

**AUBURN SCHOOL COMMITTEE**  
**MINUTES from Wednesday, January 27, 2020**  
**School Committee Room, 6:00 p.m.**

**In Attendance:**

George Scobie  
Jessie Harrington  
Gail Holloway  
Dottie Kauffman  
Meghan McCrillis

**Also in Attendance:**

Maryellen Brunelle  
Beth Chamberland  
Cecelia Wirzbicki  
Rosemary Reidy  
Claudia Allain  
Marie Mahan  
Jenn Stanick  
Julie Benoit

**Call to Order and Pledge:**

At 6:05 p.m., Mr. Scobie, Chairperson, brought the meeting to order and asked if anyone else was recording the meeting; there being none, he asked that everyone join him in the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

**Citizens' Comments:** None

**Student Representatives Report:**

Alli Schoenfeldt reported that the *We the People* team took third place out of 5 teams at the competition on Saturday, January 25<sup>th</sup> with them all having had a terrific time. Alli was awarded the Claudette Desrosiers award for showing exemplary commitment to civics education and she was especially proud of this honor as she was selected by her peers. Upcoming events include the National Honor Society's field trip to Boston on February 5<sup>th</sup> and prior to the February Vacation, Student Council has prepared a school wide Kahoot game. In addition, Mr. Auburn will present a teaser to encourage attendance at their annual event. Aaron Zheng was not in attendance.

**Minutes:**

January 8, 2020 and January 21, 2020

Mrs. Harrington made a motion to approve the minutes from the January 8<sup>th</sup> and January 21<sup>st</sup> meetings; Mrs. Holloway seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved.

**Superintendent's Memo:**

Primary Configuration Team Update

On behalf of the Primary Configuration Team, Dr. Chamberland, Assistant Superintendent, gave a presentation highlighting the process undertaken by the team, ultimately sharing the team's recommendations:

- Kindergarten Registration will be District-wide, with students assigned primarily by the Route 12 dividing line, with the option to, based on neighborhood and transportation, assign students to the "other" school to ensure equitable class sizes;
- Special Education Substantially Separate class: one will remain at Bryn Mawr and one will be established at Pakachoag, this in an effort to keep children in their neighborhood schools and to provide equity in programming;
- Preschool Classrooms all at Auburn High School

Dr. Brunelle gave thanks to all team members, with several in attendance, including Claudia Allain; Julie Benoit; Beth Chamberland; Meghan McCrillis; Marie Mahan; Rosemary Reidy; and Jenn Stanick; and me, along with those unable to attend but who likewise contributed greatly: Heather Harriman; Amy Kennedy; and Sarah Schofield.

The Committee expressed appreciation to the team for their work and the thoroughness with which they completed this important task.

Mrs. Kauffman made a motion to approve the recommendations of the Primary Configuration Team, Mrs. Holloway seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved.

#### Dr. Russell Johnston Visit to Auburn Public Schools

Dr. Brunelle shared that Dr. Russell Johnston, Senior Associate Commissioner and State Director of Special Education, along with members of his team from the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE), visited the Auburn Public Schools on January 21, 2020, this in response to an invitation from Rosemary Reidy, Director of Pupil Services. Due to their limited availability, they were only able to visit the Bryn Mawr School and the Auburn Middle School, but they were extremely complimentary of the inclusive and high-quality programming provided by the dedicated members of the Auburn Public Schools' team. The Committee was appreciative of the teachers' efforts and thanked Mrs. Reidy for inviting them and putting the Auburn Public Schools in the spotlight in such a positive way.

#### AMS National Junior Honor Society

Dr. Brunelle shared that she and Dr. Chamberland attended the AMS National Junior Honor Society Induction Ceremony on Thursday, January 23<sup>rd</sup>, with 30 7<sup>th</sup> graders and 13 8<sup>th</sup> graders having been inducted. Further, Dr. Brunelle shared that the 8<sup>th</sup> Grade NJHS Officers did an amazing job with the entire ceremony, as did the advisors. Congratulations to the new inductees were offered.

#### Governor Baker's Proposed FY 2021 Draft Budget and the Student Opportunity Act

Dr. Brunelle reported that, as anticipated, Governor Baker released his draft budget on January 22, 2020, with Auburn reported to receive \$12,270,204 in Chapter 70 aid in FY 2021 as compared to the amount received in FY 2020 of \$11,851,108, an increase of \$419,096. She noted that in the past, the Governor's budget has been the lowest of the three – Governor, House, Senate – so we will continue to closely monitor for updates from the Legislature and keep the Committee apprised.

Dr. Brunelle provided a brief update regarding the requirements of the Student Opportunity Act – that a 3-year plan must be created that outlines how the additional funds will enhance student achievement – with the promise that more information will be provided once specific guidance is provided by DESE.

#### **Unfinished Business:**

##### FY 2021 Draft Budget

Dr. Brunelle reported that she, Mrs. Wirzbicki and Dr. Chamberland would be meeting with Town Manager Jacobson and CFO Kazanovicz on January 28<sup>th</sup>, but at this time she recommended keeping the budget as presented until more is learned about the Student Opportunity Act.

##### 2020-2021 School Year Calendar

Dr. Brunelle reminded the Committee that she and Dr. Chamberland would be sharing draft schedules for the 2020-2021 school year with the AEA on January 29<sup>th</sup> and will return with a recommended calendar during a February meeting.

##### Town of Auburn's Citizens' Leadership Academy

Dr. Brunelle shared that Town Manager Jacobson had organized the 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Citizens' Leadership Academy, with the School Department presenting on April 16, 2020. She also shared that the deadline

for applications is Friday, March 6, 2020 at noontime and noted that interested individuals should go to the Town's website to apply.

**New Business:**

Additional School Committee Meeting

With the Committee's decision to dedicate the February 5<sup>th</sup> meeting to interview the candidate for the new Superintendent, she recommended that they add a meeting on February 26<sup>th</sup>.

Mrs. McCrillis made a motion to schedule a meeting on February 26<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 p.m., seconded by Mrs. Holloway and unanimously approved.

A discussion ensued regarding the start time of the February 5<sup>th</sup> meeting and following a motion by Mrs. McCrillis and a second by Mrs. Holloway, the start time was set for 6:00 p.m.

Upcoming Events:

Dr. Brunelle reminded families of the Preschool and Kindergarten Registration – scheduled for February 6<sup>th</sup> – stating that is always an exciting time in young children's lives.

Donation for the Gaming Video Club at Auburn High:

Dr. Brunelle shared that the AHS Gaming Video Club received a donation in the amount of \$500 from Webster Square Tire & Service, Inc. to allow for the purchase of shirts for the team members. With a motion from Mrs. McCrillis and second from Mrs. Holloway, the Committee unanimously accepted this donation with gratitude. Mr. Handfield will send a thank you note to them.

**Teaching/Learning Report:**

Financial Literacy Grant

Dr. Chamberland shared that Auburn High School was awarded a "Financial Literacy Planning & Implementation" grant in the amount of \$9,000, congratulating all those involved for their efforts.

March 13<sup>th</sup> Professional Development Day

Dr. Chamberland provided an update regarding the March 13<sup>th</sup> full day of professional development, the focus of which will be the importance of staff taking care of themselves so that they are best equipped to take care of our students. She outlined some of the sessions that will be offered and the Committee expressed their strong support.

**Business/Financial Report:**

Year to Date Budget Report

Mrs. Wirzbicki shared a year-to-date budget dated January 23, 2020; there were no questions.

Transfers

Mrs. Wirzbicki provided a listing of transfers both within and between the Series, seeking the Committee's approval of those between the Series. Mrs. Kauffman made a motion to approve the transfers as presented, Mrs. Holloway seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved.

Public Records Request

As the Public Records Officer for the District, Mrs. Wirzbicki shared a copy of her response to a recent Public Records Request received from Boston 25 News via reporter Michael Saccone. As noted, he is working on a story about school lunch debt and Auburn might, therefore, be mentioned in the news story, therefore Mrs. Wirzbicki wanted to ensure they were aware of this request before the story potentially airs.

Bus Application

Mrs. Wirzbicki reminded the Committee and those watching that bus applications for next school year are available and have been shared with all families via One Call e-mails, with a hard copy going home to all families in the coming weeks. They are due by June 1<sup>st</sup> from all families whose children will ride the bus in the 2020-2021 school year, regardless of whether they need to pay or not, otherwise a \$100 late fee per application will be assessed.

**Policies:**

Dr. Brunelle shared that MASC had recently provided updates to several following policies and recommended they be approved, as presented.

Mrs. Harrington made a motion to approve policy JBB, Equal Education Opportunities, on First Reading, Mrs. Holloway seconded it and the Committee unanimously approved.

Mrs. Harrington made a motion to approve policies JB, JFABD, JFABE and JFABF, as amended, Mrs. Holloway seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved.

At 6:53, Mrs. Holloway made a motion to enter into Executive Session per MGL Chapter 30, Section 21(a) (2) to conduct strategies for negotiations with union and non-union personnel, Mrs. Kauffmann seconded the motion and a roll call vote was taken: Dr. McCrillis, Yes; Mrs. Kauffmann, Yes; Mrs. Holloway, Yes; Mrs. Harrington, Yes; Mr. Scobie, Yes.

The Committee returned to Open Session at 6:59 p.m. and following a motion by Mrs. McCrillis, seconded by Mrs. Holloway, the Committee unanimously voted to adjourn.

Respectfully submitted,



Maryellen Brunelle, Ed.D.  
Superintendent of Schools

**Referenced Documents:**

Minutes from January 8<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup>  
Primary Configuration Team PPT  
NJHS Program  
Student Opportunity Act Update from Commissioner Riley  
Citizens' Leadership Academy Documents  
Year to Date Budget Report  
Public Records Request Response  
Policies JBB, JB, JFABD, JFABE, JFABF