

MINUTES
SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING
ZOOM:
August 26, 2020, 1:00 p.m.

In attendance:

George Scobie
Jessie Harrington
Gail Holloway
Dottie Kauffman (joined at 1:03 p.m.)
Meghan McCrillis

Casey Handfield
Beth Chamberland (joined at 1:18 p.m.)
Cecelia Wirzbicki

CALL TO ORDER: At 1:00 p.m., Mr. Scobie called the meeting to order.

CITIZENS' COMMENTS: None

SPECIAL RECOGNITIONS: None

MINUTES:

8/19/2020 for Approval

Dr. McCrillis made a motion to approve the minutes from the August 19th meeting; Mrs. Harrington seconded the motion and a roll call vote was taken:

Roll call vote: Dr. McCrillis - Yes; Mrs. Holloway - Yes; Mrs. Harrington - Yes; Mr. Scobie - Yes;

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT:

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

Auburn Public Schools Return to School Plan

Dr. Handfield reported that the [APS Return to School Plan](#) is now complete. It has been open for two weeks for public review and comment. The RTS team met for a final time on Monday, August 24th. The team feels this document is ready for formal adoption by the School Committee with the understanding that if there are changes needing to be made, those will be made and brought to your attention. Dr. Handfield referred to the acknowledgment page where all the members of the team who helped create the document were listed and he expressed, on behalf of Dr. Chamberland and himself, how extremely grateful they were for the community support. The Committee thanked him for the report and noted that they appreciated the RTS Team for giving of their time.

Mrs. Harrington made a motion to accept the APS Return to School Plan dated August 26, 2020 as final copy to share with the school community; 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;

NEW BUSINESS:

Auburn Education Association Memorandum of Agreement

Dr. Handfield noted that he was pleased to announce that an agreement has been reached with the Auburn Education Association regarding returning to school on August 31st. Provided the agreement meets with the Committee's approval he will collect the necessary signatures to execute the agreement by the end of the week as the 2020-2021 year starts Monday, August 31st. He noted that this was a significant achievement given the times that we are in presently and he publicly thanked the AEA's executive board for their collaboration and sincere desire to get back into school in a manner that is safe for everyone. He shared that the AEA, in a great show of solidarity, agreed to the MOA with a 157 to 5 motion. Mr. Scobie shared that we have the best, hardest working and most caring faculty around.

Mrs. Holloway made a motion to approve the memorandum of agreement between the Auburn School Committee and the Auburn Education Association and to thank them for their collaborative efforts to get back into school on behalf of the town's children. 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;

Preschool Tuition

On behalf of Dr. Chamberland, Dr. Handfield shared with the Committee that the Auburn Integrated Preschool will look different this school year. Given the recommendations of the Return to School Team and the information received from families regarding their preferred learning models, he noted that we hope to be able to provide 3 and 4 year old students with 5 half day face to face sessions. Students who had registered for full day preschool would also be offered a half day of remote activities in addition to the half day of face to face learning. Some students will attend in the morning and some in the afternoon, providing ample cleaning time in between sessions. Start and end times are still being determined. Additionally, families shared a desire to have a fully remote option much like the rest of the district and we feel we are well positioned to provide that for them. You will note that we will not offer a full day option for preschool as there was great concern about preschool lunch and rest time, both seen as activities that could cause greater risk to students and staff. Given all of this information, we are looking to revise the tuition scale for this year only to support our families. The proposed tuition schedule is as follows:

- 3 year old-5 half days-\$ 2,500
- 4 year old-5 half days-\$ 2,500
- 4 year old-5 half days plus 5 half days of remote learning-\$ 4,500
- Full Remote Learning-\$ 1,500

Mrs. Kauffman made a motion to approve the proposed tuition schedule as presented; Dr. McCrillis seconded the motion and a roll call vote was taken:

Roll call vote: Dr. McCrillis - Yes; Mrs. Kauffman - Yes; Mrs. Holloway - Yes; Mr. Scobie - Yes;

School Committee Meetings in September

Dr. Handfield shared that as August is drawing to a close, it might make sense for the School Committee to review its meeting time and set a new day and/or time based on the work schedules of members.

To be in solidarity with faculty, Dr. McCrillis suggested that the Committee return to meeting live since we are expecting teachers to be in-person at schools. Dr. Handfield suggested that we might be able to go to every other week for meetings once again. There was some discussion about where to hold the meetings, at least to begin with, with the Presentation Room or AHS Auditorium being suggested. Mrs. Wizbicki requested that the first September meeting be September 2nd in order to allow for a vote on the warrant articles as the warrant closes on September 8th.

Dr. McCrillis made a recommendation that the Auburn School Committee alter its meeting schedule to meet on the first and third Wednesdays at 7:00 p.m. at a location to be determined.

Roll call vote: Dr. McCrillis - Yes; Mrs. Kauffman - Yes; Mrs. Holloway - Yes; Mrs. Harrington - Yes; Mr. Scobie - Yes;

Handbook Changes:

On behalf of Dr. Chamberland, Dr. Handfield noted for the Committee that the following statements would be added to all handbooks for the 2020-2021 school year, with their approval:

Behavioral and Emotional Screening of Students

In an ongoing effort to support students in the Auburn Public Schools and in concert with the Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education's (DESE) *2018 Heartstrategy for Safe and Supportive Schools*, we are working to promote systems and strategies that foster safe, positive, healthy, culturally-responsive and inclusive learning environments that address students' varied needs and improve educational outcomes for all. DESE's areas of focus through this initiative include: 1) School climate and culture; 2) Social and emotional learning competencies; 3) Health, Wellness and Safety; and 4) Family and Community Engagement.

In support of DESE's initiative and based on an increasing need for social and emotional support for students, Auburn uses a universal screener known as BASC-3, "Behavioral and Emotional Screening System(BESS/BASC)." Screening will be conducted to identify or predict students who may be at risk. The use of universal screenings refines and strengthens our efforts to help all of our students be successful by allowing us to take positive and preventative measures as early as possible. This is not a diagnostic tool, but a screening tool to gauge potential risk.

The behavior screening tool, BESS/BASC focuses on social behaviors affecting academic engagement. With your permission, this screening is conducted with all students in the fall of each school year. You will also be given the option to have your child opt out of the screening process. When appropriate, and with your permission, the results of the tool will be used to provide identified students with mentoring, social skill building and other support to help them engage positively in learning. You will be notified by the school if your child is selected for participation in an intervention program.

Face Mask or Cloth Face Covering:

- Face masks are required for Grades PreK-12 and all staff members. A face mask is defined as a cloth or disposable covering that covers the nose and mouth. This can be

a disposable mask, or a two layer cloth face covering made from other cloth fabrics.

- Photos of acceptable masks:



- **Gaiters and bandanas are not allowed.**
- If a student is without a mask or family is unable to provide one, the school will provide a mask for use.
- Mask breaks will be available for staff and students with proper distancing and ventilation guidelines.
- If a staff member or student is unable to wear a mask, please seek administrator or nurse guidance for arrangements.
- Please follow this link for more guidance on [wearing masks and good respiratory hygiene](#)

Mrs. Holloway made a motion to approve the above-mentioned be added to all student handbooks; Dr. McCrillis seconded the motion and roll call vote was taken:

Roll call vote: Dr. McCrillis - Yes; Mrs. Kauffman - Yes; Mrs. Holloway - Yes; Mrs. Harrington - Yes; Mr. Scobie - Yes;

TEACHING/LEARNING REPORT:

Professional Development

Dr. Chamberland noted that as of this date, teachers have completed over 518 planning hours in preparation for the school year. Once the school year begins, staff in each building will provide their colleagues with training on Health and Safety, ZOOM, Seesaw, Google Classroom, Schoology Nearpod, and Apple TV. Nearly 100 staff members participated in training with 5 teachers from Greenfield Commonwealth Virtual School that provided insight on student engagement, tracking attendance, grading and other remote teaching tools that can help to enhance instruction. The work continues this week as we prepare to welcome our teachers back. Building principals are preparing schedules to ensure all staff receive the training needed to start the school year. Teachers will also receive ample planning time to apply their professional development to the preparation of their classrooms.

Dr. Chamberland thanked Darlene Coyle and Eileen Dyson-Alexander from the DPH for their help with safety training with our nurses who will now share the training with the returning faculty in the first five days. She also noted that we have a remarkable staff continue to show their true colors.

Dr. Chamberland shared that there have been two Town Hall meetings held thus far: Mrs. Reidy's for the Special Education families and Mrs. Mahan for Bryn Mawr School. She noted that the response has been tremendous, with good turn outs and good questions asked. She reported that the School Nurses will be doing a Town Hall too, but likely not until the week of August 31st.

BUSINESS/FINANCIAL REPORT:

Year to Date Budget Report as of August 24, 2020

Mrs. Wirzbicki provided a year to date budget report as of August 24, 2020.

FY21 Budget Transfer

Mrs. Wirzbicki provided a list of transfers and sought the Committee's approval of the ones between the Series.

Mrs. Holloway made a motion to to approve the transfers between the Series as presented by the Business Manager; Mrs. Harrington 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;

Donation to Food Service School Lunch Student Debt

Mrs. Wirzbicki shared that Mrs. Janice King recently received a check in the amount of \$50.00 from Ms. Donna Bacon to be deposited to the Food Service School Lunch Student Debt line item. She noted that this was the third time Ms. Bacon has donated to this account and thanked her very much for her generosity. A letter of thanks will be being sent.

GH/JH

Mrs. Holloway made a motion to accept with gratitude the donation in the amount of \$50 from Ms. Bacon to be deposited in the Food Service Lunch Student Debt line item; Mrs. Harrington 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;

Adjournment

At 1:46 p.m., there being no further business to discuss, Mrs. Kauffman made a motion to adjourn for the afternoon; 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;

Respectfully submitted,

Ailaine Zautner
Recording Secretary

Referenced Documents:

Minutes from 8/19/2020
AEA MOA
Year to Date Budget Report
Transfers