

AUBURN SCHOOL COMMITTEE
MINUTES from Wednesday, February 20, 2019
School Committee Room, 7:00 p.m.

In attendance:

George Scobie
Jessie Harrington
Gail Holloway
Dottie Kauffman
Meghan Creelman

Absent:

Alli Schoenfeldt, Student Representative

Maryellen Brunelle
Casey Handfield

Visitors: Delia Shea with father

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:

Project 351 Ambassador's Report

This agenda item was tabled to a future meeting.

"Have a Heart" Campaign

Delia Shea was in attendance to announce that she is running a Toy Drive for Boston Children's Hospital. She showed a brief YouTube video explaining it. She did a great job presenting and was given kudos for once again doing this for Boston Children's Hospital.

"We the People" Team

The "We the People" team was congratulated for their amazing performance at the State Competition on January 26, 2019.

Mass Insight Education & Research Partners in Excellence Teacher Award

Auburn High School teachers Kaitlyn Senior, Marybeth Philbin and Karen Ballway were recognized for receiving a Mass Insight Education & Research Partners in Excellence Teacher Award for their exemplary work in MIE's STEM and English Program. They were three of 29 Massachusetts AP teachers who were recognized for their outstanding contributions to student success during the 2017-2018 school year. Kudos was given to all of them.

Auburn Schools Featured at Worcester Art Museum's Youth Art Show

Dr. Brunelle was recently informed that artwork from 326 students in grades K-12 across the Commonwealth, including Auburn, will be on display at the Central MA Regional Youth Art Month Exhibit in the Higgins Education Wing of the Worcester Art Museum from March 1st through March 31, 2019. Congratulations were given to all our young artists!

Business Manager Earns MCPPO Certification

Congratulations were given to Mrs. Cecelia Wirzbicki, Business Manager, for having earned her Massachusetts Certified Public Purchasing Officer (MCPPO) Certification.

Citizens' Comments: None

Student Representatives' Report: Ryan Garabedian and Alli Schoenfeldt

Ryan provided a report on behalf of Ali Schoenfeldt who had a conflict and could not be in attendance: the Rockets-to-Rockets Club were attending a semi-formal at Algonquin High on Friday, March 1st; the Valentine's Day fundraiser had gone well; students have applied for and are being vetted for acceptance into the National Honor Society, the Induction Ceremony being scheduled for March 28th; and finally, he noted for Ali that although having an abbreviated February vacation was initially "kind of painful," it worked out well allowing for a long weekend in March for the Music Department's trip to Disney and the Ski Club's trip to Colorado.

Ryan reported that the last Math and Quiz Show competitions had recently been held; the Model UN has two more competitions in mid-March and early April; a Spirit Week led up to the abbreviated February break with a winter carnival having been held on Friday, February 15th which included a student body versus staff volleyball game.

Approval of Regular Meeting Minutes:

February 6, 2019

Mrs. Harrington made a motion to approve the minutes of February 6, 2019; Mrs. Holloway seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved.

Superintendent's Report:

AHS Program of Studies

Mr. Handfield was in attendance to provide a brief overview on the updates to the AHS Program of Studies for next school year.

Mrs. Harrington made a motion to approve the updates as presented; Mrs. Holloway seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved.

School Calendar – 2019-2020

Dr. Brunelle, as she does annually, put together a draft of the FY 2019-2020 school year calendar with the Leadership Team's input. She was seeking the Committee's approval of it. Mrs. Harrington stated that a few concerns had been brought up about the abbreviated February break and she would like to see updated survey data from staff and parents. Mrs. Holloway stated that the teachers she had heard from were not happy with an abbreviated break, especially if they live outside of Auburn and their children are on a different schedule than they are. She also heard that AHS students were collecting signatures on a petition to go back to having the full week off. After some further discussion it was left that Dr. Brunelle would draft another survey for the School Committee's approval on March 6th that would be sent out to both parents and staff. Mr. Scobie cautioned sending it to students at AHS too.

The Committee also requested data on absenteeism from February 20th to 22nd and a data comparison of other neighboring districts calendars. Dr. Brunelle stated that she would have that information for the next meeting.

Master Plan – Auburn Public Schools

Dr. Brunelle provided a copy of the School Department's submission for the Master Plan document that a team is creating for the Town. She noted that the document reflects our current conditions, progress

and difficulties, as well as future needs that will arise as we continue to expand and grow in terms of students and programming. It was her recommendation that we consider having an enrollment projection study done and to that end, with the Committee's permission, she will solicit bids and return at an upcoming meeting with the cost to do so.

Mrs. Kauffman made a motion to authorize the Superintendent to solicit bids to conduct an enrollment projection to help determine future enrollment that may impact space and other needs; Mrs. Holloway seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved.

Governor Baker's FY 2020 Budget

Dr. Brunelle provided information on Governor Baker's House 1 budget which she received in an e-mail from Rob O'Donnell, DESE's Director of School Finance. She noted that the numbers from both the House and Senate are still to be released. She will keep the Committee apprised.

Letters to Senator Moore and Representative Frost

Dr. Brunelle provided copies of letters sent to both Senator Moore and Representative Frost seeking their support of full funding of Circuit Breaker.

Assabet Valley Collaborative Annual Report

Mrs. Kauffman made a motion to accept the Assabet Valley Collaborative Annual Report; Mrs. McCrillis seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved.

SWCEC Quarterly Report

Mrs. Kauffman made a motion to accept the SWCEC Quarterly Report for the period of October to December 2018; Mrs. Holloway seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved.

Donation of Radios from Auburn Police Department

Dr. Brunelle informed the Committee that as part of our ongoing collaboration with the Auburn Police Department, that due to an upgrade of radios at the Police Department, they have donated their excess two-way radios for use in our schools.

Mrs. McCrillis made a motion to accept with gratitude the donation of radios for Auburn Police Department; Mrs. Holloway seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved.

Unfinished Business:

FY 2020 Draft Budget

Dr. Brunelle noted that the Leadership Team once again reviewed the FY 2020 draft budget proposal and has recommended changes for the Committee's consideration. Three items were additions and the others were reductions. She provided a spreadsheet for their review, noting that all requested positions remain intact.

Mrs. Harrington made a motion to approve the revised FY 2020 draft budget of \$26,934,157 which reflects a dollar increase of \$1,084,595 and a percentage increase of 4.2% over the approved FY 2019 budget; Mrs. Holloway seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved.

New Business:

MSBA: The Story of a Building Program

Dr. Brunelle shared that she had recently been contacted by Barbara Hansberry from the MSBA who asked if we would be willing to participate in and host a training program that the MSBA and the Inspector General's MCPPO program have collaborated on regarding partnering with the MSBA to building a new school. Jack McCarthy, Executive Director of MSBA, suggested to the group that Auburn would be an ideal district to use for the theme this year which is "building operations and issues with new school operating systems."

The District has agreed to participate and the date for this day of training is scheduled for May 1, 2019.

Strategic Plan January 2019 Update

Dr. Brunelle shared the January 2019 update from the Design Team of the Strategic Plan, giving sincere thanks to both the Design Team and the Leadership Team for the progress made to date.

Public Hearing on the School Department's FY 2020 Draft Budget

Dr. Brunelle recommended that the Public Hearing on the FY 2020 draft budget be moved to the April 3, 2019 School Committee meeting in the hopes that either the House or Senate may publish their budget prior to that date so that we have more information.

Mrs. Kauffman made a motion to move the Public Hearing to April 3rd; Mrs. McCrillis seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved.

Teaching/Learning:

Learning Walks

On Dr. Lauzé's behalf, Dr. Brunelle provided an update on the 2018-2019 Learning Walks.

As Dr. Lauzé was not in attendance at the meeting the remainder of the Teaching/Learning agenda items were tabled to the March 3, 2019 meeting.

Business/Financial:

Year to Date Budget Report

On behalf of Mrs. Wirzbicki, Dr. Brunelle provided a year to date budget report as of February 13, 2019; there were no questions.

Transfers

On behalf of Mrs. Wirzbicki, Dr. Brunelle provided a listing of transfers both within and between the Series. She sought the Committee's approval of those transfers between the Series. Mrs. McCrillis made a motion to approve the transfers between the Series; Mrs. Holloway seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved.

End of Year Audit Report

On behalf of Mrs. Wirzbicki, Dr. Brunelle shared a copy of the FY 2018 Audit Report, noting that there were a few minor findings; however, she was happy to report that all issues have been completely resolved.

Annual Town Meeting Warrant

Dr. Brunelle shared that at the Board of Selectmen's meeting on February 11th, the Board voted to open the warrant for the May 7, 2019 Annual Town Meeting, with it closing on Friday, March 1, 2019 at 1:00 p.m. She provided a copy of the District's proposed articles for approval.

Mrs. Kauffman made a motion to approve the warrant articles for the Annual Town Meeting on May 7th as submitted; Mrs. Holloway seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved.

Bus Application FY 2019-2020

Dr. Brunelle reminded the audience that the bus application for FY 2019-2020 was now available, had been sent to families several times via the One Call e-mail system and would be sent home in hard copy with report cards.

Policies:

JFABC, Admission Procedures – Transfer Students – with tracking for update

JI, Student Rights and Responsibilities – No changes for update

JIB, Student Involvement in Decision-Making – No changes for update

JICC, Student Conduct on School Buses – No changes for update

JJ, Co-Curricular and Extra-Curricular Activities – No changes for update

JJ-E Co-Curricular and Extra-Curricular Activities – No changes for update

JJG, Contests for Students – No changes for update

JJIB, Interscholastic Athletes – No changes for update

Mrs. Kauffman made a motion to approve the above-named policies as updated; Mrs. Holloway seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved.

At 8:02 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. Harrington 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 from January 23, 2019 SC Meeting

Changes to APS Program of Studies

APS Master Plan Document

Copy of letters to Senator Moore and Representative Frost with attachment

AVC Annual Report

SWCEC 2nd Quarterly Report

Spreadsheet of additions/deletions to FY 2020 Draft Budget

Strategic Plan January 2019 Update

Year to Date Budget Report

Transfers

End of Year Audit Report

Policies: JFABC, JI, JIB, JICC, JJ, JJ-E, JJG, JJIB