

AUBURN SCHOOL COMMITTEE
MINUTES from Wednesday, April 24, 2019
School Committee Room, 7:00 p.m.

In attendance:

George Scobie
Gail Holloway
Dottie Kauffman
Meghan McCrillis

Absent:

Jessie Harrington

Maryellen Brunelle
Kathy Lauzé
Cecelia Wirzbicki
Dan Creamer
Sami Kozik

Ryan Garabedian

Alli Schoenfeldt

Call to Order and Pledge:

At 7:00 p.m., Mr. Scobie called the meeting to order and asked if anyone was recording the meeting; there being none, he asked that everyone join him in the Pledge to the Flag.

Special Recognitions:

F.A.M.E. Logo Contest

Dr. Brunelle notified the Committee that Friends of Auburn Music Education (FAME) had recently held a logo contest with an individual panel of judges selecting Emily Dorval, SWIS Grade 5 student, as the winner. Her artwork will be displayed on the FAME social media channels with her having won a 4-pack of movie passes as her prize. Congratulations were sent her way.

Hanover Scholarship Award

Thanking them for their incredible generosity over the years, Dr. Brunelle announced that Emily Wambach from the Class of 2019 had been chosen to receive a scholarship from Hanover Insurance Company. The award will be given at their Scholarship Celebration on May 14th, at which Dr. Brunelle noted she could not be in attendance. Dr. Lauzé and Mr. Handfield will be present to support Emily.

MIAA Mickey Sullivan Award

Dr. Brunelle noted that she had recently heard from Mr. Brian Davis, Athletic Director, that Ryan Henderson, Class of 2019, is the recipient of the Mickey Sullivan Student Achievement Award from the MIAA. Ryan achieved this award because he has made a meaningful and lasting contribution to AHS athletics. Dr. Brunelle noted that he was also a top scholar and the Committee offered their congratulations.

Citizens' Comments: None

Student Representatives' Report: Ryan Garabedian and Alli Schoenfeldt

Alli was unable to be present but sent her report with Ryan. Alli noted that the time prior to April vacation had a lot of events taking place. The NHS Induction was a success and a beautiful ceremony for

all. The Humanities Scholars had their final meet during the first week of April and it was another successful year for this team too. The prom is coming up and tickets went on sale prior to vacation. The Students of the Environment organized a town-wide clean up to celebrate Earth Day which had to be postponed due to rain and will take place on a Saturday later this month. Rockets to Rockets had a field trip to the bowling alley and Student Council is looking forward to Kindness Week, with the theme being, "Spread to word to end the word." Alli noted that it was important for the AHS community to raise awareness in regards to being kind to those who may be different.

Ryan noted that the AHS Band had won a bronze medal at MICCA. The spring musical, "Chicago," was amazing. The NHS went to Boto Board before break with the new inductees. The break really rejuvenated everyone for AP exams in early May and senior week beginning two weeks after that.

Approval of Regular Meeting Minutes:

April 3, 2019

Mrs. Holloway made a motion to approve the minutes of the April 3rd meeting; Mrs. McCrillis seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved.

Superintendent's Report:

AMS Trip to Costa Rica

Mr. Dan Creamer, Department Head and Foreign Language teacher at AHS, along with Ms. Sami Kozik, Special Educator, were in attendance to seek the Committee's approval of a trip to Costa Rica during April vacation in 2020. This trip has taken place in the past but not since 2017. Mr. Creamer gave a brief overview of the trip and Dr. Brunelle indicated that she recommended the Committee approve it.

Mrs. Kauffman made a motion to approve the AHS trip to Costa Rica in April 2020; Mrs. Holloway seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved.

AHS Freshman Trip to Canobie Lake Park, NH

The freshman class advisors submitted a request to take the freshman class on a trip to Canobie Lake Park in NH. This trip has taken place over many years and it is Dr. Brunelle's recommendation that you approve it.

Mrs. Kauffman made a motion to approve the AHS Freshman Class trip to Canobie Lake Park, NH in June 2019; Mrs. Holloway seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved.

Reciprocal Teaching in the Social Studies Classroom

As part of his dissertation that he is completing for his Doctorate in Education degree from John Hopkins University on Reciprocal Teaching in the Social Studies Classroom, Mr. Handfield sought Dr. Brunelle's permission to conduct a survey of students and staff at Auburn High School. Permission slips will be sent to parents and only those who allow their child(ren) to participate will be included. The survey results will be in the aggregate and anonymous and Dr. Brunelle approved the request.

Donation from WPI to AMS

Dr. Brunelle informed the Committee that AMS 8th grade STEM class had received 20 T-inspire calculators from the Massachusetts Academy of Math and Science at WPI. It was her recommendation that the donation be accepted by the Committee.

Mrs. Kauffman made a motion to approve with gratitude the donation of 20 T-inspire calculators from WPI; Mrs. Holloway seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved.

New Principal at Bryn Mawr

Dr. Brunelle asked if any Committee member was interested in serving on the Interview Team for the hiring of a new principal at Bryn Mawr. Mrs. Holloway volunteered to serve so Mrs. Kauffman made a motion to nominate her to serve; Mrs. McCrillis seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved.

House Ways & Means Budget

Dr. Brunelle shared with the Committee that the House Ways & Means released their proposed FY 20 budget which included an additional \$13,185 in Chapter 70 funding for Auburn, which she noted was good news for the entire community.

Unfinished Business:

Reminder: School Committee Meeting Prior to Town Meeting

Dr. Brunelle reminded the Committee that the next meeting was scheduled for May 7th at 6:30 p.m. in the AHS Guidance Department Conference Room, just prior to the Annual Town Meeting.

Department of Environmental Protection

Dr. Brunelle shared that the Mass Department of Environmental Protection had officially indicated, in a letter dated April 2nd, that we have complied with the requirements of the Order, this regarding the Administrative Consent Order and Notice of Noncompliance served by them in October 2018.

New Business:

Blaker Street: Potential Housing Project

Dr. Brunelle provided an update on the potentially large housing project which was originally known as the Reserve at Ashworth Hill on Blaker Street in Auburn. For a long period of time there was no additional information available; however, Dr. Brunelle notified the members that she had recently been contacted by Eastland Partners, the developer, with them seeking updated information about student enrollment, per pupil costs and the like. She noted that Eastland Partners has completed an impact analysis and would be making a presentation at the April 17th DCG meeting to share the information with the Department and Division Heads. Dr. Lauzé was in attendance at the meeting and provided an update.

Dr. Lauzé noted that as friendly or hostile, this large housing project is coming. They don't have all the answers just now but know it will have a slight impact on our budget with additional enrollments. They are slated to be 40B rental properties with 250 units being phased in over time which will result in perhaps approximately 50 young children enrolling in our District per their estimates. Dr. Brunelle will keep a close eye on it and keep the Committee apprised.

Upcoming Events

Dr. Brunelle noted that transition meetings and step up days will soon be upon us as the school year flying by!

Teaching/Learning:

Title 1 Tiered Focus Monitoring Report

Dr. Lauzé shared that she had recently received word that Auburn has successfully passed the Title I program review with no areas in need of correction. She stated that this great news speaks to everyone's hard work.

Summer School Programming

Dr. Lauzé shared the summer programming that will be taking place in July and August: the Extended Year Program for qualifying students in grades PreK-12 who are on individual Education Plans. It is a half day program running from Monday to Thursday for 5 weeks. The Title I Remedial Program for students in grades 1-8 runs from Monday to Thursday for 4 weeks and is a grant-funded program for qualifying students. The Kindergarten Readiness Program will run for 3 weeks, Monday - Thursday and is also grant-funded for qualifying students. The AMS STEM Camp, for students entering grades 6-8, will run for 5 full days, 8:30 - 3:30 p.m. from July 22nd - 26th, with a \$160 fee to attend; and finally Camp Invention for students in grades K-6 which also runs for 5 full days, 8:30 - 3:00 p.m. from July 29th - August 2nd, with a \$255 fee to attend.

Math Night Update

Dr. Lauzé provided an update on the District Math Night which took place on April 4th at Auburn Middle School with many of the AMS math team members volunteering to run various stations. Dr. Lauzé stated that it was an extremely successful event and gave kudos to Math Coach, Annette Lemerise, and the Elementary Math Paraprofessionals from each building and John Bastien, Math Department Head at AMS for designing and running such a successful event.

Fine Arts Update

Dr. Lauzé reported that the annual Festival of Arts, STEM and Wellness will take place on May 9th at AHS from 4:00 to 7:00 p.m. Dr. Lauzé stated that it is always a fun family event that highlights the creative growth of students as they move through the grades.

Early College Summer Course

Dr. Lauzé notified the Committee that a college course will be offered to AHS students through our partnership with Quinsigamond College. Mr. Bouvier, Director of Technology will teach the course called Introduction to Information Technology. The cost of the course is \$100 and students who successfully complete it will earn 3 college credits.

Business/Financial:

Year to Date Budget Report

Mrs. Wirzbicki provided a year-to-date budget report dated April 11th.

Transfers

Mrs. Kauffman made a motion to approve the transfers as presented by the Business Manager; Mrs. Holloway seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved.

Solar Projects on the AMS and AHS Roofs

Dr. Brunelle noted that the contract with the solar company is nearly ready to be finalized and she sought the Committee's approval to do so, noting that the District may save up to \$49,000 in the first year, with additional savings to be potentially realized in the remaining 19 years of the contract.

Mrs. McCrillis made a motion to support the Superintendent, Business Manager and Director of Facilities in finalizing the contract with the solar company. Once finalized, the School Committee Chair will sign the contract, along with the Superintendent and the Town Manager doing the same. Mrs. Kauffman seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved.

Constellation Project

Mrs. Wirzbicki shared that the District's electricity contract expires on May 1, 2019. She noted that the District has been working with the Town to explore options which could benefit both the Town and the District. It is her recommendation that the School Department aggregate their electricity usage with the Town, signing a contract with Constellation for a three year period beginning May 1, 2019 through April 30, 2022, for a fixed price of .097 cents per KWH.

Mrs. Kauffman made a motion to approve the contract with Constellation as presented by the Business Manager; Mrs. Holloway seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved.

Bid Proposal for Turf Field at AHS

Mrs. Wirzbicki provided a memo to the Committee recommending that they accept a bid proposal from NET Sports to remove the existing turf and install new artificial turf at the AHS Football Field. They were the lowest most responsive bid with an overall price of \$425,000. She further stated that the funding would be provided by the Town's Stabilization Fund and School Capital Improvement funds, with the project commencing on July 1, 2019 with a target date of August 10, 2019, in order to be ready for the fall sports season.

Mrs. Kauffman made a motion to approve entering into an agreement with NET Sports Group for the removal of the existing turf and the installation of new artificial slit film grass on the football field at AHS; Mrs. Holloway seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved.

There being no further business to discuss, at 7:45 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 April 3rd Meeting
FAME Logo Winners
AHS Trip to Costa Rica
AHS Freshman Trip to Canobie Lake, NH
Thank you letter to WPI
Letter from MassDEP
Year to Date Budget Report
Transfers
Memo from Mrs. Wirzbicki re Solar
Memo from Mrs. Wirzbicki re Constellation
Memo from Mrs. Wirzbicki re Bid Proposal for Turf Field with contract to be signed