

AUBURN SCHOOL COMMITTEE
MINUTES from Tuesday, January 21, 2020
AHS Guidance Office, 6:00 p.m.

In Attendance:

George Scobie
Jessie Harrington
Gail Holloway
Dottie Kauffman
Meghan McCrillis

Maryellen Brunelle

Visitors: Dan Largesse (joined meeting at 6:28 p.m.)
Mark Binnall (joined meeting at 6:29 p.m.)

Call to Order and Pledge:

The Chairman, Mr. Scobie, called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. and asked that everyone join him in the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

Citizens' Comments:

None initially but revisited at the end of Open Session at 6:39 p.m. after visitors had arrived.

Superintendent's Report:

Superintendent Search

The Committee discussed potential questions and the format for the interview process, deciding on the following:

- The School Committee meeting of February 5, 2020 will be dedicated to the Superintendent Search and interviews
- The Committee discussed pertinent topics for potential questions with each member crafting a question or questions and sharing the same with Dr. Brunelle
 - Identified areas of priority were: the strategic plan; relationships in the Auburn Schools and across the greater Auburn community; social-emotional learning and supporting all students in their varied needs; budget and collective bargaining; staff development; teaching and learning and community involvement.

2020-2021 School Year Calendar

Dr. Brunelle provided the Committee with the parameters regarding the development of the proposed calendar for the 2020-2021 school year: the AEA contract states the school year can begin no earlier than the Monday before Labor Day and if it does, students must be in school that week for a minimum of two days and a maximum of three days, with there being no school on the Friday prior to the Labor Day weekend.

Dr. Brunelle shared that she would be discussing the draft calendar with the AEA to get their input and she will return at an upcoming meeting with a recommended calendar for their consideration.

Primary Configuration Team Update

Dr. Brunelle shared the recommendations of the Primary Configuration team and noted that the team members would be in attendance on January 27th to seek their formal approval of those.

Vaping and a Collaborative Effort

Dr. Brunelle shared that Dr. Chamberland had been in attendance at the meeting on January 16th, held at the Asa Waters Mansion in Millbury, with the superintendents from Millbury and Grafton and members of the Millbury Board of Health, where some good discussion and brainstorming took place around the subject of vaping. More meetings will be scheduled.

Unfinished Business:

New School Committee Meeting

Mrs. Kauffman made a motion to hold an additional School Committee meeting on Monday, January 27th beginning at 6:00 p.m. Mrs. Holloway seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved.

New Business:

Upcoming Events

Dr. Brunelle mentioned how fabulous the Auburn Middle School's production of *Aladdin, Jr.* had been.

Business/Financial:

Year to Date Budget Report

Dr. Brunelle shared a year to date budget report on behalf of Mrs. Wirzbicki. There were no questions.

Transfers

Dr. Brunelle shared a listing of transfers both within and between the Series and, on behalf of Mrs. Wirzbicki, asked for the Committee's approval of those between the Series. Dr. McCrillis made a motion to approve the transfers between the Series as presented; Mrs. Holloway seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved.

Citizens' Comments:

At 6:39 p.m., the Committee agreed to revisit Citizens' Comments as two Town Meeting members had arrived late to the meeting.

Mr. Dan Largesse was in attendance and he congratulated Dr. Brunelle on her retirement and thanked her for her effective leadership over the years. He also wanted to ensure that the School Committee was in support of the portion of the Auburn Street redesign that had a potential impact on the safety of Auburn High School students crossing the road. The Committee indicated that they were in support of it.

Mr. Mark Binnall was in attendance to inquire why the School Committee had made the decision to invite only internal candidates to apply for the Superintendent posting. Mr. Scobie explained his reasoning to which the Committee concurred.

At 6:46 p.m., Mrs. Holloway made a motion to enter Executive Session per MGL Chapter 30, Section 21(a) (2) to conduct strategies for negotiations with union and non-union personnel; Dr. 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

Following the Executive Session, the Committee recessed to the Special Town Meeting in the AHS Auditorium. Mrs. Holloway left to go home as she was feeling unwell.

At the conclusion of the Special Town Meeting, Mrs. Harrington made a motion to adjourn at 8:39 p.m., seconded by Dr. McCrillis and unanimously approved.

Respectfully submitted,

Ailaine Zautner
Recording Secretary

Referenced Documents:

Year to Date Budget Report
Transfers