

**AUBURN SCHOOL COMMITTEE
MINUTES from Wednesday, April 3, 2019
AHS Auditorium, 6:00 p.m.**

In attendance:

George Scobie
Jessie Harrington
Gail Holloway
Dorothy Kauffman
Meghan McCrillis

Maryellen Brunelle
Kathy Lauzé
Cecelia Wirzbicki
Rosemary Reidy
Joe Fahey

Eric Bouvier
Casey Handfield
Eileen Donahue
Gregg Desto
Matt Carlson

Susan Lopez
Beth Chamberland
Jenn Stanick
Janice King

Call to Order and Pledge: Mr. Scobie called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. 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.

School Committee Public Hearing on the FY 2019 Budget

At 7:00 p.m. the moderator, Mr. Chet Stencel, called the Public Hearing to order. In attendance were Tom Kies, Stephen Lindberg, Bill Westerlind and Gwen White.

Each administrator read his/her budget line items.

Special Recognitions:

Day on the Hill: Madison Poshkus and Alexis McGrail

Dr. Brunelle shared that Madison Poshkus and Alexis McGrail, Auburn High Seniors, were chosen to represent Auburn High School at a Day on the Hill and Friday, April 5th. Each year, chosen students are given an opportunity to take part in an essay contest with the winner being the Student Governor for the day. Madison's essay won the contest – a copy is included for you to read – and she will be representing Governor Baker. Dr. Brunelle indicated that Madison's essay was absolutely worthy of being chosen and offered her congratulations which the Committee reiterated. Madison and Alexis will be in attendance at an upcoming meeting to share their experiences.

Citizens' Comments: None

Approval of Regular Meeting Minutes:

March 21, 2019

Mrs. Harrington made a motion to approve the minutes from the March 21st School Committee meeting; Mrs. Holloway seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved.

Superintendent's Report:

Calendar Surveys and 2019-2020 School Year Calendar

Dr. Brunelle noted that surveys had gone out to parents, staff and AHS students regarding the 2019-2020 school calendar and she presented three versions of the calendar for the Committee's consideration: the first one was the original presented earlier in the year; the second version brought back the full February vacation week but eliminated the long weekend in March; and the third brought back the full February vacation week and kept the long March weekend.

The only change that had been made to all three versions was a change to the half day in March, from March 12th to March 3rd, this based on information received from the Town Clerk, Mrs. Gremo, who notified Dr. Brunelle that March 3, 2020 is the day for the next Presidential Primary. Based on the turn-out being 44% the last time a Presidential Primary was held, and Mrs. Gremo's sense that this time will see an equally good turnout, maybe even a better one, it was decided to make that a half day for students to ease the parking issues at AHS during voting.

Noting that the survey results were unexpected, the Chair noted that he supports the return to a full February vacation and hoped that parents would not feel unsupported by him because of that. Each member of the

Committee then went on to voice their approval of the return of the full week of vacation and their reasoning for that.

Some of the comments from the Committee included that parents may have repeatedly completed the survey skewing the results; that no comments from parents or staff indicated that the abbreviated February break improved the students' education; that the 5 days of professional development should be revisited during the next negotiations and that the February vacation could also be revisited in the future; that in a year where there are many snow days, perhaps "Snow Packets" could be instituted; and that during the newly instated full week of February vacation an intensive cleaning be undertaken at all schools to rid them of the germs of the cold and flu season.

After discussion, Mrs. Kauffman made a motion to approve calendar version #2 for the 2019-2020 school year which brings back February vacation but eliminates the extra day off in March; Mrs. Holloway seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved.

Competitive Safety Grant Opportunity

Dr. Brunelle informed the Committee that she was recently notified of a competitive grant opportunity that had become available with applications due on April 3rd. The intention of the grant is to "enhance the safety and security of the local school district. Priority will be given to schools demonstrating the greatest need, who propose cost-effective solutions to address high-priority gaps or weaknesses and for schools that are taking meaningful steps to establish a safer and supportive school climate, in order to reduce instances of violence.

Dr. Brunelle noted that through the ongoing work of the Safety Advisory Team, we are in far better shape than some other school districts, but in keeping with our commitment to continuous improvement, we have applied for these funds in the amount of \$58,963. Grant awards are expected to be announced by the end of April, so she will keep the Committee apprised.

High Honor and Honor Roll Letters – Trimester II

Dr. Brunelle noted that she and Dr. Lauzé had sent congratulatory letters to AMS and AHS students that made both the High Honor Roll and Honor Roll for Trimester II.

Vape Exchange Initiative

Dr. Brunelle informed the Committee that Ms. Eileen Donahue, Assistant Principal of Auburn High School, is running a vape exchange initiative on Thursday, April 4th at AHS. Anytime Fitness agreed to partner with AHS in this endeavor and will be offering a free 3-month gym membership to any student who turns in a membership application.

Unfinished Business:

School Committee Meeting Prior to Town Meeting

Dr. Brunelle reminded the Committee of the School Committee Meeting that is usually held prior to the Annual Town Meeting.

Mrs. Kauffman made a motion to approve that a School Committee meeting be held at 6:30 p.m. in the Guidance Office Conference Room on Tuesday, May 7th; Mrs. Holloway seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved.

New Business:

AHS Field Trip to Connecticut Science Center

Auburn High Teachers, Rachel Griffin and Emily Para, sought the Committee's permission to take their Anatomy 2 and Kinesiology students to see the "Bodies" exhibit at the Connecticut Science Center.

Mrs. Holloway made a motion to approve the trip; Mrs. McCrillis seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved.

AHS Senior Musical: *Chicago*

Dr. Brunelle reminded the audience and the Committee members that the Senior Class Musical was being presented on Friday and Saturday, April 5th and 6th at 7:00 p.m. in the AHS Auditorium, as well as a matinee performance on Sunday, April 7th at 2:00 p.m. She encouraged those who could to attend.

Business/Financial:

Year to Date Budget Report

Mrs. Wirzbicki provided a year to date budget report.

Transfers

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

There being no further business to discuss, at 8:31 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

Referenced Documents:

Minutes of March 21, 2019 SC Meeting

Calendar Surveys

Versions 1, 2 and 3 of the 2019-2020 School Calendar

Example Letter to AHS/AMS Honor Roll Students

AHS Field Trip Request to "Bodies" exhibit in CT

Year to Date Budget Report

Transfers