

**AUBURN SCHOOL COMMITTEE**  
**MINUTES from Tuesday, January 8, 2019**  
**7:00 p.m. School Committee Room**

**In attendance:**

George Scobie  
Jessica Harrington  
Gail Holloway  
Dottie Kauffman  
Meghan McCrillis

Maryellen Brunelle  
Kathy Lauzé

**Call to Order and Pledge:**

At 7:00 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.

**Citizens' Concerns/Comments:** None

**Student Representatives Report: Ryan Garabedian and Ali Schoenfeldt**

Alli was not able to attend the meeting due to a work commitment. Ryan reported that AHS closed out December strong. He noted that the teachers got into the holiday spirit and decorated all the locker doors since decorating classroom doors has become a fire hazard. He noted that the first week after the holidays had been a short week with teachers having a hard time getting the students motivated to start back up! This week things were picking up with StuCo holding their first meeting. Band and Chorus are fundraising for their trip to Florida in March.

**Approval of Regular Meeting Minutes**

December 5, 2018

Mrs. Kauffman made a motion to approve the minutes of the December 5th meeting; Mrs. Holloway seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved.

**Superintendent's Report:**

Worcester County Superintendents Scholars' Luncheon

Dr. Brunelle shared with the Committee that the WCSA Scholars' Luncheon had been held that day, this time at the College of Holy Cross, with Dr. Vellacio, Senior Vice President Emeritus addressing the crowd. Dr. Brunelle, Mr. Handfield and Auburn's Superintendent's Scholar, Jared Sargent were in attendance at what Dr. Brunelle described as a great day!

Municipal Vulnerability Preparedness (MVP) Grant Team

Dr. Brunelle shared with the Committee that Mr. Fahey will be serving as the District's representative on the Town's "Municipal Vulnerability Preparedness (MVP) Grant Team." The Town is seeking grant funding which provides support for cities and towns for resiliency and to implement key climate

change adaption action for resiliency. Invitations will be sent to 40 citizens who will be invited to take part in the work of 4 separate teams: understanding ongoing issues, hazards, local planning and defining top hazards; identify and map vulnerabilities and strengths of infrastructure and social and environmental risks in our town; develop and prioritize actions that reduce vulnerabilities and reinforce strengths for our community; and identify opportunities to advance actions that further reduce the impact of hazards and increase resilience in our community. Four AHS students will assist in this day-long event on February 28th. Dr. Brunelle thanked Mr. Fahey for his willingness to serve in this capacity and thanked the four students: Julie Zona; Niccola Zona; Shea Brown and Angie Davis for their commitment to this important work.

#### Local Comprehensive Emergency Management Plan

Dr. Brunelle also informed the Committee that she will serve as the District's representative to the Local Comprehensive Emergency Management Plan. Mark Maass, Emergency Management Director, has notified the Town that work on the plan needs to be completed over the next couple of months. Also included on the Team will be representatives from Fire, Police, DPW, Inspectional Services and IT. Dr. Brunelle noted the first meeting was scheduled for Thursday, January 10th and she would keep the Committee apprised of the Team's work.

#### MSBA Post-Occupancy Pilot Program

The MSBA has established a Post-Occupancy Pilot Program to visit and observe recently completed MSBA-funded projects. Dr. Brunelle apprised the Committee of a visit they will make to AMS on January 23rd to tour the facility and ask questions about the process from our perspective. She will keep the Committee apprised.

#### Donation to SWIS Arboretum

Dr. Lopez recently informed Dr. Brunelle of a \$5,000 grant donation SWIS had received from the Dr. Arthur and Martha Pappas Foundation in response to a grant written by Sarah Connell for landscaping at the SWIS Arboretum. This money will fund trails, fitness stations and signage for the project. She asked that the Committee formally accept the donation. Mrs. Kaufmann made a motion to do so; Mrs. Holloway, stating how wonderful this was, seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved.

#### AHS Field Trip to the FDR Library and Museum in Hyde Park, NY

Mrs. McCrillis made a motion to approve the AHS Social Studies trip to the FDR Library and Museum in Hyde Park, NY on May 24th; Mrs. Holloway, noting that this was a wonderful place to visit, seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved.

Later in the meeting, Mrs. Holloway noted that the field trip was scheduled for the Friday prior to the Memorial Day Weekend, usually a huge travel day and wondered if it might be able to be rescheduled.

Dr. Brunelle would be in touch with Mrs. Heidemann, leader of the trip, to see if this could be done.

#### Rescind Authorization for Balance of AMS Project

Dr. Brunelle reminded the Committee members that the MSBA required the Town of Auburn to authorize the full value of the Auburn Middle School project, as well as the MSBA Accelerated Repair

Projects, even though the Town was only responsible for its share of the eligible costs. With both of these projects now being completed and the final audits done, these authorizations are no longer needed and it was her recommendation, at Mr. Kazanovicz's request, that the authorizations be rescinded by the Committee.

Mrs. Kauffman made a motion to rescind the authorization of \$23,925,234 for the Auburn Middle School building Project; Mrs. Holloway seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved.

Mrs. Kauffman made a motion to rescind the authorization of \$3,024,153 for the MSBA roof repair projects at SWIS, BM and PAK; Mrs. Holloway seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved.

#### Student Government Day

Dr. Brunelle noted that Mr. Handfield had informed her that AHS students, Alexis McGrail and Madison Poshkus, will be the school's representatives at Student Government Day at the State House on April 5, 2019. The Committee asked that the students be invited to a meeting after that time to update them on their experience. Dr. Brunelle will do so.

#### SWCEC Quarterly Report and Annual Report for 2017-2018

Mrs. Kauffman made a motion to accept both the SWCEC Quarterly Report and the 2017-2018 Annual Report; Mrs. Holloway seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved.

#### M.A.S.S. Initiative Underway

Dr. Brunelle share a video, "A Tale of Two Sisters," which is part of the M.A.S.S.'s ongoing initiative to highlight the need for a review and update of the Foundation Budget formula which is based on calculations made in 1983 as part of the Ed Reform Act. The video showed the disparity in opportunities for students in the Burlington and Brockton Public Schools.

Dr. Brunelle also shared that M.A.S.S. had announced forums taking place in three MA locations, each to be held on January 8th, the night of this meeting and shared a communication from M.A.S.S. regarding the forums. She will continue to keep the members apprised as more information is shared with her.

#### **Unfinished Business:**

##### Directed Investigation of Website/Online Accessibility

Dr. Brunelle reminded the members that we had received a complaint through the Office for Civil Rights last spring regarding our website not being ADA compliant, although the complaint was soon dropped. The OCR promised to follow up once we were using the new website and we have received notice that that we will be undergoing a "directed investigation of accessibility of website and on-line programs," this scheduled to begin on May 15th. Dr. Brunelle shared a letter from OCR and an initial response to it from Eric Bouvier.

##### FY 2020 Draft Budget

Noting that it's a long way until the town Meeting in May, Dr. Brunelle recommended that the

send forward the draft budget of \$27,034,862.54 to the Town Manager. Mrs. Kauffman made that motion; Mrs. Holloway seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved.

**New Business:**

School Choice for FY 2019-2020

Noting that the draft budget was prepared with School Choice offsets that maintain the same number of students currently in place, it was Dr. Brunelle's recommendation that we continue with School Choice at those levels: 51 at AHS and 30 at AMS for the 2019-2020 school year. Mrs. McCrillis made a motion to maintain those levels; Mrs. Holloway seconded it and it was unanimously approved.

School Calendar for FY 2019-2020

Dr. Brunelle informed the Committee that she and the Leadership Team would soon be working on the school year calendar for next year and asked the Committee to share any recommendations they may have.

Substitute IA and ABA Rate Adjustment

Dr. Brunelle noted that after a review of the substitute rates for IAs and ABAs, it was her recommendation that the rates be adjusted as follows: from \$11.45 to \$12.00 for IAs and from \$11.75 to \$12.30 for ABAs. Mrs. Kauffman made a motion to approve the new rates; Mrs. Holloway seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved.

Mass DEP

Dr. Brunelle reported that she had received the formal Consent Order and Notice of Non-Compliance regarding the bulb crusher not being allowed to be used in Massachusetts. Dr. Brunelle and Mr. Fahey attended a meeting on October 3, 2018 with all violations being rectified prior to that meeting taking place. The document needed to be executed and returned to the Mass DEP. There would be no further actions by them.

**Teaching/Learning Report:**

Mental Wellness Month

**No Homework Days:** Dr. Lauzé shared that in a recent survey aimed at better understanding the social/emotional needs of our Middle and High School students, many of them expressed that homework caused them anxiety. The Leadership team, in collaboration with the teachers, decided to create four "No Homework Long Weekends," which will hopefully allow for more family time and a change for students to relax and enjoy some down time. The dates for this school year are: January 17th -21st; February 14th-18th; March 14th-18th; and May 23rd-27th.

**Video Presentation of "Angst":**

Dr. Lauzé reported that the District would be showing the video, "Angst," for parents in the AHS Auditorium on Tuesday, January 22nd at 6:30 p.m. This video was created to bring awareness and open up a conversation about stress and anxiety. Dr. Lauzé noted that the presentation is open to the entire community and Mr. Jon Mattleman from Minding your Mind, will lead a Q & A immediately

following the video. Over the following two days, the students at AMS and AHS will also view the video with follow-up discussions supported by their Guidance counselors.

#### January 18, 2019 Half Professional Day

Dr. Lauzé reported that in preparation for the AMS and AHS students viewing the “Angst” video, the entire staff will get a chance to view it during the half day of professional development scheduled for Friday, January 18th.

#### Update on DESE Audit Visit

Dr. Lauzé provided an update on the DESE Audit visit which had taken place on January 7th and 8th, noting that the feedback from them was that Auburn was a great place to visit; Mrs. Reidy and staff had made them feel welcome; they commended APS on their IEP writing; stating that it showed that they know and care about the students under their care. A formal report will be received within 45 school days and Dr. Lauzé will share it once received. She gave well-deserved kudos to Mrs. Reidy and her staff for their preparation.

#### Best Practices Preschool Grant Update

Noting that this was the last year of the Best Practices Preschool grant, Dr. Lauzé stated that the focus had been on collaborating with area preschools to share best practices, as well as to provide professional development to staff and cultural events to students. The last of those cultural events will be the Tanglewood Marionnettes, who will be presenting, “The Fairy Circus,” on Saturday, March 9th at 10:00 a.m. at Pakachoag School for all preschool age children and their families.

#### Preschool and Kindergarten Registration for 2019-2020

Dr. Lauzé announced that Preschool and Kindergarten Registration for the 2019-2020 school year will take place on February 6th from 3 to 7 p.m. in the Presentation Room at Auburn High School. She noted that parents are reminded to bring students’ birth certificates and the necessary proof of residency documents.

#### **Business/Financial Report:**

##### Year to Date Budget Report

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

##### Transfers

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

##### Lease Agreement for Copiers

Mrs. Wirzbicki provided a memo regarding the new copier lease noting that it would be with Ricoh. Dr. Brunelle recommended, on her behalf, that the Committee approve it. Mrs. Kauffman made a motion to do so; Mrs. Holloway seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved.

**Policies:**

IP-A, Title IIA, Supplement, not Supplant Requirement on Second Reading

IP-B, Title IVA, Supplement, not Supplant Requirement on Second Reading

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

**Executive Session:**

At 7:52 p.m., Mrs. Holloway made a motion to enter Executive Session per MGL Chapter 30, Section 21 (a) (2) to conduct strategies with union and non-union personnel; Mrs. McCrillis seconded the motion and a roll call vote was taken:

Mrs. McCrillis - Yes; Mrs. Kauffman - Yes; Mrs. Holloway - Yes; Mrs. Harrington - Yes; Mr. Scobie - Yes;

Respectfully submitted,

Ailaine Zautner

Recording Secretary

**Referenced Documents:**

Minutes of December 5, 2018

Thank you for Donation to SWIS Arboretum

AHS Field Trip to Hyde Park, NY

SWCEC Quarterly Report and Annual Report

Telegram Article re MASS Forums

OCR Letter and E. Bouvier Response

YTD Budget Report

Transfers

Copier Lease Memo from C. Wirzbicki

Policies: IP-A and IP-B