

**AUBURN SCHOOL COMMITTEE**

**School Committee Meeting of Wednesday, June 3, 2020 at 2:00 p.m.**

**Zoom:** <https://zoom.us/j/98014050419?pwd=WS9tbThtQkFQUVQ4dHp1ZDhVOXFNZz09>

**In attendance:**

George Scobie  
Jessie Harrington  
Gail Holloway  
Dottie Kauffman  
Meghan McCrillis

Maryellen Brunelle  
Beth Chamberland  
Cecelia Wirzbicki  
Casey Handfield

**Call to order:** Checking that everyone was in attendance (via Zoom), Mr. Scobie called the meeting to order at 2:02 p.m.

**SPECIAL RECOGNITIONS:**

**Matt Smith: In Memoriam**

Dr. Brunelle shared that Matthew Smith, long-time Auburn High School math teacher, passed away on Friday, May 29, 2020 at the age of 96 years old. He began teaching mathematics at Auburn High School in 1955. He also taught driver education which included behind-the-wheel instruction for many years. He retired in 1990.

Matt was predeceased by his wife of 71 years in 2016. He leaves behind 6 children and their spouses, having been predeceased by his son, David; he also leaves behind 11 grandchildren and 9 great-grandchildren.

Dr. Brunelle asked everyone to join her in a moment of silence in memory of Matt.

**MINUTES FOR APPROVAL:**

**May 26, 2020**

Dr. McCrillis made a motion to approve the Minutes of the May 26th meeting; Dottie Kauffman seconded the motion and a roll call vote was taken:

*Roll call vote:*

*Dr. McCrillis - Yes; Mrs. Kauffman - Yes; Mrs. Harrington - Yes; Mr. Scobie - Yes;*

**SUPERINTENDENT'S MEMO:**

**Amended Contracts for Secretaries and Instructional Assistants**

Noting that the Custodians had negotiated in their new contract that any new employees would pay 2% into OPEB for ten years, Dr. Brunelle stated that it was her recommendation that the recently negotiated Secretaries' and Instructional Assistants' contracts reflect the same. She noted that she had reached out to both bargaining units and they were in full agreement.

Mrs. Harrington made a motion to update the Secretaries' and IAs' contract to reflect the same OPEB language as the Custodians' contract; Mrs. Kauffman seconded the motion and a roll call vote was taken:

*Roll call vote:*

*Dr. McCrillis - Yes; Mrs. Kauffman - Yes; Mrs. Harrington - Yes; Mr. Scobie - Yes;*

### **Letters to Retirees**

As has been done in previous years, Dr. Brunelle shared that letters have been prepared for signature of Committee members and herself to go to all staff members retiring at the end of the 2019-2020 school year to offer appreciation for their dedicated service to the students of Auburn. In total, the ten ladies who are retiring have given 227 years of services to the Auburn Public Schools!

Mrs. Harrington made a motion to sign the letters to retirees and have them distributed; Mrs. Kauffman seconded the motion and a roll call vote was taken.

*Roll call vote:*

*Dr. McCrillis - Yes; Mrs. Kauffman - Yes; Mrs. Harrington - Yes; Mr. Scobie - Yes;*

### **UNFINISHED BUSINESS:**

#### **AHS National Honor Society Induction Ceremony**

Stating that although it was held remotely, Dr. Brunelle said the National Honor Society Induction Ceremony was still a wonderful program. She noted that Elise Cavanaugh, Class of 2014, was the guest speaker and did a phenomenal job and the School Committee's own Alli Schoenfeldt was awarded the National Honor Society Academia Award, which honors the student who most embodies the spirit of the Auburn High School core values of Community, Academics and Respect. Dr. Brunelle offered kudos to Mr. Kennard and Mrs. LaBeaume and congratulated Allie and all the new inductees.

#### **AMS 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Graduation Plans**

Dr. Brunelle noted that the plans for the Auburn Middle School 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Graduation were included in the packet. She noted that social distancing will be in place but it will still be an appropriate graduation for the 8th graders heading off to high school. She also noted that the Board of Health have been provided with the plans and have given them their blessing.

#### **Return to School Working Group**

Per your request, Dr. Brunelle noted that this agenda item had been added to determine if a second School Committee member would like to be a part of this group.

Mrs. Kauffman made a motion to nominate Jessie Harrington to join the APS Return To School Team, to serve with Dr. McCrillis, and the others who ultimately participate; Dr. McCrillis seconded the motion and a roll call vote was taken:

*Roll call vote:*

*Dr. McCrillis - Yes; Mrs. Kauffman - Yes; Mrs. Harrington - Yes; Mr. Scobie - Yes;*

### **NEW BUSINESS:**

#### **High School Graduation Guidelines to Help Prevent the Spread of COVID-19**

Dr. Brunelle shared an "On the Desktop" memo from Commissioner Riley regarding guidelines for High School Graduations, noting that Dr. Handfield and Mr. Desto would be following these guidelines as they complete plans for their respective Class of 2020 and 8<sup>th</sup> Grade graduations.

#### **Before and After School Programs – Rates**

Dr. Brunelle noted that in light of the ongoing impact of COVID-19, it was her recommendation that the Committee rescind their vote to increase the fees for the Satellite, Galaxy, Asteroids and Little Rockets programs for the 2020-2021 school year, thus leaving them at the current rates.

Mrs. Kauffman made a motion to rescind the vote of December 18, 2020 to increase the rates for the Before and After Programs for the 2020-2021 school year; Dr. McCrillis seconded the motion and a roll call vote was taken:

*Roll call vote:*

*Dr. McCrillis - Yes; Mrs. Kauffman - Yes; Mrs. Holloway - Yes; Mrs. Harrington - Yes; Mr. Scobie - Yes;*

Dr. Brunelle noted that it was her recommendation that the tuition rates for Preschool remain as voted on December 18, 2020 as a sliding fee is available for families should they need it. The Committee concurred.

### **TEACHING/LEARNING REPORT:**

#### **Summer School Update**

Dr. Chamberland provided an update on the status of the Extended School Year (Special Education) and the Title I Remedial summer programs, both of which she noted are going to be held remotely. She shared that letters have gone out to ESY students and those for the Title I Remedial program will be going home soon. She stated that they are targeting certain students to be in attendance and the students will get to keep the iPads for that.

#### **Listing of Colleges and Universities Accepting Class of 2020 Graduates**

Dr. Chamberland provided a listing of the colleges and universities that have accepted AHS Class of 2020 graduates. WAY TO GO ROCKETS! She noted the list was impressive and makes her wonder what the students' interests are and what their professions will be! She noted that the District has a lot to be proud of.

### **BUSINESS/FINANCIAL REPORT:**

#### **Year to Date Budget Report**

Mrs. Wirzbicki provided a year to date budget report as of June 1, 2020; there were no questions.

#### **Omnibus Transfers**

Mrs. Wirzbicki provided Omnibus Transfers for your information.

#### **Bus Application Update**

Mrs. Wirzbicki shared that the deadline for bus applications had been extended to June 12<sup>th</sup>. There were still many applications to be received.

#### **SPED Stabilization Fund**

Mrs. Wirzbicki asked that the Committee please rescind their vote authorizing \$81,700.36 be spent from the SPED Stabilization Fund as the funds were not needed, one because the evaluation could not begin due to the extended closure and the other being paid with savings realized in the current fiscal year.

Mrs. Holloway made a motion to rescind the vote to request to use \$81,700.36 from the Special Education Stabilization Fund: Mrs. Kauffman seconded the motion and a roll call vote was taken:

*Roll call vote:*

*Dr. McCrillis - Yes; Mrs. Kauffman - Yes; Mrs. Holloway - Yes; Mrs. Harrington - Yes; Mr. Scobie - Yes;*

#### **Contract with E5 Builders**

Mrs. Wirzbicki shared that as part of the preparation work for the installation of a sprinkler system at the Bryn Mawr School, it was her recommendation that the Committee approve the contract with E5 Builders, LLC, in the amount of \$42,980. She noted that this company will be responsible for bringing water from the street into the building that will be required for this project. The full project will cost in the vicinity of \$300,000, with this just being a part of it.

Mrs. Holloway made a motion to approve the contract with E5 Builders, LLC, in the amount of \$42,980; Mrs. Kauffman seconded the motion and a roll call vote was taken.

*Roll call vote:*

*Dr. McCrillis - Yes; Mrs. Kauffman - Yes; Mrs. Holloway - Yes; Mrs. Harrington - Yes; Mr. Scobie - Yes;*

**Town Meeting**

Dr. Brunelle shared that all budgets across the Town were approved at the Annual Town Meeting; however, she has been holding meetings with bargaining units regarding some contingencies that may have to be put in place as we just do not know what the budget is going to look like, noting that the numbers will likely not hold true to the pre-pandemic budget estimates. She stated that she sincerely appreciates everyone who has been a part of these negotiations. She noted that there was a true sense of camaraderie and that the staff really understands that these are exceptional times that need exceptional support and teamwork.

Dr. Brunelle also thanked Mr. Scobie for his kind words about her which he shared at the Town Meeting and she also thanked the Town Meeting members for their support through the years. She thanked the organizers of the Town Meeting, noting that it went very smoothly. She gave kudos to Mr. Fahey and his team for the setting up and taking down the chairs on the football field.

There being nothing further to discuss, at 2:32 p.m. Mrs. Kauffman made a motion to adjourn; Mrs. Holloway seconded the motion and a roll call vote was taken:

*Roll call vote:*

*Dr. McCrillis - Yes; Mrs. Kauffman - Yes; Mrs. Holloway - Yes; Mrs. Harrington - Yes; Mr. Scobie - Yes;*

Respectfully submitted,

Ailaine Zautner  
Recording Secretary

**Referenced Documents:**

- Minutes from May 26, 2020
- Letter to retirees
- AHS NHS Program
- AMS Graduation Plans
- Graduation Guidelines from Commissioner Riley
- List of Colleges and Universities accepting AHS Class of 2020 Graduates
- Year to Date Budget Report
- Omnibus Transfers
- Memo re SPED Stabilization Fund