

AUBURN SCHOOL COMMITTEE
MINUTES from Wednesday, January 23, 2019
School Committee Room, 7:00 p.m.

In attendance:

George Scobie
Jessie Harrington
Gail Holloway
Meghan Creelman

Maryellen Brunelle
Cecelia Wirzbicki

Absent:

Dottie Kauffman

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:

AHS Leadership Team

Dr. Brunelle shared with the Committee that the AHS Leadership Team, made up of athletic team captains, awarded their first ever scholarships to recent graduates. She explained that the Leadership Team, under the guidance of Athletic Director, Brian Davis, strives to serve as an example for their peers and do community service. Dr. Brunelle noted that this speaks to the qualities we want all students to embody and congratulated them on their hard work.

AHS Art Students

Dr. Brunelle noted that Michele Prunier, Art teacher at AHS for this year, had informed her that two of her students were accepted into the Emerging Young Artists Exhibit at UMass Dartmouth. There were over 350 pieces submitted to this highly competitive juried exhibition of which only 80 pieces were selected. She gave kudos to the students: Obiamaka Igwenagu and Cori Leonard. Dr. Brunelle also noted the very impressive tape art on the walls at AHS right now, another project undertaken by Ms. Prunier's students.

MIAA Recognition for AHS

Dr. Brunelle noted that Athletic Director, Brian Davis, had recently shared with her that AHS will be presented with an MIAA Educational Athletics Achievement Award for Community Service, this in recognition of being one of the host schools for a Unified Basketball Jamboree. Mr. Rich Riley, MIAA Assistant Director, will be visiting AHS on Thursday evening, January 24th, to present this award to Nicole LePrevost, Unified Basketball Coach, and to the students and staff. Congratulations were given to all.

Citizens' Comments: None

Student Representatives' Report: Ryan Garabedian and Alli Schoenfeldt

Alli reported that the Rockets to Rockets annual ice skating field trip had recently taken place with all the students having had a blast. The students watched "Angst" on January 22nd and Alli reported that

overall it was a good presentation, better than “Screenagers,” as it was more interactive. Ryan also noted that it brought students out to talk about their anxiety, where before they might not have. Ryan noted that the students were all very appreciative of the “No Homework” long weekend. He noted that after the recent storm, the parking lot had been a fiasco with lots of late passes having been handed out. He noted that the mock exams for AP Lit and Language had taken place that day.

Executive Session Minutes for Approval and Release:

January 3, 2017

February 15, 2018

February 28, 2018

April 4, 2018

May 1, 2018

May 16, 2018

Mrs. Harrington made a motion to approve and release the above-named Executive Session Minutes; Mrs. Holloway seconded the motion and all but the minutes from May 16, 2018 were approved 3-0 with one abstention from Mrs. McCrillis who was not yet a Committee member when the Executive Sessions took place. The minutes from May 16, 2018 were approved unanimously.

Executive Session Minutes for Approval Only:

June 20, 2018

Mrs. Harrington made a motion to approve only the Executive Session minutes from June 20, 2018; Mrs. Holloway seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved.

Approval of Regular Meeting Minutes:

January 8, 2019

Mrs. McCrillis made a motion to approve the minutes of January 8, 2019; Mrs. Harrington seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved.

Superintendent’s Report:

AMS NJHS Induction Ceremony

Dr. Brunelle noted that she and Dr. Lauzé had the honor of being present at the NJHS Induction Ceremony where 43 seventh and eighth graders were inducted. She congratulated the advisors, Mrs. Dupuis and Mrs. Watson, who have held these advisor positions since the NJHS’s inception at AMS. She also noted that the officers did a really nice job.

Cooperative Athletic Programs

Dr. Brunelle provided a memo from Athletic Director, Brian Davis, providing information on the Cooperative Athletic programs that we participate in, this for informational purposes. We now have a student participating in the Grafton High School Swimming program who is doing especially well in it - Ava Zink; and we accept students from other districts to participate in both Girls’ and Boys’ Ice Hockey.

Preschool Tuition for FY 2020

Mrs. Harrington made a motion to keep the Preschool Tuition rates the same for FY 2020 with the sliding fee scale still being in place; Mrs. Holloway seconded the motion and it was approved unanimously.

Before and After School Programs: Tuition Rates for FY 2020

Mrs. McCrillis made a motion to maintain the FY 2020 Before and After School tuition rates the same as in FY 2019; Mrs. Holloway seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved.

Unfinished Business:

FY 2020 Draft Budget

Dr. Brunelle reported that Governor Baker had presented his house budget proposal that day. She noted that Dr. Lauzé and Mrs. Wirzbicki had participated in a webinar in that regard and Auburn would be receiving an additional \$770,964 in Chapter 70 funds.

Dr. Brunelle noted that she and Mrs. Wirzbicki would be meeting with Town Manager Jacobson and CEO Kazanovicz on January 31st and she would report back to the Committee at the next meeting.

New Business:

Superintendent's Mid-Year Goals

Dr. Brunelle provided a copy of her Mid-Year goals, reiterating that it is work that is embraced by the Leadership Team and many others across the District; they speak to our Strategic Plan and the priorities the School Committee has set. She mentioned that the video, "Angst," had gone over very well with faculty across the District and there had been approximately 60 parents and community members in attendance at the viewing the previous evening. The hope is to potentially offer it again in the spring. All feedback had been positive, including among the 8th graders who viewed it on January 23rd.

Mrs. Holloway noted that she was happy to note that there is a team working on chronic absenteeism and it was noted by Dr. Brunelle that there are a relatively small number of students for whom getting to school is a challenge.

Dr. Brunelle also noted that the Youth Opioid Grant would be ending this school year. Funds for "Angst" had been provided through the Title IV Grant.

Mrs. Holloway made a motion to accept the Superintendent's Mid-Year Goals; Mrs. Harrington seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved.

Upcoming Events

Dr. Brunelle noted the "We The People" State Competition was scheduled for Saturday, January 26th, with Preschool and Kindergarten Registration on Wednesday, February 6th from 3:00 - 7:00 p.m. in the Presentation Room at AHS.

Business/Financial:

Year to Date Budget Report

Mrs. Wirzbicki provided a year to date budget report as of January 17, 2019; there were no questions.

Transfers

Mrs. Wirzbicki provided a listing of transfers both within and between the Series. She sought the Committee's approval of those transfers between the Series. Mrs. Harrington made a motion to approve the transfers between the Series; Mrs. Hollowing seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved.

Approval Of Warrants

Mrs. Wirzbicki informed the Committee that in a recent communication from Town Manager Jacobson, it had been learned that despite the fact that the State's Municipal Modernization Act allowed one signatory on warrants, the Town of Auburn's Charter requires 3 signatures and that overrides the Municipal Modernization Act. Mrs. Wirzbicki asked the Committee to rescind their vote of June 7, 2018 allowing only one designated member of the Committee to sign warrants and revert back to three members signing each one. Mrs. Harrington made that motion; Mrs. Holloway seconded it and it was unanimously approved.

Substitute Cafeteria Worker Rate Adjustment

Mrs. Wirzbicki and Dr. Brunelle brought forward a recommendation that the rate for substitute cafeteria workers be increased from \$11.25 per hour to \$12.00 per hour, effective immediately. Mrs. Holloway made a motion to do so; Mrs. McCrillis seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved.

Bus Application FY 2019-2020

Mrs. Wirzbicki sought the Committee's approval of the bus application for the 2019-2020 school year, keeping the fee at \$100 for those students who have to pay, with a family cap of \$250. She recommended that the late fee remain at \$100 per child with no family cap and that the due date of June 1st remain in place.

Mrs. McCrillis made a motion to approve the bus application for the 2019-2020 school year with a fee of \$100 for those required to pay (with a \$250 family cap) and to keep the late fee at \$100 (with no family cap), with the due date of June 1st remaining in place; Mrs. Holloway seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved.

Fuel Oil #2 Contract

Mrs. Wirzbicki noted that she had attended the opening of bids for Fuel Oil #2 on January 2, 2019. Two bids had been received and the lowest responsible and responsive bidder was Peterson Oil with a fixed price of \$2.0675 per gallon. FREC awarded them the contract for the 2019-2010 school year. She sought the Committee's approval.

Mrs. Holloway made a motion to approve the Fuel Oil #2 bid from Peterson Oil; Mrs. Harrington seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved.

School Nutrition Program Student

Mrs. Wirzbicki shared that she had recently been informed by Mrs. King that Auburn Food Services will once again be hosting a nutrition assistant intern, Kelly Sanders, who is completing her senior year at U-Mass, Amherst as part of a dietetic internship program. Kelly will be with us from January 22nd for 11 weeks, spending three days a week gaining a variety of skills in the Food Service Department.

Policies:

BCB, School Committee Member Conflict of Interest for Update

DH, Bonded Employees and Officers

DI, Fiscal Accounting and Reporting

DJ, Purchasing

DJA, Purchasing Authority

DK, Payment Procedures

DKC. Expense Reimbursements

IP, Title 1 Supplement, not Supplant Requirement for Update

Mrs. Harrington made a motion to approve all the updated policies afore-mentioned; Mrs. Holloway seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved.

At 7:35 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; Mrs. McCrillis seconded the motion and a roll call vote was taken:

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

Respectfully submitted,

Ailaine Zautner
Recording Secretary

Referenced Documents:

Executive Session Minutes
Minutes from 1-8-19 SC Meeting
NJHS Induction Agenda
Memo from Brian Davis re Cooperative Athletic Programs
Little Rockets Tuition Schedule
Before and After School Programs Tuition Schedule
Supt. Mid Year Goals Update
Year to Date Budget Report
Transfers
Letter from Atty Hennigan re approval of warrants
Memo from Mrs. King re Sub Cafe Workers' Rate Increase
Bus Application for FY 2020
Memo re Fuel Oil #2 Bid
Memo from Mrs. King re Nutrition Student
Policies