

MINUTES
SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING

ZOOM: Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us04web.zoom.us/j/71261041582?pwd=YzRNQVJkeER2M1ZSU2xFZ0oxMERNZz09>

August 12, 2020, 1:00 p.m.

CALL TO ORDER: Mr. Scobie called the meeting to order at 1:02 p.m.

CITIZENS' COMMENTS: None

SPECIAL RECOGNITIONS:

Michele Fuller: In Memoriam

Dr. Handfield noted that it was with a very heavy heart that he honored the memory of longtime August resident, Michele Fuller, who lost her battle with cancer on August 8, 2020. She was the Director of the Here We Grow Preschool and a fierce advocate of education, serving on the Best Practices Preschool Team, a member of the PTO, ARC, and the AHS School Council. She always had a smile and a great conversation. She leaves her husband, Chris, and sons Adam and Trevor, all of whom were the lights of her life.

MINUTES:

8/5/2020 for Approval

Mrs. Kauffman made a motion to approve the minutes from the August 5th School Committee meeting; 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;

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT:

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

Return to School Update

As discussed in previous meetings, Dr. Handfield noted that the Leadership Team is in the process of creating a District Reopening Plan, which he shared with the Committee for a second read. Late last Friday, August 7th, the deadline was extended to August 14th for submission of the plan to DESE. Dr. Handfield noted that since the August 5th meeting, additional sections have been revised and added, reviewed with the Return to School team, administrators, AEA, and the Department of Health and Inspectional Services. On behalf of the town's DPH, the plan was affirmed by Darlene Coyle. He shared that a few communication protocols between the nurses and the DPH are being worked out and also finalizing metrics that would cause a building/district closure to occur if necessary. Included in the packets was an email from Darlene Coyle to Dr. Chamberland regarding communication related to the reopening plan. Dr. Handfield noted that it is anticipated having the aforementioned areas resolved and into the plan for August 14th. He shared a revised timeline regarding activities for students and families to prepare them for a return to school on September 16th and noted that it is his intention to alert families via email regarding the release of the report, the below timeline, and the appropriate administrators to direct questions upon the School Committee's permission as noted in the recommended motion.

Proposed Timeline

- ✓ **August 14th** - APS School Reopening and Readiness Guide submitted to DESE and released to families.
- ✓ **August 17th - Town Hall Meeting (Recorded)** - Families will send in questions for administrators ahead of time. These questions will be grouped by theme and answered in a prerecorded tour of the building that will demonstrate what school will look like during a return.
- ✓ **August 24th - Town Hall Meeting (Live)** - Families will send in questions for administrators ahead of time. Administrators will answer questions live and any additional questions.
- ✓ **August 26th** - APS School Reopening and Readiness Guide submitted to the School Committee for final review and approval.
- ✓ **August 31st - September 4th** - Schools will host orientation activities for students.

Mrs. Holloway made a motion to permit the Superintendent to release the initial Auburn Public Schools Reopening and Readiness Guide to the school community, submit to DESE on August 14th, and utilize the report in Town Hall meetings with students and families. It is understood the final document will come before the School Committee on August 26th with any alterations for final approval. 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;

Social Justice Meeting

Dr. Handfield shared that, as previously reported on July 29th; on August 6, 2020 a group of 30 people (parents, alumni, faculty, and staff) discussed their feelings regarding the issue of social justice in our community and in our schools. The conversation went almost 2.5 hours. It was informative, emotional, and fostered deep discussion about why and how to confront social justice issues in our community. He stated that they will be opening discussion with building principals this month regarding the sentiments of the group and what direction our work might take. As keenly articulated by Lukas Balestracci, AHS Class of 2021, this work is going to be long, complex, and at times emotional, but it is worth the commitment to this cause for our students and our community. Dr. Handfield will continue to keep the Committee apprised as the group moves forward, hoping to resume this work at the end of September.

NEW BUSINESS:

August 1st Travel Advisory

Dr. Handfield shared with the Committee the August 1st Travel Advisory enacted by Governor Baker to help keep the spread of COVID under control. He noted that there is also a link for families and others to go to for more information, it has been posted on our website, shared with the union, and will be shared with our families.

Effective August 1, 2020, all visitors and returning residents entering Massachusetts must follow new travel orders. The Commonwealth has made great progress to slow the spread of COVID-19 and gradually re-open the economy, and all visitors have a responsibility to help us keep transmission levels as low as possible.

All visitors entering Massachusetts, including returning residents, who do not meet an exemption, are required to:

- Complete the Massachusetts Travel Form prior to arrival, unless you are visiting from a lower-risk state designated by the Department of Public Health.
- Quarantine for 14 days or produce a negative COVID-19 test result that has been administered up to 72-hours prior to your arrival in Massachusetts.
- If your COVID-19 test result has not been received prior to arrival, visitors, and residents must quarantine until they receive a negative test result.

Failure to comply may result in a \$500 fine per day.

More information can be found here: <https://www.mass.gov/info-details/covid-19-travel-order>

Dr. Handfield also reported that the District is awaiting confirmation from Town Manager Jacobson regarding the policy being implemented with her Town employees. Once that document is finalized, we will be bringing it forward to our unions, as well, after review by our District’s legal team. He shared a copy of Mrs. Jacobson’s document.

TEACHING/LEARNING REPORT:

Family Surveys - Results

Dr. Chamberland shared the results of the family surveys noting that a large number of our families at each school building have completed the selection survey for the return to school. She noted that the data will play an integral role in creating classes and assigning staff. She also noted that the question on busing seemed to leave some unanswered questions as there remain families who are undecided.

	AHS	AMS	SWIS	PAK	BM
Total # Students	735	627	621	260	286
Total # Respondents	686	612	600	253	249
# Not Yet Responded	49	15	21	7	37
% Who Want Hybrid Model	83.40%	88.40%	78.00%	83.80%	78.70%
# of Students for Hybrid	572	541	468	212	196
% Who Want Remote Model	16.60%	11.60%	22.00%	16.20%	21.30%

# of Students for Remote	114	71	132	41	53
% Who Don't Want Bus	66.30%	39.50%	54.70%	61.30%	65.90%
# of Students Not Riding Bus	455	242	328	155	164
% Who Want Bus	33.70%	47.40%	32.20%	24.10%	23.70%
# of Students Riding Bus	231	290	193	61	59
# Students Undecided Re Bus	49	95	100	44	63

Cohort Groupings - Dr. Chamberland noted that we are examining the feasibility of cohorts grouped by neighborhood at this time. If we cannot accommodate that we will be looking to do it in alphabetical order.

Bussing Update - Dr. Chamberland shared that there was a meeting held with AA earlier in the day to get their initial impressions of bus service given the new requirements. We are looking at the families who have indicated they need bus service now, given the latest survey results, and will be working on bus routes.

She shared that they are very comfortable with AA's planned process for sanitizing of buses. They will be cleaning buses between runs and doing a deep cleaning each night. They are also maintaining vigilance over the health of drivers.

BUSINESS/FINANCIAL REPORT:

Year to Date Budget Report

Mrs. Wirzbicki provided a year to date budget report as of August 7th. Mrs. Holloway asked if there was adequate funding to pay the teachers when they start back and Mrs. Wirzbicki indicated that there was, that they in fact going to receive their first payroll payment of the 2020-2021 school year on the next payday which is August 27th.

POLICIES:

EBC, Emergency Plans - Supplemental on Second Reading

The School Committee opted to dismiss the EBC Supplemental policy as provided by MASC.

EBCFA, Face Coverings on First Reading

In response to requests from our membership, MASC is releasing policy EBCFA – Face Coverings. This policy was written using guidance from the State and the Centers for Disease

Control and is intended to provide districts with a model for requiring face coverings during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Dr. McCrillis made a motion to approve policy EBCFA, Face Coverings as presented by MASC on first reading with the elimination of the statement that PreK, Kindergarten and Grade 1 do not have to wear masks as APS is requiring every student to wear a mask; 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;

Executive Session:

Per MGL Chapter 30, section 21 (a) (2) to conduct strategies for negotiations with union and non-union personnel, namely staff leave requests due to the pandemic.

At 2:10 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, namely staff leave requests due to the pandemic; Mrs. Kauffman seconded the motion 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 August 5, 2020

Darlene Coyle email

APS School Reopening and Readiness Guide

Year to Date Budget Report

Policy EBC, Supplemental to Emergency Plans

Policy EBCFA, Face Coverings on 1st Reading