the teachers being provided with professional development. Dr. Lauzé noted that was an amazing opportunity for our teachers and students with only 58 schools in the entire Commonwealth receiving the grants. She gave kudos to Sarah Connell and Kerry LeBreton, Media Specialists, for investigating this and then successfully writing the grant.

#### March 15<sup>th</sup> Full Professional Development Day

Dr. Lauzé shared that the keynote speaker for the upcoming full day of professional development is a young lady by the name of Liv who is only 11 years old. She had originally presented at a Mass Cue conference and she stole the hearts of all. Auburn is very excited to have her. Dr. Lauzé also noted that a slight adjustment has been made to the day this year, with a menu of offerings being available in the

morning and two general presentations in the after for all staff, one for grades 3-12 and one for PreK-2 staff focused on components of Social-Emotional Learning.

Textbooks to be Discarded

Dr. Lauzé provided a listing of textbooks from AHS that she sought the Committee's approval to deem surplus. Mrs. Kauffman made a motion to so do; Mrs. Holloway seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved. D

**Business/Financial:**

Year to Date Budget Report

Dr. Brunelle shared a year to date budget report on behalf of Mrs. Wirzbicki, noting that we remain in good shape. There were no questions.

Transfers

Mrs. Harrington made a motion to approve the transfers between the Series; Mrs. Holloway seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved.

Bus Application

Dr. Brunelle provided a reminder regarding the bus application and the deadline being June 1, 2019. She noted that a hard copy will be sent home with every student in Kindergarten through 11th grade with Tri II report cards on March 14, 2019.

There being no further business to discuss, Mrs. Kauffman made a motion to adjourn for the evening at 7:55 p.m.; Mrs. McCrillis seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved.

Respectfully submitted,



Ailaine Zautner

Recording Secretary

**Referenced Documents:**

Minutes from February 23, 2019  
Job Description: Assistant Superintendent  
Draft Survey: School Calendar  
Calendar Comparison with Area Districts  
Memo to TMM re Public Hearing  
Town Citizens' Academy Schedule  
Agenda for PDD on March 15<sup>th</sup>  
Textbooks to be discarded  
Year to Date Budget Report  
Transfers