

AUBURN PUBLIC SCHOOLS
MINUTES from February 5, 2020 School Committee Meeting
5 West Street, 6:00 p.m.

In attendance:

George Scobie
Jessie Harrington
Gail Holloway
Dottie Kauffman
Meghan McCrillis

Maryellen Brunelle
Beth Chamberland
Rosemary Reidy
Joe Fahey

Casey Handfield
Eileen Donahue
Gregg Desto

Susan Lopez
Jessica Pitsillides
Marie Mahan
Jenn Stanick

Visitors:

Gerry and Mary Lou Delongchamp
Kathy Stone

Call to order and Pledge to the Flag:

At 6:06 p.m., Mr. Scobie 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.

Citizens' Comments: None

SUPERINTENDENT'S MEMO:

Interview of Applicant for Superintendent of Schools

Mr. Scobie welcomed everyone to the meeting. He noted that this meeting was to interview the sole internal candidate for Superintendent of Schools to replace Dr. Brunelle effective July 1, 2020. Mr. Casey Handfield, current Principal of Auburn High School was that applicant. He then asked Mr. Handfield to join the Committee at the table.

There followed a question and answer session.

Noting that as a former teacher of Mr. Handfield, she was honored to do so, Mrs. Holloway made a motion to appoint Mr. Casey Handfield as Superintendent of Schools, effective July 1, 2020, pending successful contract negotiations. Mrs. Kauffman seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved.

The Committee congratulated Mr. Handfield noting that he has very big shoes to fill as Dr. Brunelle has been a wonderful asset to the District. They feel he will continue her legacy.

Mr. Handfield, the Leadership Team and visitors exited the meeting. Dr. Brunelle and Dr. Chamberland came to the table.

Next Steps

With the appointment of Mr. Casey Handfield as the Superintendent of the Auburn Public Schools effective July 1, 2020, a posting had been prepared and Dr. Brunelle recommended that it be posted immediately as this is prime hiring season and we want to ensure that we find the best instructional leader possible to lead AHS moving forward.

Dr. Brunelle noted that she would be establishing an Interview Team, to include AHS staff, parents, Leadership Team representatives and up to two School Committee members. She asked if any members were interested in serving in this capacity, as it was her recommendation that the decision be made this evening as interviews would be held on Saturday, February 29, 2020.

Mrs. Kauffman made a motion to approve the posting for the Auburn High School Principal, as presented. Dr. McCrillis seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved.

Dr. McCrillis made a motion to have Mrs. Kauffman and Mrs. Harrington serve as the School Committee representatives on the AHS Principal Interview Team. Mrs. Holloway seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

At 7:11 p.m., Mrs. Holloway made a motion to enter Executive Session per MGL Chapter 39, Section 23B (7) to comply with MGL Chapter 71, Section 34D regarding 603 CMR 23, student records and under MGL Chapter 39, Section 23B (3) to discuss strategy with respect to collective bargaining with non-union personnel. Mrs. Kauffman seconded the motion and a roll call vote was taken:

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

The Committee returned to open session at 7:28 p.m. and amended the motion regarding the Committee representatives to the Superintendent Interview Team as Mrs. Harrington realized she was not available for interviews on February 29th. Dr. McCrillis withdrew her motion and Mrs. Harrington made the motion to have Mrs. Kauffman and Dr. McCrillis represent the School Committee on the Superintendent Interview Team.

There being no further business to discuss, at 7:30 p.m., Mrs. Kauffman made a motion to adjourn for the evening. Mrs. Holloway seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved.

Respectfully submitted,

Ailaine Zautner
Recording Secretary