

AUBURN SCHOOL COMMITTEE
MINUTES from Thursday, March 21, 2019
School Committee Room, 7:00 p.m.

In attendance:

George Scobie
Jessie Harrington
Gail Holloway
Dottie Kauffman
Meghan McCrillis

Maryellen Brunelle
Cecelia Wirzbicki
Gregg Desto

Brian Davis
Alison DeLuca
Nicole LePrevost

Students: Emma Ganley
Bryna St. Pierre
Elyse Whittemore
Thomas Maillett

Visitors: Mr. and Mrs. St. Pierre with Tristan
Mr. and Mrs. Maillett with Adam

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:

Unified Sports: Recognition of Student Leaders

Mr. Davis, Athletic Director, and AHS teachers, Nicole LePrevost and Ali DeLuca, were in attendance along with the three Unified Sports Ambassadors, Emma Ganley, Bryna St. Pierre and Elyse Whittemore, to provide an update on the students' roles as Ambassadors and their recent trips to Washington, D.C. and San Diego.

They gave a wonderful presentation and were heartily thanked by the Committee for all the fantastic work they do within the spectrum of Unified Sports and the Special Olympics and for being the leaders of tomorrow. They truly are helping the Auburn Public School District shine.

AMS Geography Bee Winner: Thomas Maillett

Mr. Desto was in attendance to introduce and recognize Thomas Maillett, 8th grade student, who was the school winner (out of 630 students) of the annual Geography Bee. Mr. Desto shared with the Committee that Thomas is already on to the state level Bee having taken a written test and scoring in the top 100 (out of 351) to get there. If he wins at the state level, he will move on to the National Geography Bee in Washington, D.C.

Thomas told the Committee that he has always been interested in Geography and studied on his own, and with his parents' help, to be successful. He noted that he is proud to represent Auburn.

The Committee noted that no matter how he did from here on in, he was already a winner in their eyes having reached this level. He was heartily congratulated.

MSAA Invitation: Mr. Gregg Desto

Mr. Gregg Desto was recognized for volunteering to serve on the MSAA's Committee to select the Principal of the Year. This selection will take place on April 11th. Kudos to Mr. Desto for accepting this invitation.

Citizens' Comments: None

Student Representatives' Report: Ryan Garabedian and Alli Schoenfeldt

Beginning this month, the winter athletic playoffs began. The boys' varsity ice hockey team upset the higher seed in the 1st round; The StuCo had their annual conference in Hyannis and won a gold award for their accomplishments. The Chorus and Band both had their Tri II concerts. The Ski Club had a good time on their trip to Park City, Utah; the band and chorus went to Disney and performed in a parade there; the Model UN Team had a competition at BC High; MCAS prep began; the Quiz Show Honor Bowl is taking place on March 22nd with the Mr. Auburn competition also on March 22nd.

Approval of Regular Meeting Minutes:

March 6, 2019

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

Superintendent's Report:

Cost to Participate in AHS Ice Hockey Programs

Mr. Davis, Athletic Director, was in attendance to request an increase in the cost of non-Auburn students' participation in the cooperative ice hockey teams, this due to the ever-rising cost of ice time. Mrs. McCrillis made a motion to approve the increase from \$1,000 each to \$1,200; Mrs. Kauffman seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved.

Hanover Theatre Donation

Dr. Brunelle notified the Committee that she was recently notified by Meghan Montaner of the Hanover Theatre that Dr. Martha Pappas, through her foundation, has offered to send every Auburn Public School student to one program at the Hanover Theatre for each of the next three years, which is an amazing donation. The only caveat is that we have to arrange and pay for transportation to and from the theatre.

To this end, Dr. Brunelle noted that AA Transportation has been outreached and they are willing to give a discounted rate, and with the Principals' input, ideas have been generated including requesting help from the PTO, ARC Jr.; and collecting partial fees from families, with the Helping Our Own Fund providing support to those families who need it.

Dr. Brunelle stated that this was an incredible opportunity for our students and the only opportunity some might have to ever get to go to the theatre.

MME Sustaining Partnership Program

Dr. Brunelle noted that it was time to renew our participation in the Mass Insight Education Sustaining Partnership Program - the Advanced Placement (AP) Program and it was her recommendation that the Committee approve our continued participation at a cost of up to \$15,000.

Mrs. Kauffman made a motion to approve the continuation of our participation in the Mass Insight Education Sustaining Partnership Program; Mrs. Holloway seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved.

Drop Out Rate 2017-2018

Dr. Brunelle shared that the APS dropout rate for 2017-2018 was 0.7%, with our goal being 0%. She noted that she continues to reach out to students who do dropout to get them to come back to school or get their GED.

Donation from School to Business Partnership Committee

Dr. Brunelle shared that the Auburn Chamber, through their School to Business Partnership Committee, had made a donation of \$501 to the Auburn Public Schools and it was her recommendation that we formally accept this money. Mrs. Kauffman made a motion to do so, with gratitude; Mrs. Holloway seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved.

Unfinished Business:

FY 2020 Draft Budget

Dr. Brunelle noted that there were no updates to share other than she and Mrs. Wirzbicki will present to the Finance Committee on March 27th. She reminded the Committee about the Public Hearing to be held on April 3rd at 7:00 p.m. in the School Committee Room.

Assistant Superintendent Posting

Dr. Brunelle shared that interviews for the Assistant Superintendent will take place on April 6th. With the posting closing on March 22, she is forming an Interview Team and asked for up to two School Committee members to volunteer to be nominated to the Team.

Mrs. Holloway and Mrs. McCrillis volunteered to serve. Mrs. Kauffman made a motion to nominate them both to serve as representatives of the School Committee; Mrs. Harrington seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved.

New Business:

Draft Schedule for School Committee Meetings in FY 2020

Mrs. Kauffman made a motion to approve the draft schedule for School Committee meetings for the 2019-2020 school year; Mrs. McCrillis seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved.

Upcoming School Committee Meetings

Dr. Brunelle noted that after the Public Hearing on April 3rd, School Committee meetings are scheduled for April 24th, May 1st, and again on May 7th prior to the Town Meeting. It was her recommendation that either the meeting of April 24th or May 1st be cancelled due to their close proximity in dates.

Mrs. Kauffman made a motion to cancel the meeting of May 1st and to keep the meeting of April 24th; Mrs. McCrillis seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved.

Telegram Request

Dr. Brunelle shared that a reporter, Brian Lee, from the Telegram had requested access to Executive Session Minutes. Access had been granted and his article in the Telegram on Sunday, March 17th had been favorable for APS. Dr. Brunelle noted that his request was more about compliance than content.

Upcoming Events

Dr. Brunelle noted that the events on the calendar are a sure sign that spring is here with “Spring into Kindergarten” events at both PAK and BM and Community Reading Days upcoming.

Business/Financial:

Year to Date Budget Report

Mrs. Wirzbicki provided a year to date budget report. There were no questions.

Transfers

Mrs. Wirzbicki provided a list of transfers both within and between the Series. She sought the Committee’s approval of those between the Series. Mrs. Kauffman made that motion; Mrs. Holloway seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved.

Student Activity Accounts

Noting the DESE requires a listing be provided to the School Committee for approval, she included a listing of current student activity accounts. Mrs. Kauffman made a motion to approve the listing; Mrs. Holloway seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved.

Revolving Accounts

Mrs. Wirzbicki provided a Revolving Account update. There were no questions.

Bus Application

Mrs. Wirzbicki reminded the audience that the bus application was available for next year and had to be turned in by June 1st to avoid a late fee. She noted that 206 applications had been received as of March 13th.

Policies:

DJA, Purchasing Authority – No changes

JICFA-E, Hazing – Tracking Changes

JL, Student Welfare – Tracking Changes

JLA, Student Insurance Program – Tracking Changes

JLCA, Physical Examinations of Students – No Changes

JP, Student Gifts and Solicitations – No Changes

JRA, Student Records – Tracking Changes

JRD, Student Photographs – No Changes

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

At 8:04 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. Kauffman 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:

PPT for Unified Sports

Minutes from 3-6-19

Memo from Mr. Davis re Ice Hockey programs

MME Sustaining Partnership Program Letter of Agreement

Drop Out Rate

Postings for Assistant Superintendent Position

Draft Schedule for SC Meetings for FY 20

Year to Date Budget Report

Transfers

Student Activity Accounts

Revolving Accounts

Policies: DJA; JICFA-E; JL; JLA; JLCA.; JP; JRA; JRD