

AUBURN SCHOOL COMMITTEE
MINUTES from Wednesday, May 22, 2019
School Committee Room, 3:00 p.m.

In attendance:

George Scobie
Jessie Harrington
Gail Holloway
Dottie Kauffman

Absent:

Meghan McCrillis

Maryellen Brunelle
Cecelia Wirzbicki

Alli Schoenfeldt

Ryan Garabedian

Call to Order and Pledge:

At 3:04 p.m. Dr. Brunelle called the meeting to order and asked that everyone join her in the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

Reorganization of School Committee:

Dr. Brunelle asked for nominations for Chairperson. Mrs. Kauffman nominated Mr. Scobie for Chair; Mrs. Holloway seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved.

Mr. Scobie thanked the members for their unanimous vote to for him to serve as Chair once again. He noted he really appreciated it and that it was great working with them all.

Mrs. Scobie asked for nominations for Vice Chairperson. Mrs. Holloway nominated Mrs. Harrington; Mrs. Kauffman seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved. Mrs. Harrington thanked the members for their unanimous vote.

It was noted that Mrs. Zautner would continue as the Recording Secretary and Secretary to the School Committee.

Special Recognitions:

Cast and Crew of Chicago

Dr. Brunelle, stating again that the AHS presentation of the musical, "Chicago," had been absolutely phenomenal, noted that she was excited to share the nominations it garnered for TAMY Awards. She stated that it speaks to the quality of the program. She congratulated Derek Brigham, Best Actor Nominee, Sean Campbell, Best Supporting Actor Nominee and Georgia Pokropowicz, Not Your Average Chorus Member nominee, as well as the eight nominations received.

Citizens' Comments: None

Student Representatives' Report: Ryan Garabedian and Alli Schoenfeldt

Alli Schoenfeldt was in attendance and noted that the Senior Prom was held on May 11th with it being really fun and falling on the one warm day we had experienced in quite some time! She noted that Kindness Week had recently taken place with the Student Council using the acronym SMILE for each of the days: Socks Up for Down Syndrome; Motivational Tuesday; Inspirational Wednesday; Love and Ignite the Light on Thursday and ending with Spread the Word to END the Word on Friday.

Alli also noted that the Seniors are now done and Junior Seminar has started. AP exams are over and Mr. Berg and the AP Bio students travelled to both BM and PAK to teach Science to the primary students. The Rockets to Rockets Club held a Food Drive to benefit AYFS and May 30th is Step Up Day for the incoming Freshman Class.

Approval of Regular Meeting Minutes:

Mrs. Kauffman made a motion to approve the minutes of both the April 24th and May 7th meetings; Mrs. Holloway seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved.

Superintendent's Report:

US News and World Report Ranking Regarding America's Best High Schools

Dr. Brunelle shared the good news that Auburn High School ranked 120 out of 395 high schools in Massachusetts (top 30%) and 2,848 out of 17,245 nationwide (top 16.5%), this in the US News and World Report Ranking Regarding America's Best High Schools which has afforded us the designation as "One of America's Best High Schools." She noted that it speaks to the work across the District.

Strategic Plan April 2019 Update

Thanking the Design Team as well as the Leadership Team for all their efforts, Dr. Brunelle provided an April 2019 update to the Strategic Plan, noting that substantial progress has been made to date.

Youth Opioid Prevention Grant Public Service Announcement

Noting that it began with the October 2017 Vigil, Dr. Brunelle shared a Public Service Announcement regarding the Youth Opioid Epidemic and its Prevention which was produced by Mr. Bergman and his AHS TV Production students, this being the final piece of the grant which has now ended. The Committee noted that it was extremely well done; however sobering.

Staff Recognitions

Dr. Brunelle noted that this was the time of year when there was an opportunity to thank the people who contribute to the District on a day-to-day basis. She stated that the District is an epitome of teamwork. She also thanked the PTO and Booster Clubs who are always so good to our staff.

SWCEC Quarterly Report

Mrs. Kauffman made a motion to accept the third quarter report from SWCEC; Mrs. Holloway seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved.

Unfinished Business:

MSBA, Story of a Building

Dr. Brunelle provided a letter of thanks from the MSBA for the AMS' hosting of a "Story of a Building" on May 1st which had been a huge success. She noted that it couldn't have happened with the hard work of Joe Fahey, Gregg Desto, Cecelia Wirzbicki, Matt Carlson, Janice King and the Auburn Middle School Secretaries, Maura Goulet and Sabrina Heiniluoma.

New Business:

Superintendent's Evaluation

The Committee was provided with a copy of Dr. Brunelle's evaluation instrument and asked to return their completed rubric to Mrs. Zautner by May 31st so that the results could be tabulated and available for Mr. Scobie to read at the June 5th Meeting.

Bryn Mawr Principal

Dr. Brunelle stated that she was thrilled to announce that Mrs. Marie Mahan was unanimously appointed as the new Principal of Bryn Mawr School effective July 1, 2019. She noted that Mrs. Mahan had done an outstanding job as Assistant Principal of the Swanson Road Intermediate School this year and she had no doubt she will do a stellar job as Bryn Mawr's new Principal. Dr. Brunelle noted that Mrs. Mahan would be formally introduced as the new Principal at the June 5th School Committee Meeting.

Upcoming Events

Dr. Brunelle brought the Committee's attention to the Memorial Day Programs which she noted are always outstanding and respectful recognitions of our fallen service men and women. She noted that the last day for students was in three short weeks on June 12th.

Reminder: Class of 2019 Graduation

Dr. Brunelle reminded the members of the Class of 2019 Graduation Ceremony which will be held on Friday, June 7th at 6:30 p.m. in the Gymnasium at AHS. Official invitations were provided to the members at their seats.

AMS 8th Grade Graduation

Dr. Brunelle noted that the 8th Grade Graduation Ceremony would be held on Tuesday, June 11th at 10:00 a.m. and will be held at AMS. She noted that formal invitations would be forthcoming.

Grade 1 Enrollment at Pakachoag 2019-2020

Dr. Brunelle notified that Committee that she was monitoring class sizes at the elementary schools and had just been informed by Mrs. Stanick at Pakachoag that the Grade 1 numbers were currently at 102. She sought the Committee's approval to potentially hire an additional grade 1 teacher with School Choice funds paying the salary of a secondary teacher and in turn those funds used to pay the salary of this additional 1st grade teacher.

Mrs. Kauffman made a motion to approve the hiring of an additional grade 1 teacher with School Choice funds paying the salary of a secondary teacher and in turn those funds used to pay the salary of this new hire; Mrs. Holloway seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved.

Business/Financial:

Year to Date Budget Report

Mrs. Wirzbicki provided a year to date budget report as of May 10th.

Transfers

Mrs. Harrington made a motion to approve the transfer between the Series as presented by the Business Manager; Mrs. Holloway seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved.

Omnibus Transfers

As is custom at this time of year, Mrs. Wirzbicki sought the Committee's granting of Omnibus approval to make transfers, notifying the Committee after the fact, as her department works to close out FY 2019. Mrs. Harrington made a motion to grant Omnibus approval to Mrs. Wirzbicki; Mrs. Holloway seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved.

Revolving Account Update

For information purposes, Mrs. Wirzbicki provided a revolving account update.

Student Activity Accounts Procedure Manual

Mrs. Wirzbicki provided a revised Student Activity Accounts Procedure Manual with a memo requesting the Committee's approval of maximum amounts to be held in the AHS and AMS checking accounts. She noted that Bryn Mawr, Pakachoag and Swanson Road's accounts have been closed out.

Mrs. Holloway made a motion to approve the maximum amount of \$20,000 to be held in the Auburn High Schools' checking account and the maximum of \$15,000 to be held in the Auburn Middle Schools' checking account; Mrs. Harrington seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved.

Request for Approval of Borrowing through Government Capital

Mrs. Wirzbicki provided a memo requesting approval of borrowing through Government Capital for the AHS Football Field. The borrowing would be for 3 years and the payments each year would be \$55,000, with those amounts held in CIP for years 2021 and 2022; in 2023 monies will need to be repurposed in that amount and that will be brought forward at a future meeting.

Mrs. Holloway made a motion to authorize the School Department to finance \$165,000 in Capital Funds for the AHS Football Field; Mrs. Kauffman seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved.

Bus Applications 2019-2020

Mrs. Wirzbicki reminded the audience that bus applications were due by June 1st or a late fee of \$100 would be levied. As of May 17th, 852 applications had been received.

Personnel:

School Social Worker

Mrs. Kauffman made a motion to approve the job description for School Social Workers; Mrs. Holloway seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved.

Because these are new positions in the District, the Committee asked that the two new hires be asked to attend a School Committee meeting in the fall to provide a description of the type of work they will be undertaking.

There being no further business to discuss, at 3:54 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 24th and May 7th; Strategic Plan April 2019 Update; SWCEC 3rd Quarterly Report; Superintendent's Evaluation Docs; Year to Date Budget Report; Transfers; Revolving Account Update; Memo re Omnibus transfers; Student Activity Accounts Procedure Manual; and memo; Memo re Approval of Borrowing through Government Capital; School Social Worker Job Description.